iapp

CIPP/E
BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

VERSION 1.3.3   **EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 Sept. 2025**

UNDERSTANDING THE IAPP'S BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

The main purpose of the body of knowledge (BoK) is to document the knowledge and skills that will be assessed on the certification exam. The domains reflect what the privacy professional should know and be able to do to show competency in this designation.

The BoK also includes the Exam Blueprint numbers, which show the minimum and maximum number of questions from each domain that will be found on the exam.

The BoK is developed and maintained by the subject matter experts that constitute each designation exam development board and scheme committee. The BoK is reviewed and, if necessary, updated every year; changes are reflected in the annual exam updates and communicated to candidates at least 90 days before the new content appears in the exam.

COMPETENCIES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Instead of the former outline format we used for our bodies of knowledge, we now represent the BoK content as a series of competencies and performance indicators.

Competencies are clusters of connected tasks and abilities that constitute a broad knowledge domain.

Performance indicators are the discrete tasks and abilities that constitute the broader competence group. Exam questions assess a privacy professional's proficiency on the performance indicators.

WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS WILL BE ON THE EXAM?

For the certification candidate, the performance indicators are guides to the depth of knowledge required to demonstrate competency. The verbs that begin the skill and task statements (identify, evaluate, implement, define) signal the level of complexity of the exam questions and find their corollaries on the Bloom's Taxonomy (see next page).
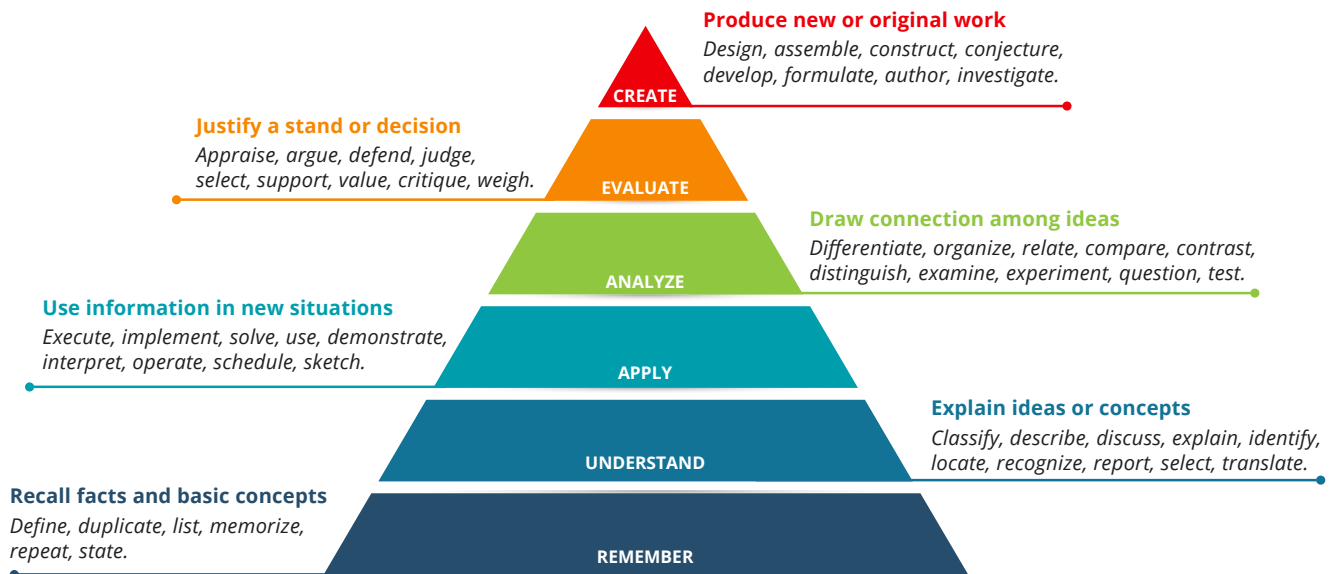
ANAB ACCREDITATION

The IAPP's CIPM, CIPP/E, CIPP/US and CIPT credentials are accredited by the **ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 17024: 2012**.

ANAB is an internationally recognized accrediting body that assesses and accredits certification programs that meet rigorous standards.

Achieving accreditation is a tremendous acknowledgement of the quality and integrity of the IAPP's certification programs, which:

- Demonstrates that IAPP credentials meet a global, industry-recognized benchmark.
- Ensures IAPP credentials are consistent, comparable and reliable worldwide.
- Protects the integrity and ensures the validity of the IAPP certification program.
- Promotes to employers, colleagues, clients and vendors that IAPP-certified professionals have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform their work anywhere in the world.

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IAPP CIPP/E BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Produce new or original work
Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate.

CREATE

Justify a stand or decision
Appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh.

EVALUATE

Draw connection among ideas
Differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test.

ANALYZE

Use information in new situations
Execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch.

APPLY

Explain ideas or concepts
Classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate.

UNDERSTAND

Recall facts and basic concepts
Define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state.

REMEMBER

Examples of Remember/Understand retired questions from various designations:

- Which of the following is the correct definition of privacy-enhancing technologies?
- To which type of activity does the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms apply?
- Which European Union institution is vested with the competence to propose data protection legislation?
- Who has rulemaking authority for the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) and the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA)?

The answers to these questions are facts and cannot be disputed.

Examples of Apply/Analyze retired questions from various designations:

- Which of the following poses the **greatest** challenge for a European Union data controller in the absence of clearly defined contractual provisions?
- Which of the following examples would constitute a violation of territorial privacy?
- What is the **best** way to ensure all stakeholders have the same baseline understanding of the privacy issues facing an organization?
- If the information technology engineers originally set the default for customer credit card information to "Do Not Save," this action would have been in line with what concept?

The answer to this question will be based upon factual knowledge and an understanding that allows for application, analysis and/or evaluation of the options provided to choose the best answer.

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MIN	MAX	Domain I — Introduction to European Data Protection	
7	13	**Domain I - Introduction to European Data Protection** focuses on the historical context for modern European privacy law and the GDPR. It highlights human rights laws and early data protection laws and the influence they have had on the development of a harmonized approach to contemporary European data protection. The domain also identifies the European regulatory structure and the institutions involved in defining and maintaining it, as well as the principles and goals of significant European data protection legislation.	

MIN	MAX		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1	3	I.A	Understand the origins and historical context of European data protection laws	Know the historical rationale for data protection.
				Know relevant human rights laws and early data protection laws and regulations such as the OECD Guidelines, the Treaty of Lisbon, and Convention 108, and understand the ways in which some of these laws have been updated (e.g., Convention 108+).
				Understand how the need for a harmonized European approach to data protection developed, and know the challenges involved in implementing this approach (e.g., Brexit).
1	2	I.B	Understand the roles and functions of significant European Union institutions	Know the roles and functions of the European Union institutions such as the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council and the Court of Justice of the European Union.
5	8	I.C	Understand the legislative framework underpinning the principles of European data protection	Understand early pieces of data protection legislation, such as the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data of 1981 (the CoE Convention), the EU Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC), the EU Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications (2002/58/EC) (ePrivacy Directive) — as amended, and the EU Directive on Electronic Commerce (2000/31/EC).
				Understand the main principles and goals of significant data protection legislation, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and related legislation, the NIS/NIS 2 Directives, and the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

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MIN	MAX	Domain II — European Data Protection Law and Regulation	
18	28	**Domain II - European Data Protection Law and Regulation** covers key data protection concepts and the requirements for maintaining security for the protection of personal data. The domain includes topics that highlight the importance of following the principles of European data protection laws and complying with the rights of data subjects.	
		COMPETENCIES	**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**
3	5	**II.A** Understand basic GDPR data protection concepts	Know the concepts of personal data, sensitive personal data, and special categories of personal data.
			Understand the concepts of pseudonymous and anonymous data and the differences between them.
			Know the key principles of lawful processing.
			Know the concepts of controller and processor, and understand European Data Protection Board guidelines and opinions on the subject.
			Understand the concept of data subject.
7	11	**II.B** Understand the requirements involved in maintaining the security of personal data	Understand what appropriate technical and organizational measures are (e.g., protection mechanisms such as encryption and access controls) and how they should be defined.
			Know what is required for breach notification (e.g., risk reporting requirements), and understand EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
			Understand the principles of effective and responsible vendor management.
			Know the key principles and requirements of sharing personal data with third parties.

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8	12	II.C	Understand data subjects' rights	Understand the right of access, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the right of rectification.
				Understand the right of erasure/the right to be forgotten (RTBF), including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the rights of restriction and objection.
				Understand the concept of consent, including the right of withdrawal.
				Understand the rights related to automated decision-making, including profiling.
				Understand the right of data portability.
				Know the restrictions on data subjects' rights and understand the principles regarding them set forth by EDPB guidelines.

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MIN	MAX	Domain III - European Data Processing	
13	21	**Domain III - European Data Processing** covers key GDPR-based data processing concepts and highlights the importance of adhering to lawful processing criteria. The domain requires an understanding of the principles of international data transfers, and how they must be conducted through legitimate mechanisms in accordance with current regulations and fundamental Court of Justice of the European Union case law.	

			COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
2	4	III.A	Understand the principles of European data processing	Understand the data processing concepts of fairness and lawfulness, purpose limitation, proportionality, accuracy, storage limitation (retention), and integrity and confidentiality.
3	5	III.B	Know what constitutes a lawful processing basis	Understand lawful processing bases (consent, contractual necessity, legal obligation/vital interests/public interest and legitimate interest), including European Data Protection Board guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand processing of special categories of personal data.
4	6	III.C	Understand information provision obligations	Understand the transparency principle.
				Know the key components of privacy notices.
				Understand the purpose of layered privacy notices.

4	6	III.D	Understand the principles of, and the risks involved in, international data transfers	Understand the rationale for prohibiting transfers, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Know the concept of adequate jurisdiction.
				Understand the historical importance of Safe Harbor and Privacy Shield (including the implications of the Schrems decisions regarding them) and know the basics of the EU-US Data Privacy Framework.
				Understand the content, purpose and use of Standard Contractual Clauses and Binding Corporate Rules (BCRs).
				Understand the role of codes of conduct and certifications, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the rationale for, and role of, derogations, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the goal of transfer impact assessments (TIAs), including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.

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MIN	MAX	Domain IV — European Data Protection: Scope and Accountability	
8	18		**Domain IV - European Data Protection: Scope and Accountability** focuses on rules of supervision and enforcement, outlining the obligations of data processors and the legal consequences for GDPR violations. The domain requires an understanding of how to implement the data protection measures necessary for assessing and mitigating various privacy risks while complying with applicable laws.

MIN	MAX		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
2	4	IV.A	Understand issues related to the territorial and material scope of the GDPR	Understand what constitutes establishment and non-establishment in the EU, including European Data Protection Board guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the GDPR's scope of processing, as well as the exemptions it allows.
4	8	IV.B	Understand the various accountability requirements under the GDPR	Understand the accountability requirements of controllers, joint controllers and processors, including those related to data protection by design and by default.
				Understand the importance of documentation and cooperation with regulators.
				Understand the role of data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) and know the established criteria for conducting them.
				Understand the requirement for mandatory data protection officers
				Understand the role that auditing plays in privacy programs.
1	3	IV.C	Understand the European data protection supervision and enforcement structure	Understand the roles and powers of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS).
				Understand the roles and powers of other supervisory authorities.
				Understand the concept of lead supervisory authority, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.

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1	3	IV.D	Understand the consequences for GDPR violations	Know the procedures related to GDPR violations, and the fines that may be imposed as a result of infringements.
				Understand the conditions under which class actions involving GDPR violations may be filed.
				Understand the types and amounts of compensation due to data subjects stemming from GDPR violations.

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MIN	MAX	Domain V — Compliance with European Data Protection Law and Regulation	
8	16		**Domain V - Compliance with European Data Protection Law and Regulation** focuses on compliance issues involving the handling of personal data in the areas of employment, surveillance, direct marketing and technology, stressing the unique data protection challenges posed by each.

			COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
3	5	V.A	Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations in the workplace, specifically as they relate to employment relationships	Know the legal basis for processing employee data, the issues related to the storage of personnel records and the risks involved in handling employee data.
				Understand the role of, and the risks involved in, workplace monitoring and data loss prevention.
				Understand the pros and cons of bring your own device (BYOD) programs.
				Understand the role of EU Works Councils and whistleblowing systems.
1	3	V.B	Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to surveillance activities	Understand the compliance issues related to surveillance conducted by public authorities.
				Understand the laws regarding the interception of communications.
				Understand the compliance issues related to technologies such as closed-circuit television (CCTV), geolocation and biometrics/facial recognition, and know European Data Protection Board guidelines and opinions on the subject.
2	4	V.C	Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to direct marketing	Understand the compliance issues and requirements related to the processing of personal data for marketing activities.
				Understand the compliance issues related to online behavioral targeting, including EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.

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2	4	V.D	Understand how to comply with European data protection laws and regulations related to internet technology and communications	Understand the compliance issues related to cloud computing.
				Understand the compliance issues related to the use of web cookies.
				Understand the compliance issues related to social media platforms (e.g., the use of dark patterns), and know EDPB guidelines and opinions on the subject.
				Understand the compliance issues related to search engine marketing (SEM).
				Understand the compliance issues and ethical issues related to artificial intelligence (AI), including machine learning.

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