MODULE 5 · FREE COURSE

Skills You Need



The technical foundations, soft skills and practice that employers look for

Start Your Cybersecurity Career

In this module you will learn



Technical foundations
Networking, operating systems, cloud and scripting



Soft skills
Why communication matters as much as tools



A home lab
Practise safely on your own computer



A 12-week plan
A realistic path to job-ready basics

05

Module 5 of 8
Skills You Need

About 20 minutes

Technical foundations

Networking

TCP/IP, DNS, ports, firewalls: how data moves

Linux

Command line, files, permissions, logs

Windows and Active Directory

Users, groups, policies, event logs

Cloud basics

Identity and access in AWS or Microsoft Azure

Scripting

Python, PowerShell or Bash to automate tasks

Security concepts

Authentication, encryption, logging, vulnerabilities

Soft skills that get you hired



Clear writing

Incident notes and reports others can act on



Explaining simply

Turning technical risk into business language



Curiosity

Asking “why” until you find the real cause



Calm under pressure

Following the process when an incident is live

Skills by role

Role	Must-have skills	Helpful extras
SOC analyst	Networking, Windows and Linux logs	SIEM queries, scripting
Penetration tester	Web, networks, Linux	Python, reporting
GRC analyst	Frameworks, risk, writing	Audit experience, presenting
Cloud security	AWS or Azure identity and networking	Infrastructure as code
Incident responder	Logs, forensics basics	Malware analysis, communication

Build a simple home lab



Virtual machines
Free VirtualBox or similar

Linux and Windows
Install one of each

Add logging
Collect events in a free SIEM

Practise
Safe attacks against your own lab

Write it up
Document what you learned

Only practise on systems you own or have written permission to test.

Practice platforms for beginners

TryHackMe

Guided beginner paths in the browser

OverTheWire

Free Linux and security wargames

picoCTF

Free beginner capture-the-flag challenges

Hack The Box Academy

Structured offensive and defensive modules

Blue team labs

Investigation challenges such as CyberDefenders

Free networking courses

For example Cisco Networking Academy

A 12-week starter plan



Weeks 1–3

Networking basics

Subnets, DNS, ports

Weeks 4–6

Linux and Windows

Commands, logs, users

Weeks 7–9

Security basics

Attacks, controls, logs

Weeks 10–12

Lab project

Build, test, write up

About 5–7 hours a week. Consistency beats intensity.

Quick check

1. Why is networking knowledge important for almost every security role?

2. Name one soft skill that matters in incident response.

3. What is the golden rule for practising attacks?

Answers are in the lesson article.

Key takeaways

- Networking, operating systems, cloud and scripting are the core foundations.
- Clear writing and explaining risk simply set candidates apart.
- A home lab with written-up projects shows employers real ability.

Next: Module 6 · Certifications