

TCCS Reading List

Recommended Materials for Examination Preparation

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

Note on Domain 3:

Domain 3 (Professional Judgement & Decision Making) is assessed through application of the Institute frameworks listed below and does not have standalone reading materials.

TrustCrypto Institute Guides (Primary Resources)

Domain 1 & 2: AML/KYC & Blockchain Forensics

TrustCrypto Blockchain Forensics Framework v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 18 hours

Coverage:

- Transaction tracing (Bitcoin UTXO, Ethereum, DeFi)
- Obfuscation techniques (mixers, CoinJoin, peel chains, privacy coins)
- Red flag indicators (60+ across 4 categories)
- Evidence collection and chain of custody
- Case typologies (ransomware, darknet, fraud, sanctions)
- Legal framework (MLRs 2017, FATF, sanctions)

Domain 4: Regulatory Compliance & Reporting

TrustCrypto SAR Submission Framework v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 8 hours

Coverage:

- Legal obligations (POCA 2002 sections 330-332)
- Knowledge vs suspicion standard
- Essential SAR components and crypto-specific details
- Consent SARs (DAML) procedures
- NCA glossary codes
- Record retention requirements

TrustCrypto Travel Rule Compliance Guide v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 6 hours

Coverage:

- FATF Recommendation 16 requirements
- USD/EUR 1,000 threshold
- Required data fields (originator + beneficiary)
- Technical implementation solutions
- Compliance challenges (unhosted wallets, non-compliant VASPs)
- Record keeping obligations

TrustCrypto Financial Promotions Framework v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 3 hours (recommended)

Coverage:

- October 2023 promotional ban
- Section 21 FSMA approval requirements
- Risk warnings and prohibited practices

Domain 5: Ethics & Professional Conduct

TrustCrypto Code of Professional Conduct v1.0

 Available: TrustCrypto Institute Learning Portal

 Study Time: 2 hours

Coverage:

- 7 Core Principles (Integrity, Competence, Confidentiality, Independence, Client Protection, Regulatory Cooperation, Professional Responsibility)
- Crypto-specific ethical scenarios
- CPD requirements (20 hours annually)

UK Legislation

Anti-Money Laundering Regulations

The Money Laundering Regulations 2017

 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/692/contents>

 Study Time: 8 hours

Focus on:

- Part 1: Definitions (Regulations 1-13)
- Part 2: Customer Due Diligence (Regulations 14-39)
- Part 3: Record-Keeping (Regulations 40-41)
- Part 5: Cryptoasset Registration (Regulations 54-59C)

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)

 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/29/contents>

 Study Time: 4 hours

Focus on:

- Part 7: Money Laundering Offences (sections 327-340)
- Section 330: Failure to disclose (regulated sector)
- Section 331: Failure to disclose (MLROs)
- Section 333A: Tipping off
- Section 335: Consent SARs

FCA Guidance

FCA Guidance for Cryptoasset Businesses on MLRs (PS20/10)

 <https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/policy/ps20-10.pdf>

 Study Time: 6 hours

Coverage:

- Registration requirements
- Risk assessment
- CDD/EDD procedures
- Ongoing monitoring
- SAR filing
- Record-keeping

FCA Handbook: Senior Management Arrangements (SYSC)

🔗 SYSC 3: <https://handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook/sysc3>

🔗 SYSC 6: <https://handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook/sysc6>

🕒 Study Time: 3 hours

Coverage:

- Governance frameworks
- Three lines of defence
- MLRO responsibilities
- Compliance function

International Standards

FATF Virtual Assets Standards

FATF Updated Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach to Virtual Assets and VASPs (October 2021)

🔗 <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Fatfrecommendations/Guidance-rba-virtual-assets-2021.html>

🕒 Study Time: 3 hours

Coverage:

- VASP definition and scope
- Risk-based approach
- Travel Rule implementation
- Licensing and supervision
- Information sharing

FATF Virtual Asset Red Flag Indicators (2020)

🔗 <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Methodsandtrends/Virtual-assets-red-flag-indicators.html>

🕒 Study Time: 2 hours

Coverage:

- Technology/anonymity risks (mixers, privacy coins)
- Transaction pattern indicators
- Customer behavior red flags
- Geographic risks
- Source of funds concerns

Study Tip: Use FRACTION acronym: Frequency, Round amounts, Anonymity tech, Cross-border red flags, Transactions inconsistent, Incomplete KYC, Origin unknown, Networks of wallets

FATF Recommendations (amended October 2025)

 <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfrecommendations/Fatf-recommendations.html>

 Study Time: 1.5 hours

Focus on:

- Recommendation 10: Customer Due Diligence
- Recommendation 15: Virtual Assets obligations
- Recommendation 16: Travel Rule

Sanctions Compliance

OFAC Sanctions Compliance Guidance for the Virtual Currency Industry

 <https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/913571/download>

 Study Time: 1.5 hours

Coverage:

- Virtual currency = fiat for sanctions purposes
- Screening obligations
- Risk-based compliance program
- Blocked property reporting
- Geographic/IP screening

OFAC Digital Currency FAQs

 <https://ofac.treasury.gov/faqs/594>

 Study Time: 0.5 hours

Coverage:

- Digital currency wallet addresses on SDN list
- Screening procedures
- Reporting requirements

OFAC Sanctions List Search Tool

 <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov>

Use: Search sanctioned persons, entities, and digital currency addresses (use "ID #" field for crypto addresses)

Risk Assessment

JMLSG Guidance (Part I)

 Available as PDF download from www.jmlsg.org.uk

 Study Time: 6 hours

Key sections:

- Chapter 3: Risk assessment methodologies
- Chapter 5: Customer due diligence
- Chapter 6: Enhanced due diligence
- Chapter 8: Ongoing monitoring

Study Strategy

Stage 1: Institute Foundations (40 hours)

Complete all TrustCrypto Institute guides:

1. Blockchain Forensics Framework (18 hours)
2. SAR Submission Framework (8 hours)
3. Travel Rule Compliance Guide (6 hours)
4. Financial Promotions Framework (3 hours)
5. Code of Professional Conduct (2 hours)
6. Review and practice (3 hours)

Stage 2: UK Legal Framework (18 hours)

1. MLRs 2017 (8 hours)
2. POCA 2002 (4 hours)
3. FCA PS20/10 (6 hours)

Stage 3: International Standards (10 hours)

1. FATF VA/VASP Guidance (3 hours)
2. FATF Red Flag Indicators (2 hours)
3. FATF Recommendations (1.5 hours)
4. OFAC Sanctions Guidance (2 hours)
5. JMLSG Guidance (6 hours)
6. FCA SYSC (3 hours)

Total Study Hours: 68 hours

CPD Hours Awarded: 40 hours

Exam Preparation Tips

Prioritize Institute guides: These are aligned directly with exam content and cover 59% of your study time.

Focus on application: The exam tests real-world compliance scenarios, not passive recall. Practice applying frameworks to case studies.

Use legislation strategically: You don't need to memorize every regulation. Focus on key sections and understand the principles.

Master red flags: The FATF red flag indicators and Institute Forensics Framework are heavily tested.

Understand Travel Rule: This is a complex area - ensure you understand thresholds, data requirements, and technical challenges.

TrustCrypto Institute

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