



BCS Practitioner Award in Security Architecture

Specimen Paper

Record your surname / last / family name and initials on the answer sheet.

The specimen paper only has 10 questions, which are a mixture of multiple-choice and multiple-response questions – 1 mark is awarded to each question. Multiple choice questions allow only one correct answer to be selected for 1 mark. Multiple response questions require the candidate to select a number of correct responses for 1 mark.

There are no trick questions.

A number of possible answers are given for each question, indicated by either **A B C D or E**. Your answers should be clearly indicated on the answer sheet.

Pass mark is 7/10

Time allowed 15 minutes.

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This professional certification is not regulated by the following United Kingdom Regulators
- Ofqual, Qualifications in Wales, CCEA or SQA

- 1 Which **three** of the following might you use to **best** keep up to date on developments to security aspects of changing technology?
- A Attending industry conferences.
 - B Obtaining appropriate industry publications.
 - C Networking with other security professionals.
 - D Forensically analysing SIEM tool logs.
 - E Undertaking extensive code reviews.
- 2 Which **one** of the following is a key responsibility of a security architect?
- A Enabling clear communication between technical colleagues.
 - B Preparing evidence for a prosecution after a cyber-attack.
 - C Influencing others to execute security principles.
 - D Developing enhanced cryptographic key management protocols.
- 3 Which **one** of the following is included in a baseline configuration?
- A The organisation's standards for user account creation, modification, and deletion.
 - B Detailed access control requirements for all applications.
 - C Firewall server settings to be implemented.
 - D Third-party security solutions.

4 Which **one** of the following frameworks is normally organised in a 6x6 matrix?

- A Zachman.
- B TOGAF.
- C SABSA.
- D OSA.

5 What is **one** main benefit of the WireGuard VPN protocol?

- A It is not open source.
- B It is a new protocol.
- C It is specifically designed for Windows operating systems.
- D It is widely compatible with existing network infrastructure.

6 A data breach has occurred in an organisation based in the UK.

Which source of information is the most appropriate for this situation?

- A The Information Commissioner's office (ICO).
- B Information Security Forum (ISF).
- C The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP).
- D The National Crime Agency (NCA).

7 What are the benefits of informal business communication channels?

Select **two correct** responses.

- A Information is readily available for future reference.
- B Rapid escalation of issues.
- C Enhanced collaboration and problem solving.
- D Miscommunication is minimised.

- 8 Which of the following is **one** of the recognised security principles for writing secure code?
- A Decrease psychological acceptability to provide a more challenging barrier to entry.
 - B Provide a 100% security guarantee.
 - C Trust user input.
 - D Adhere to an open design principle.
- 9 Which citizens' personal data is the GDPR **mainly** concerned with?
- A American citizens.
 - B EU citizens.
 - C South African citizens.
 - D All citizens.
- 10 In which circumstance might you **most likely** deploy the FIPS 140 series of standards?
- A When working with an American government organisation.
 - B When resources are limited.
 - C When working on community-developed solutions.
 - D When working with organisations with a global presence.

End of Paper

BCS Practitioner Award in Security Architecture Answer Key and Rationale

Question	Answer	Rationale	Syllabus Section
1	A, B, and C	Reading industry publications, attending conferences, and networking with other security professionals is a proactive, forward-thinking approach. There may be some value in understanding the details of logs and code, but these are essentially reactive actions, and determining changes from them will be unlikely.	4.3
2	C	Influencing adherence to following security principles is a key responsibility of a security architect. The other options may involve a security architect but are not KEY.	1.1
3	A	A baseline configuration contains clear details of account creation, modification, and deletion to prevent unauthorised access to IT systems, improve user accountability, and ensure adherence to the 'least privilege' principle.	2.1
4	A	The Zachman Framework is typically organised as a 6x6 matrix.	3.1
5	D	WireGuard VPN protocol is widely compatible with existing network infrastructure because it is implemented entirely in user space and can be easily integrated into various operating systems, devices, and network configurations without major disruption.	3.3
6	A	The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) upholds information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals. ICO is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. The other options are not totally focused on privacy.	3.5

7	B and C	Informal channels tend to be less controllable and are difficult to aim at target audiences, but they are relatively quick and provide the means for rapid feedback and problem resolution.	4.1
8	D	The OWASP security principles in the OWASP Development Guide include (amongst others) the relevant principles. The OWASP principle states emphatically that security by obscurity should never be relied on.	4.2
9	B	GDPR originated in the EU and applies to any organisation handling EU citizen personal data - wherever in the world they operate.	4.4
10	A	The 140 series of Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) are U.S. government computer security standards that specify requirements for cryptographic modules.	5.1