

TCCA Reading List

Recommended Materials for Examination Preparation

Version: 2.6.0 (Final – Controlled Scope)
Effective: 1 January 2026
Last Review: 1 January 2026

TrustCrypto Institute Guides (PRIMARY – AUTHORITATIVE)

Institute Frameworks are the authoritative reference for the TCCA examination.

All examination content, marking criteria, and model answers are derived from TrustCrypto Institute frameworks. External materials are supplementary and provided for contextual understanding only.

Domain 4.2: Portfolio Construction and Risk Management

TrustCrypto Portfolio Construction & Risk Management Framework v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 14 hours

Coverage:

- Modern Portfolio Theory applied to cryptoassets
- Strategic allocation framework:
 - Conservative: 0–2%
 - Moderate: 2–5%
 - Aggressive: 5–10%
 - Speculative: >10%
- Volatility analysis (crypto vs traditional assets)
- Time-varying correlations and stress behaviour
- Rebalancing strategies (calendar, threshold, hybrid)
- Within-crypto diversification
- Client suitability and documentation standards

Note: This framework replaces reliance on CFA Institute, ECB, BIS, and other external portfolio research for examination purposes.

Domain 4.4: UK Regulatory Obligations

TrustCrypto Financial Promotions & Advisory Framework v1.0

📖 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

🕒 Study Time: 8 hours

Coverage:

- FCA October 2023 cryptoasset promotional ban
- Section 21 FSMA approval gateway
- Mandatory risk warnings and placement rules
- Distinction between promotions and one-to-one advice
- Prohibited practices (guaranteed returns, urgency tactics, celebrity endorsements)
- Best practice for compliant client communications

Domain 4.5: Professional Ethics

TrustCrypto Code of Professional Conduct v1.0

📖 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

🕒 Study Time: 2 hours

Coverage:

- 7 Core Principles:
 - Integrity and Honesty
 - Professional Competence
 - Confidentiality and Data Protection
 - Independence and Objectivity
 - Client and Customer Protection
 - Regulatory Cooperation
 - Professional Responsibility
- Crypto-specific ethical scenarios
- Conflicts of interest management
- CPD obligations (20 hours annually)

Domain 4.1: Cryptocurrency Fundamentals (20%)

Core Blockchain Concepts

Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System (Satoshi Nakamoto, 2008)

🔗 <https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf>

🕒 Study Time: 4 hours

Coverage:

- Blockchain structure
- Proof-of-Work consensus
- Double-spend prevention
- UTXO transaction model

Ethereum Whitepaper

 <https://ethereum.org/en/whitepaper/>

 Study Time: 3 hours

Coverage:

- Smart contract functionality
- Account-based model vs UTXO
- State transitions
- Decentralised application architecture

Market Structure

IOSCO: Decentralized Finance Report (2022)

 <https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD699.pdf>

 Study Time: 3 hours

Coverage:

- DeFi vs CeFi market structure
- Liquidity pools and AMMs
- Systemic and operational risk considerations

Asset Classification

FCA Guidance on Cryptoassets (PS19/22)

 <https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/policy/ps19-22.pdf>

 Study Time: 4 hours

Coverage:

- Exchange tokens, utility tokens, security tokens
- Regulatory perimeter
- What falls inside vs outside FCA regulation

Domain 4.2: Portfolio & Risk (Additional Context)

Portfolio risk concepts including volatility, correlation, drawdowns, and stress behaviour are fully covered in the TrustCrypto Portfolio Construction & Risk Management Framework.

Candidates are not required to consult external central bank research for examination preparation.

Domain 4.3: Custody & Security (20%)

IOSCO: Custody of Crypto-Assets Report

 <https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD715.pdf>

 Study Time: 6 hours

Coverage:

- Self-custody vs third-party custody
- Private key management
- Multi-signature arrangements
- Segregation of client assets
- Audit, governance, and insurance considerations

Optional Background Reading (Not Examinable)

NIST IR 8202: Securing Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology

 <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.IR.8202>

 Optional

Note: This document provides deep technical cybersecurity context. It is not required for the TCCA examination, which focuses on advisory suitability, custody risk awareness, and client communication rather than system architecture or threat modelling.

Total Study Hours: 44 hours

Breakdown:

- Institute Guides: 24 hours (PRIMARY)
- Blockchain Fundamentals: 14 hours
- Custody & Security: 6 hours

CPD Hours Awarded: 30 hours

Examination Scope Clarification

The TCCA examination assesses the ability to:

- Apply Institute standards to client scenarios
- Exercise professional judgement
- Communicate cryptoasset risks clearly and compliantly
- Evidence suitability and risk-adjusted decision-making

The examination does not test:

- Academic economic theory
- Central bank research publications
- Systems engineering or cryptographic design
- Cybersecurity implementation frameworks

External materials are provided for professional context only and do not expand the examinable syllabus beyond published learning outcomes.

TrustCrypto Institute

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