

CompTIA Network+ Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

90 Questions	1h 30m Time limit	720 (on a scale of 100-900) Passing score
— Exam fee	CompTIA Governing body	

Exam Logistics at a Glance

Detail	Value
Exam code	N10-009
Launch date	June 20, 2024
Duration	90 minutes
Question count	Maximum of 90 questions
Question format	Multiple-choice and performance-based questions
Passing score	720 (on a 100-900 scale)
Delivery	Physical test center or online proctoring, via Pearson VUE
Languages	English, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish

Content Domains

The exam is organized into five content domains, each weighted differently. Domain weight is one of the highest-leverage things to internalize before study planning — spend your prep hours in proportion to these percentages, not evenly.

- Domain 1: Networking Concepts — 23%. The second-largest domain; expect deep coverage of protocols, ports, cabling standards, and topologies.
- Domain 2: Network Implementation — 20%. Deploying and configuring routers, switches, wireless, and cloud connectivity.
- Domain 3: Network Operations — 19%. Monitoring, documentation, disaster recovery, and high-availability concepts.
- Domain 4: Network Security — 14%. The lightest-weighted domain, but still a frequent source of scenario questions; covers hardening, physical security, and common attacks.
- Domain 5: Network Troubleshooting — 24%. The single largest domain — treat troubleshooting methodology as the backbone of your study plan, not an afterthought.

Domain Priority Order for Study Time

1. Network Troubleshooting (24%)
2. Networking Concepts (23%)
3. Network Implementation (20%)
4. Network Operations (19%)
5. Network Security (14%)

Key Terms and Concepts to Memorize

- The OSI model layers and what happens at each layer — this underpins nearly every troubleshooting scenario question.
- TCP vs. UDP behavior, and the well-known ports tied to common services.
- Subnetting and CIDR notation — expect to calculate subnets, not just recognize them.
- Switching concepts: VLANs, trunking, STP, and port security fundamentals.
- Routing basics: static vs. dynamic routing, and the purpose of common routing protocols.
- Wireless standards, frequencies, and common wireless security modes.
- Cloud connectivity concepts and common cloud service models as they intersect with networking.
- Common physical and logical network diagrams and documentation practices.
- The structured troubleshooting methodology — identify the problem, establish a theory, test, establish a plan, implement, verify, and document.
- Common network security hardening techniques and physical security controls.

Common Gotchas and Traps

- Performance-based questions (PBQs) simulate real configuration tasks — they are not just multiple choice, so budget extra time for them and don't panic if they appear early in the exam.
- Domain weighting is not evenly distributed; under-studying Network Troubleshooting or Networking Concepts because they feel "conceptual" rather than "hands-on" is a common mistake given they're the two heaviest domains.
- Read scenario questions carefully for qualifiers like "MOST likely" or "BEST" — multiple answers are often technically true, but only one best fits the described constraints.
- Don't confuse this exam's prerequisites with hard requirements — CompTIA recommends prior A+ certification and hands-on experience, but nothing stops you from testing directly if you already have the knowledge.
- Renewal is easy to forget about after passing — certification isn't permanent, and lapsing on continuing education requirements means having to retake the current exam version.
- Scheduling logistics catch people off guard; exams are booked through CompTIA's own candidate portal rather than directly through a testing center's website.

Night-Before Checklist

- Confirm your exam appointment, format (test center vs. online proctoring), and ID requirements through your CompTIA Central account.
- Do a final pass on domain weight priorities: Troubleshooting and Networking Concepts first, then Implementation, Operations, and Security.
- Review the structured troubleshooting methodology steps in order until you can recite them without hesitation.
- Skim subnetting practice problems one more time — speed on CIDR math pays off across multiple domains.
- Review common port numbers and protocol-to-layer mappings.
- If testing online, verify your room setup, webcam, and ID meet proctoring requirements the night before, not the morning of.
- Get a full night's sleep rather than cramming new material — recall performs worse on fatigue than on a slightly thinner review.
- Plan to arrive or log in early; the 90-minute window starts once the exam begins, so don't lose time to check-in delays.

Official sources

- CompTIA — CompTIA Network+ (N10-009) Certification Page: <https://www.comptia.org/en-us/certifications/network/>
- CompTIA — CompTIA Network+ Exam Objectives (N10-009 Domains): <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/network>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025 — Network and Computer Systems Administrators (SOC 15-1244): <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes151244.htm>

