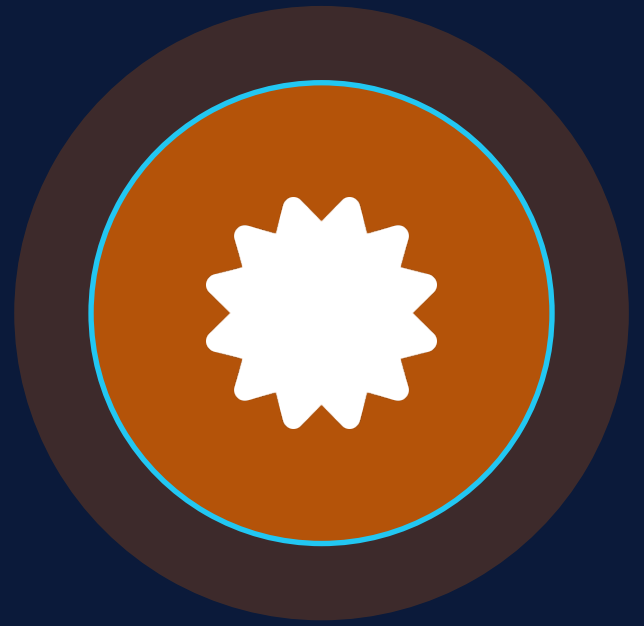
MODULE 6 · FREE COURSE

Certifications

Which certifications to choose, in what order, and how to avoid wasting money



Start Your Cybersecurity Career

In this module you will learn

Certification levels
Entry, intermediate and advanced

Paths by role
What to take first, next and later

Japan’s national qualifications
Valued by Japanese employers

Choosing and studying
A plan that saves time and money

06

Module 6 of 8
Certifications

About 20 minutes

Three levels of certification



Entry

Prove the basics. Examples: CompTIA Security+, ISC2 CC, Google Cybersecurity Certificate



Intermediate

Prove role skills. Examples: CySA+, Microsoft SC-200, eJPT, ISO 27001 Lead Implementer



Advanced

Prove deep expertise. Examples: CISSP, CISM, OSCP, GIAC certifications

Certification paths by role

Path	Start with	Then	Later
SOC / blue team	Security+ or ISC2 CC	CySA+, Microsoft SC-200	GIAC GCIH, CISSP
Penetration testing	Security+, eJPT	OSCP	Advanced OffSec or GIAC
GRC / consulting	Security+ or Japan’s SG exam	ISO 27001 LI or LA, CISA	CISM, CISSP, CRISC
Cloud security	AWS or Azure fundamentals	AZ-500 or AWS Security	CCSP

Japan’s national security qualifications

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ (SG)

Information Security Management exam by IPA: security basics for all staff and managers

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Registered Information Security Specialist: a respected national qualification for professionals

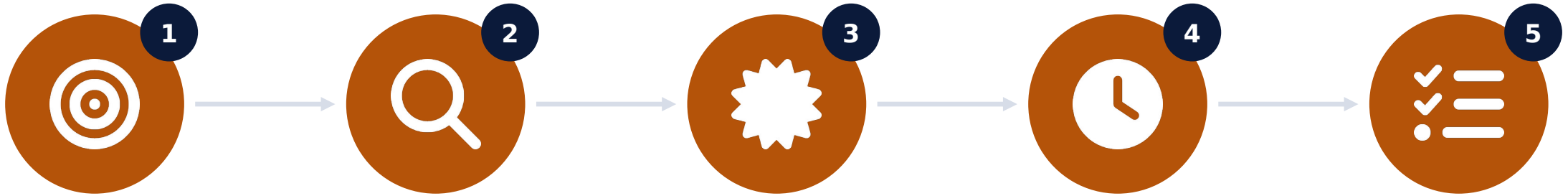
Why they matter

Well known by Japanese employers and clients, especially in Japanese companies

Language

Exams are in Japanese, so they also show strong Japanese ability

How to choose your next certification



Pick a target role
From Module 4

Read job posts
Which certs appear most?

Choose one
Only one at a time

Book the exam
A date creates focus

Study plan
Official objectives, weekly

Read 10–20 real job posts for your target role before spending any money.

Avoid wasting money

Costly mistake	Smarter choice
Collecting many unrelated certifications	One certification that matches your target role, plus projects
Paying for an expensive bootcamp first	Start with official objectives and low-cost resources
Using leaked “brain dump” questions	Practise with legitimate questions; dumps can get you banned
Expecting a free exam forever	Check offers on official sites: ISC2’s free CC program ended in May 2026

Quick check

1. What should you check before choosing a certification?

2. Name one entry-level and one advanced certification.

3. Which Japanese national exam is a good start for security basics?

Answers are in the lesson article.

Key takeaways

- Choose certifications by target role, not by popularity.
- Take one at a time, with a booked exam date and a weekly plan.
- In Japan, SG and RISS are respected national qualifications.

Next: Module 7 · Frameworks Made Simple