CompTIA PenTest+ 21-Day Study Plan (PT0-003)

A fast, focused 21-day roadmap to pass the CompTIA PenTest+ exam — built around the five PT0-003 domains, from engagement planning through reconnaissance, attacks and exploits, and reporting.

Days 1-4
SCOPE

Engagement Management

Set the foundation: scoping, rules of engagement, legal and compliance considerations, and professionalism throughout an engagement.

- Learn scoping documents, SOWs, and authorisation
- Review legal/regulatory constraints
- Domain mini-exam + review misses

Days 5-8
DISCOVER

Reconnaissance & Enumeration

Master passive and active recon, OSINT, scanning, and enumeration to map the target attack surface.

- Practice nmap, OSINT, and enumeration workflows
- Identify services, versions, and entry points
- Hands-on lab + mini-exam

Days 9-12
ANALYSE

Vulnerability Discovery & Analysis

Find and validate weaknesses — scanning, manual analysis, and prioritising what is actually exploitable.

- Run and interpret vulnerability scans
- Validate false positives manually
- Prioritise by exploitability

Days 13-17
EXPLOIT

Attacks & Exploits (35% — biggest domain)

The heart of the exam: network, application, wireless, cloud, and social-engineering attacks. Spend the most time here.

- Drill web, network, and wireless attack techniques
- Practice tool selection per scenario
- Two domain mini-exams

Days 18-19
PERSIST

Post-exploitation & Lateral Movement

Cover persistence, privilege escalation, lateral movement, and cleanup after initial access.

- Review privilege escalation and pivoting
- Practice persistence and cleanup steps

Days 20-21

EXAM READY

Reporting + Full Mock

Finish with reporting and communication, then sit a full-length timed mock (up to 90 questions, 165 minutes) and review every miss.

- Practice writing findings and recommendations
- Full timed mock exam
- Re-drill weakest domain, then rest

> Adjust the pace to your schedule — the key is consistent daily practice and reviewing every question you miss. Practise free at **https://www.examgrit.com/comptia-pentest-plus/practice-test**