

STUDY GUIDE



Certified Information Privacy Professional/ Europe

Effective September 2025

WELCOME

Congratulations on taking the first step toward achieving an IAPP privacy certification. This study guide contains the basic information you need to get started, including:

- Key areas of knowledge for the CIPP/E exam.
- Recommended steps to help you prepare for your exam.
- An outline of the body of knowledge for the CIPP/E.
- General exam information.
- An explanation of the IAPP certification structure.

CIPP/E key areas of knowledge

The Certified Information Privacy Professional/Europe is the first professional credential specific to European data protection professionals that is part of a comprehensive principles-based framework and knowledge base in information privacy. The CIPP/E encompasses pan-European and national data protection laws, the European model for privacy enforcement, key privacy terminology, and practical concepts concerning the protection of personal data and trans-border data flows.

Key areas of knowledge include:

- The content of European data protection law: origins, institutions and legislative framework.
- Data protection concepts, security of personal data and data subject rights.
- Lawful processing criteria and requirements for international data transfers.
- Scope of the GDPR, accountability requirements and supervision and enforcement.
- European data protection practices related to employment.
- Surveillance.
- Internet technology and communications, including cloud computing, search engines and social networking.

Preparation

Privacy certification is an important effort that requires advance preparation. Deciding how you will prepare for your exams is a personal choice that should include an assessment of your professional background, scope of data protection knowledge and your preferred method of learning.

In general, the IAPP recommends you plan for a minimum of 30 hours of study time in advance of your exam date. However, you might need more or fewer hours depending on your personal choices and professional experience.

You can read more about [preparation suggestions and resources on our website](#).

The IAPP recommends you prepare in the following manner:

1. Review the body of knowledge

The body of knowledge for the CIPP/E program is a comprehensive outline of the subject matter areas covered by the CIPP/E exam. The integrated exam blueprint indicates the minimum and maximum number of items included on the CIPP/E exam from the major areas of the body of knowledge. Questions may be asked from any of the topics listed under each area and can be used to guide your preparation. Studying the body of knowledge can help you further target your primary study needs and determine which areas merit additional focus in your preparation.

2. Study the CIPP/E textbook

“European Data Protection: Law and Practice” is the authoritative reference for the CIPP/E exam. The IAPP strongly recommends you take the time to carefully read and study it. Print and digital versions of the textbook are available through the IAPP store.

3. Get certification training

The IAPP offers in-person training classes, live online and online certification training to help you prepare for your exams. You can find a list of scheduled trainings or purchase self-paced online training in the IAPP store.

4. Take the CIPP/E practice exam

IAPP Practice Exams provide insight into how you might perform on your certification exam. Practice exams consist of 90 questions in the same format as official certification exams. The questions are developed by IAPP-selected experts to match the depth and rigor of the actual exam.

CIPP/E body of knowledge outline

I. Introduction to European Data Protection

- A. Understand the origins and historical context of European data protection laws
- B. Understand the roles and functions of significant European Union institutions
- C. Understand the legislative framework underpinning the principles of European data protection

II. European Data Protection Law and Regulation

- A. Understand basic GDPR data protection concepts
- B. Understand the requirements involved in maintaining the security of personal data
- C. Understand data subjects' rights

III. European Data Processing

- A. Understand the principles of European data processing
- B. Know what constitutes a lawful processing basis
- C. Understand information provision obligations
- D. Understand the principles of, and the risks involved in, international data transfers

IV. European Data Protection: Scope and Accountability

- A. Understand issues related to the territorial and material scope of the GDPR
- B. Understand the various accountability requirements under the GDPR
- C. Understand the Europe and data protection supervision and enforcement structure
- D. Understand the consequences for GDPR violations

V. Compliance with European Data Protection Law and Regulation

- A. Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations in the workplace, specifically as they relate to employment relationships
- B. Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to surveillance activities
- C. Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to direct marketing
- D. Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to internet technology and communications

CIPP/E exam format

The CIPP/E is a 2.5-hour exam composed of 90 items. Most of the items are multiple choice, including both single, stand-alone questions and others associated with case studies. There are no essay questions. Each correct answer is worth one point.

Example questions

1. According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the majority of EU legislation cannot be adopted without the approval of which two European Institutions?
 - A. European Council and European Parliament.
 - B. European Commission and European Parliament.
 - C. European Parliament and Council of the European Union.
 - D. European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union.
2. When would a data subject have the right to require the erasure of his or her data without undue delay?
 - A. When erasure is in the public interest.
 - B. When the controller is a public authority.
 - C. When the processing is carried out by automated means.
 - D. When the data is no longer necessary for its original purpose.
3. In which case should a data subject's consent be regarded as freely given under the GDPR?
 - A. If the data subject is able to withdraw consent without detriment.
 - B. If the data subject is informed that opting out requires an affirmative action.
 - C. If the data subject has been given a sufficient deadline for providing consent.
 - D. If the data subject has been offered a consent agreement tailored to his situation.

See page 8 for answers.

General exam information

The IAPP offers testing via computer-based delivery at more than 6,000 testing locations worldwide, or you can take your certification exam from home with online proctoring. Remote proctoring is currently available for in-language exams but requires enough knowledge of English to communicate with exam proctors.

You can find detailed information about how to register for exams, as well as exam-day instructions, in [the IAPP Certification Information Candidate Handbook on our website](#).

Requirements for IAPP certification

1. You must pay a two-year certification maintenance fee of USD250. If you are not an IAPP member, we recommend purchasing the certification maintenance fee at the time of your exam purchase so it will activate automatically upon passing the exam.

OR

You can become a member of the IAPP with access to numerous benefits, like discounts, networking opportunities, members-only resources and more, for just USD295 annually, which includes your maintenance fee.

2. You must meet the annual continuing privacy education requirements of 20 credits in order to keep your certification active.

More information about IAPP membership, including levels, benefits and rates, is available on the [IAPP website](#).

Questions?

The IAPP understands that privacy certification is an important professional development effort requiring commitment and preparation. We thank you for choosing to pursue certification, and we welcome your questions and comments.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at certification@iapp.org.

Example questions: Answers

1. According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the majority of EU legislation cannot be adopted without the approval of which two European Institutions?
 - A. European Council and European Parliament.
 - B. European Commission and European Parliament.
 - C. European Parliament and Council of the European Union.**
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The IAPP certification structure

The IAPP currently offers four certifications: the Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional, the Certified Information Privacy Professional, the Certified Information Privacy Manager and the Certified Information Privacy Technologist.

AIGP certification demonstrates comprehension of AI systems and the ability to deploy AI in a manner that abates risk and ensures safety and trust. It confirms an understanding of AI ecosystems, identification and mitigation of bias, and the capability to effectively communicate best practices for responsible AI management.

CIPP certification demonstrates a mastery of data privacy laws and regulations and how to apply them: jurisdictional laws, regulations and enforcement models, plus legal requirements for handling and transferring data. Within the CIPP, there are five concentrations:

- Asian privacy (CIPP/A).
- Chinese privacy (CIPP/CN).
- Canadian privacy (CIPP/C).
- European privacy (CIPP/E).
- U.S. private-sector privacy (CIPP/US).

CIPM certification demonstrates an understanding of implementing privacy regulatory requirements in day-to-day operations. It confirms the ability to create a company vision, structure a data protection team, develop and implement system frameworks, communicate to stakeholders, and measure performance.

CIPT certification demonstrates a deep understanding of privacy's role in technology, including building privacy-friendly products, services and systems; deploying emerging technologies while respecting consumer privacy; and establishing privacy practices for data security and control.

There are no concentrations within the AIGP, CIPM or CIPT — they cross all jurisdictions and industries.