TOP TIPS – CREST Certified Tester (CTT) – Multiple Choice & Scenario Exam

Purpose

The primary aim of any CREST exam is to assess your knowledge, skills and experience in a particular discipline and determine your ability to carry out activities that may present themselves during real-world engagements.

The CCT Multiple Choice & Scenario exams, commonly referred as the written exam, aims to test your broader knowledge of the syllabus, your competency in throughout the testing lifecycle and written communication. The written exam involves 60 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and a Scenario component.

Multiple Choice Questions

Exam Scope

The MCQ component is designed to test your technical and management knowledge of the domains contained within the current syllabus. Whilst the MCQ format remains similar to previous exam formats, the duration has changed and the question bank has been significantly updated to reflect the current cyber security landscape, including current technologies, tooling, legal and regulatory environments.

Pro tip: Be sure to review **all** areas within the syllabus to identify any gaps on your knowledge and expect questions from all appendices listed in the syllabus.

Time management

The format of the exam remains similar to previous iterations and candidates have now one hour to answer 60 questions (one per minute). These questions can be answered in any order, and it is possible to flag and return to questions as you go through the exam.

Pro tip: During the exam, take advantage of the ability to flag questions which you are unsure about or do not know the answer to, to avoid wasting precious time.

Scenario

Exam scope

The 'Scenario' exam component is designed to test your skills and competencies throughout the testing lifecycle, and specifically in the scoping and reporting phases. A candidate achieving CTT INF/APP is expected to be able to demonstrate the skills and competencies required to take a leading role in the scoping of a test and be able to communicate the results accurately and clearly to a range of stakeholders.

The new **CTT INF/APP** 'scenario' exam component is designed to evaluate these skills albeit in an artificial environment and within specified time is constraints. CREST aims to ensure the exam is set at the right level and is achievable in terms of the time allocated, provided that you have prepared well and are focused on answering the question.

Pro tip: Draw upon your real-world experience in understanding client requirements and communicating test results in an accurate and understandable manner.

Strategy

At the beginning of the exam, you will be provided with an introductory section which summarises the questions. This provides a high-level summary of the generic requirements and expectations for each question type. You are allowed 15 minutes to read this section; this is in addition to the two hours allocated to the scenario. During this time, it is recommended that you:

- Allocate your time following the principial of one mark a minute (there are 120 marks available and two hours to complete the exam).
- Understand the 'audience' or stakeholders that the output of each question is aimed at.
- Reflect on any key points that you will want to include in each response. Once you have started the exam, you can add comments and flag questions where you might come back to them later.

Pro tip: Prepare and practise your strategy in advance and be ready to adapt on the day to meet the specific tasks.

Time management

One of the main challenges in any exam is managing the limited time available to you. While you may typically be allocated several scopes in a day or day(s) to complete a report, in the exam the time window is compressed. While this is reflected in the tasks that are set, you should keep this in mind when designating time to each question, and the level of detail and points that you include in your answer.

Pro tip:

- Try to get a sense of the time it will take to complete a task, such as writing a report issue from scratch, by **practicing under timed conditions**. Get a feel for how long it will take you to write a management summary or a technical finding.
- Allow time to **review your answer**, including checking for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- **Keep an eye on the time**. Time flies when you are having fun 😉

Answer Composition

Your written answers will be expected to be well structured and communicate clearly. You should pitch your answer at the **intended audience** and convey information in a way that your audience is likely to understand, as you would when writing a report (i.e. a management response should not be a list of technical points).

The introductory section to the exam and each question includes key areas and criteria that you should include in your answer. Avoid deviating from these or including extraneous or inappropriate detail.

Pro tip: Plan what you are going to write before you start to compose your answer, and:

- **Avoid writing too much or too little** for each question.
- Identify the criteria that should be included in your answer **before you start writing.**
- Plan the points you want to include **before you start writing.**

Communicate the facts!

Each question will include additional information (e.g., sample tool output) upon which to base your answer. This should be analysed, and the relevant information selected and then communicated to the intended audience. You should make use of **all** the information available and avoid conjecture in your response. When evaluating and describing risk, ensure to do so within the context of the 'client'.

Pro tip: Review all available information and priorities the most important points to make.

Clarity and presentation

As with any document shared with a client, answers should be well structured and comprehensible.

Pro tip: Allow time to review your answers, ensuring they are clear, logical and well structured.

Legal and Regulatory

There are questions relating to computer and data law and regulation. While you should be able to demonstrate knowledge of key international regulation, you are not expected to demonstrate knowledge of UK based law **unless you are a UK based candidate**. You should however be able to demonstrate knowledge of relevant laws and regulations in your local jurisdiction.

Pro tip: Review the latest syllabus to understand how the Law and Compliance skill area is tested in the CCT exams.

Supplementary resources that are not part of the syllabus or directly tested in the exam, but that could provide useful guidance for candidates who lack a basic understanding or who require guidance on fundamental principles of law and compliance include:

[Codes Of Conduct - CREST (crest-approved.org)](https://crest-approved.org)

- CREST Code of Conduct for Individual Consultants
- CREST Code of Conduct for Member Companies
- CREST Code of Ethics

Question types

The questions may include the following:

- Scoping
- Composing one or more of the following:
  - A technical finding
  - A technical summary
  - A management summary
- Quality Assurance review of a scoping document or report component.

Final tips

The CREST CTT **INF/APP** Multiple Choice & Scenario exam is without a doubt a tough challenge; however, it is achievable! Our final tips to get exam ready are:

- Review **all** of the **revised syllabus.**
- **Plan ahead.** Have a strategy before you enter the exam room and adapt when you see the questions.

- **Communicate to your audience.** The intended reader will be made clear in the scenario introduction and within each question
- **Read the question** and **respond using the information** that is provided.
- **Mind the time!** Think one mark a minute and allow time to review your response.
- **Enjoy the experience** – Perhaps easier to say when you have 30 minutes left on the clock, however, make the most of your exam experience.
- **Have confidence** that with hard work and preparation you can pass the CREST CTT INF/APP exam.

Good luck!