

Principles for Exam Preparation:

There are a few principles about the exam that need to be stated, even if they appear obvious to some:

- **The exam covers several different subject areas.**
- **The percentage of questions in each subject area on the exam is as published by ASIS, e.g., 22% of the questions are on security management, 12% on investigations and so forth.**
- **All exam questions come from the books on the reference list.**
- **There are no questions on the exam from other references.**
- **All questions are multiple choice.**
- **There is no penalty for guessing, i.e., only the number of correct answers is tabulated.**
- **There are no questions written with the intention of being "tricky."**
- **All questions undergo a careful, systematic review by a team of CPPs™ for content, and by a professional testing service for compliance with international testing principles. The questions are then pre-tested by candidates taking the examination. The professional testing service and members of the PCB review the results.**
- **The exam is not graded on a "curve." Any and all applicants who achieve the passing score pass the exam. As a result, it is theoretically possible for everyone to pass the exam or for everyone to fail the exam. There are no predetermined percentages or numbers of candidates who will pass the exam.**

Data Collection:

After completing the examination, candidates were asked questions about age, experience and method(s) of exam preparation. For this study, questionnaire responses were compiled for approximately 2,379 candidates who took the examination from 2000-2006. A preliminary analysis enables the following general observations to be made:

- **There is a strong relationship between the level of formal education and success on the exam.**
- **Most of the respondents (56%) rated themselves as 'generalists.' Generalists had had a higher passing rate (75%) than the passing rate for those rating themselves as 'specialists' (71%).**

- There did not appear to be much, if any, relationship between total hours of preparation and passing rates, but the duration of preparation seemed to be a key factor.
- As the number of weeks of preparation increased to 12- 32, so did the passing rate - to 78%, indicating the duration of the preparation to be a key factor.
- This data, based on the number of candidates and differences in preparation needs and styles, should not be taken totally literally, except that preparation time of at least 16 weeks seems to be a critical factor in passing rates.
- Methods of preparation included study and review programs. Study programs include individual, formal and informal study groups. Review programs include those sponsored by chapters, ASIS and other review courses.
- Passing rates were slightly higher for the individual study method, whether it actually is the primary method of preparation used or is thought to be the best method of preparation (74%). However, more respondents indicated that the CPP Review was the best method for preparation.
- Passing rates were highest for those who participated in study programs (73 – 78%) as their primary and only method of preparation.
- Passing rates for those who used the Review Programs as their secondary method of preparation was 76%.
- Age gap is closing; pass rate for those between 21- 30 is only 1% less than those between age 41- 50. Formerly, those over 45 had a higher pass rate

In summary, an educational level of bachelor's and above, being a generalist as opposed to a specialist in terms of professional experience, and a minimum of 12 weeks spent preparing for the examination, seem to be the factors most associated with higher than average passing rates. In addition, individual study as a method of preparation figured significantly as a choice of primary, secondary, and perceived best method of preparation and passing rates are generally higher for this method of study presumably because it occurs over a longer period of time than does the ASIS CPP Review Course. However, the data indicate that the ASIS CPP Review Course is beneficial when it is used as a secondary method of preparation.