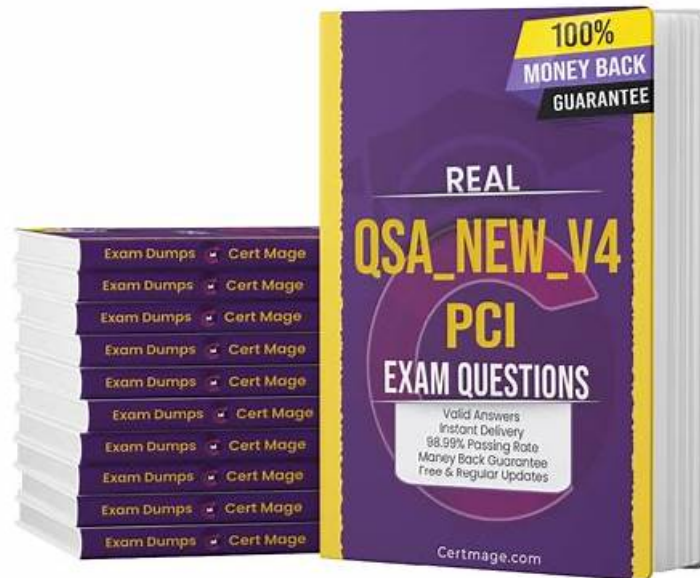


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PCI SSC QSA_New_V4 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real-World Case Studies: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cybersecurity Consultants and involves analyzing real-world breaches, compliance failures, and best practices in PCI DSS implementation. Candidates must review case studies to understand practical applications of security standards and identify lessons learned. One key skill evaluated is applying PCI DSS principles to prevent security breaches.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCI Reporting Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Risk Management Professionals and covers the reporting obligations associated with PCI DSS compliance. Candidates must be able to prepare and submit necessary documentation, such as Reports on Compliance (ROCs) and Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs). One critical skill assessed is compiling and submitting accurate PCI compliance reports.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCI Validation Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Compliance Analysts and evaluates the processes involved in validating PCI DSS compliance. Candidates must understand the different levels of merchant and service provider validation, including self-assessment questionnaires and external audits. One essential skill tested is determining the appropriate validation method based on business type.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment Brand Specific Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Payment Security Specialists and focuses on the unique security and compliance requirements set by different payment brands, such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Candidates must be familiar with the specific mandates and expectations of each brand when handling cardholder data. One skill assessed is identifying brand-specific compliance variations.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCI DSS Testing Procedures: This section of the exam measures the skills of PCI Compliance Auditors and covers the testing procedures required to assess compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Candidates must understand how to evaluate security controls, identify vulnerabilities, and ensure that organizations meet compliance requirements. One key skill evaluated is assessing security measures against PCI DSS standards.

PCI SSC Qualified Security Assessor V4 Exam Sample Questions (Q15-Q20):

NEW QUESTION # 15

Which statement about the Attestation of Compliance (AOC) is correct?

- A. There are different AOC templates for service providers and merchants.
- B. The AOC must be signed by both the merchant/service provider and by PCI SSC.
- C. The AOC must be signed by either the merchant/service provider or the QSA/ISA.
- D. The same AOC template is used for ROCs and SAQs.

Answer: A

Explanation:

There are separate Attestation of Compliance (AOC) templates for different use cases, specifically for merchants and service providers, and for SAQs versus ROCs. Each template is tailored to match the reporting needs of that assessment type.

* Option A: Correct. PCI SSC publishes distinct AOC templates depending on whether the entity is a merchant or service provider, and depending on whether they are completing an SAQ or ROC.

* Option B: Incorrect. The AOC is not signed by PCI SSC. It must be signed by the assessed entity and, where applicable, the QSA or ISA.

* Option C: Incorrect. ROCs and SAQs use different AOC formats.

* Option D: Incorrect. Both the entity and the assessor (if applicable) must sign.

References:

PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Section 11: Instructions and Content for Report on Compliance Attestation of Compliance for Report on Compliance - Service Providers (uploaded) - Pages 1-2.

NEW QUESTION # 16

Which of the following is true regarding compensating controls?

- A. An existing PCI DSS requirement can be used as a compensating control if it is already implemented.
- B. A compensating control worksheet is not required if the acquirer approves the compensating control.
- **C. A compensating control must address the risk associated with not adhering to the PCI DSS requirement.**
- D. A compensating control is not necessary if all other PCI DSS requirements are in place.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Compensating controls are alternative measures implemented when an entity cannot meet a specific PCI DSS requirement due to legitimate technical or business constraints. These controls must sufficiently mitigate the associated risk and be commensurate with the intent of the original PCI DSS requirement.

* Option A: Incorrect. Even if all other PCI DSS requirements are met, a compensating control is necessary when a specific requirement cannot be directly satisfied.

* Option B: Correct. A compensating control must effectively address and mitigate the risk associated with the inability to meet a particular PCI DSS requirement.

* Option C: Incorrect. While existing controls can support a compensating control, they must collectively address the risk of the unmet requirement and cannot merely be another existing PCI DSS requirement.

* Option D: Incorrect. A compensating control worksheet is mandatory to document the rationale, assessment, and validation of the compensating control, regardless of acquirer approval.

For detailed guidance on compensating controls, refer to Appendix B: Compensating Controls in the PCI DSS v4.0.1 document.

NEW QUESTION # 17

Which of the following describes "stateful responses" to communication initiated by a trusted network?

- **A. Active network connections are tracked so that invalid "response" traffic can be identified.**
- B. Administrative access to respond to requests to change the firewall is limited to one individual at a time.
- C. Logs of user activity on the firewall are correlated to identify and respond to suspicious behavior.
- D. A current baseline of application configurations is maintained and any misconfiguration is responded to promptly.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Stateful inspection (or stateful packet filtering) tracks the state of active connections and determines which packets are part of a valid session. Requirement 1.4.2 references the use of network security controls (NSCs) with stateful filtering capability to allow legitimate traffic only in response to trusted requests.

* Option A: Incorrect. Firewall admin procedures are not what "stateful" refers to.

* Option B: Correct. "Stateful responses" mean tracking existing connections to block unauthorised or spoofed responses.

* Option C: Incorrect. That describes configuration management, not stateful filtering.

* Option D: Incorrect. Logging is important but not part of stateful inspection.

NEW QUESTION # 18

An entity wants to know if the Software Security Framework can be leveraged during their assessment.

Which of the following software types would this apply to?

- A. Any payment software in the CDE.
- B. Only software which runs on PCI PTS devices.
- C. Validated Payment Applications that are listed by PCI SSC and have undergone a PA-DSS assessment.
- **D. Software developed by the entity in accordance with the Secure SLC Standard.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Software Security Framework (SSF) is intended to support entities using bespoke and custom software within the Cardholder Data Environment (CDE). If the software is developed and maintained in accordance with the Secure Software Lifecycle (SLC) Standard, it can help demonstrate secure software development practices and potentially reduce the number of applicable PCI DSS requirements.

* Option A: Incorrect. Not all payment software qualifies unless developed under SSF standards.

- * Option B: Incorrect. PCI PTS devices follow different hardware security standards.
- * Option C: Incorrect. PA-DSS has been retired; those applications are now listed as "Acceptable Only for Pre-Existing Deployments".
- * Option D: Correct. Software developed under the Secure SLC Standard may help an entity meet some requirements in PCI DSS Requirement 6.

NEW QUESTION # 19

Which scenario meets PCI DSS requirements for restricting access to databases containing cardholder data?

- A. User access to the database is restricted to system and network administrators.
- **B. User access to the database is only through programmatic methods.**
- C. Direct queries to the database are restricted to shared database administrator accounts.
- D. Application IDs for database applications can only be used by database administrators.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Per Requirement 7.2.5 and 8.2.2, PCI DSS recommends that only application-layer access be allowed to databases storing cardholder data, preventing users from issuing direct SQL queries or accessing the database via administrative tools.

* Option A: #Correct. Restricting database access to programmatic (application-layer) methods is strongly preferred and aligns with PCI DSS guidance.

* Option B: #Incorrect. Admins should not have unrestricted access unless justified and monitored.

* Option C: #Incorrect. Application IDs must not be used interactively by individuals (Requirement 8.6.1).

* Option D: #Incorrect. Shared accounts are disallowed (Requirement 8.2.1).

References:

PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Requirements 7.2.5, 8.2.1, 8.6.1.

NEW QUESTION # 20

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