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EC-COUNCIL 312-39 Certification Exam is designed to help professionals gain the knowledge and skills needed to become a Certified SOC Analyst (CSA). The CSA certification is a globally recognized credential that demonstrates expertise in identifying, analyzing, and responding to security incidents in a Security Operations Center (SOC) environment.

>> 312-39 Practice Engine <<

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## EC-COUNCIL Certified SOC Analyst (CSA) Sample Questions (Q52-Q57):

### NEW QUESTION # 52

Mark Reynolds, a SOC analyst at a healthcare organization, is monitoring the SIEM system when he detects a potential security threat: a series of unusual login attempts targeting critical patient data servers. After investigating the alerts and collaborating with the incident response team, the SOC determines that the threat has a "Likely" chance of occurring and could cause "Significant" damage, including operational disruptions, financial loss due to data breaches, and regulatory penalties under HIPAA. Using a standard Risk Matrix, how would this risk be categorized in terms of overall severity?

- A. Medium

- B. Very High
- C. Low
- **D. High**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In a standard risk matrix, overall severity is derived by combining likelihood and impact. "Likely" indicates a higher probability (not rare or unlikely), and "Significant" damage indicates a high business impact. In most common 4x4 or 5x5 matrices, pairing a high likelihood with a high impact results in a "High" risk rating (or sometimes "Very High" if both are at the extreme ends like "Almost Certain" and "Catastrophic"). Here, the wording is "Likely" and "Significant," which strongly maps to high probability and high impact, but not necessarily the highest possible category (which would typically be "Almost Certain" plus "Severe/Catastrophic"). For a healthcare organization under HIPAA, unauthorized access to patient data can trigger regulatory penalties, breach notification obligations, operational disruption, and reputational harm—so the impact is clearly material. Since the SOC has already assessed it as both probable and damaging, the risk rating should drive prioritized response: immediate containment measures, validation of access attempts, and proactive controls (MFA, conditional access, monitoring for lateral movement). Therefore, "High" is the appropriate overall severity classification.

### NEW QUESTION # 53

Bob is a SOC analyst in a multinational corporation that relies on a centralized file-sharing system for storing confidential project documents. One morning, he notices that a few critical financial records stored on the shared server appear to have been altered without authorization. Version history confirms unexpected changes made outside business hours. Bob must investigate by inspecting logs. Which log should he check to determine who accessed the files and when the modifications occurred?

- **A. Security logs**
- B. Authentication logs
- C. Firewall logs
- D. Network logs

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Security logs are the primary source for auditing access and changes to protected objects, including files and folders, when file auditing is enabled. In Windows environments, this typically maps to "Object Access" auditing, which can record who accessed a file, what type of access was attempted (read, write, delete), and when it occurred. For a SOC analyst investigating unauthorized modifications, the goal is attribution (which user/account), timing (outside business hours), and action (write/modify/delete). Authentication logs show who logged in and from where, but they don't reliably indicate which file was modified unless correlated with object access events. Firewall and general network logs can help confirm remote access paths or suspicious connections, but they won't provide authoritative "who modified which file" evidence. In practice, the SOC would validate that file/folder auditing is enabled on the file server and that relevant events are being collected centrally. Then they correlate file access/modify events with sign-in activity, source device, and any privilege escalation indicators. Because the question specifically asks for determining "who accessed the files and when modifications occurred," Security logs are the most direct and forensically valuable option.

### NEW QUESTION # 54

You are a Threat Hunter in an IT company's security team working to enhance threat hunting capabilities.

You observed that relying solely on traditional security alerts often results in missed detections of sophisticated threats. To strengthen your approach, you decide to incorporate multiple data sources, including external threat intelligence feeds, internal security logs, network traffic data, and endpoint telemetry. To efficiently process this vast amount of data, you implement a new tool that can aggregate, normalize, and correlate threat intelligence with internal telemetry to gain a more holistic understanding of emerging threats and enhance detection accuracy. What key threat detection capability is being leveraged in this scenario?

- A. Intelligence Buy-In
- B. Threat Trending
- **C. Data Integration**
- D. Threat Reports

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

This scenario is centered on combining multiple heterogeneous data sources into a single analytical view so that signals can be correlated into higher-confidence detections. That is the core of data integration: ingesting external intelligence (malicious IPs/domains/ hashes/TTPs) and internal telemetry (endpoint events, authentication, network flows, DNS, proxy, cloud logs), then normalizing and correlating them to detect activity that would be missed if each source were analyzed in isolation. In threat hunting, integration enables pivoting and validation: an external indicator becomes meaningful when matched to internal events, and internal anomalies become higher priority when they align with known adversary behaviors. "Threat reports" are outputs, not the underlying capability. "Intelligence buy-in" is governance and stakeholder support, not a technical detection capability. "Threat trending" focuses on patterns over time (frequency, prevalence), which can inform strategy but does not directly describe the aggregation/normalization/correlation capability emphasized here. For SOC analysts, data integration is what allows efficient triage and hunting at scale, reduces blind spots, and improves detection fidelity by cross-validating evidence across endpoints, identity, network, and external intelligence.

#### NEW QUESTION # 55

The Syslog message severity levels are labelled from level 0 to level 7.

What does level 0 indicate?

- A. Alert
- **B. Notification**
- C. Emergency
- D. Debugging

**Answer: B**

#### NEW QUESTION # 56

Which of the following can help you eliminate the burden of investigating false positives?

- A. Keeping default rules
- B. Treating every alert as high level
- C. Not trusting the security devices
- **D. Ingesting the context data**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Ingesting context data can significantly reduce the burden of investigating false positives in a Security Operations Center (SOC). Context data provides additional information that can help differentiate between true threats and benign anomalies. By analyzing context data, such as user behavior, network traffic patterns, and threat intelligence, SOC analysts can apply a more targeted approach to threat detection. This allows for more accurate alerts, reducing the time and resources spent on investigating false positives.

References: The importance of context in threat detection is highlighted in EC-Council's resources, where it is stated that traditional security tools often generate a lot of noise and false positives, making it difficult for SOCs to distinguish real threats from benign events<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, leveraging threat intelligence and fine-tuning detection rules are recommended strategies for reducing false positives<sup>2</sup>. These practices are in line with the EC-Council's Certified SOC Analyst (CSA) course and study guides, which emphasize the need for context-aware security measures in modern SOC operations.

#### NEW QUESTION # 57

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