



The Cyber Kill Chain

Exams rarely ask you to define a phase — they describe an attacker action and ask **which phase is this?** Below: the seven phases, then 21 scenarios mapped to them.



Scan to drill
this sheet

01 Recon	02 Weaponize	03 Delivery	04 Exploit	05 Install	06 C2	07 Actions
Research and select the target Defend: monitor for scanning	Pair an exploit with a payload Defend: threat intel only	Transmit the weapon to the target Defend: mail filtering, training	Trigger the code on the victim system Defend: patching, EDR	Establish persistence on the host Defend: FIM, app allow-listing	Open a channel back for remote control Defend: egress & DNS analysis	Achieve the goal — exfiltrate, encrypt, destroy Defend: DLP, immutable backups

Scenario → phase Cover the right-hand column and work down. These are how the question is actually asked.

ATTACKER IS...	PHASE	ATTACKER IS...	PHASE
Scraping LinkedIn for names and job titles	Reconnaissance	Adding a Run key to survive reboot	Installation
Nmap scanning a public IP range	Reconnaissance	Creating a hidden local admin account	Installation
Harvesting emails from the company site	Reconnaissance	Installing a backdoor RAT on the host	Installation
Embedding a macro into a decoy invoice	Weaponization	Malware beaconing out every 60 seconds	Command & Control
Building a malicious PDF for a known CVE	Weaponization	Tunnelling commands over DNS TXT	Command & Control
Packing a trojan to evade signatures	Weaponization	Registering a domain the implant calls	Command & Control
Emailing the attachment to 40 staff	Delivery	Copying the customer DB off-network	Actions on Objectives
Dropping infected USBs in the car park	Delivery	Encrypting shares, leaving a ransom note	Actions on Objectives
Compromising a site the target visits	Delivery	Deleting backups and wiping event logs	Actions on Objectives
The victim opens it; the macro runs	Exploitation	Moving laterally to the domain controller	Actions on Objectives
Buffer overflow in an unpatched service	Exploitation	Escalating from user to SYSTEM	Exploitation

Where people lose the mark Three distinctions that decide most kill-chain questions.

Delivery vs Exploitation

Delivery is **sending** it. Exploitation is the code **running**. The phishing email arriving is Delivery; the click that fires the macro is Exploitation.

Exploitation vs Installation

Exploitation gets code running **once**. Installation makes it **survive a reboot** — persistence is the tell.

Recon vs Weaponization

Both happen before contact. Recon **gathers information**; Weaponization **builds the tool**. Neither touches your network — so neither is detectable there.

Reading the chain won't stick — turn it into instinct.

Drill scenario-to-phase questions until the answer is automatic. Ten minutes a day, free forever, no card.

cyberquizzer.com/go/killchain-sheet