

GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) Ports Sheet

High-yield ports and services for practical security work across network, endpoint, and cloud foundations.

Best for Fast port memorization	Focus Port / protocol / service / use case	Use with Use with commands sheet and quick summary
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Port	Protocol	Name	Use case
20/21	TCP	FTP	Legacy file transfer and insecure comparison point
22	TCP	SSH / SFTP	Secure shell and file transfer
23	TCP	Telnet	Plaintext remote access
25	TCP	SMTP	Mail transfer
49	TCP	TACACS+	Admin AAA
53	TCP/UDP	DNS	Resolution and investigation context
67/68	UDP	DHCP	Address assignment
69	UDP	TFTP	Simple file transfer
80	TCP	HTTP	Plain web traffic
88	TCP/UDP	Kerberos	Authentication
110	TCP	POP3	Mail retrieval
123	UDP	NTP	Time synchronization
143	TCP	IMAP	Mail access
161/162	UDP	SNMP	Monitoring and traps
389	TCP/UDP	LDAP	Directory queries
443	TCP	HTTPS	Encrypted web/API traffic
445	TCP	SMB	Windows file sharing
514	UDP	Syslog	Log forwarding
636	TCP	LDAPS	Secure LDAP
1812/1813	UDP	RADIUS	Network access AAA
3389	TCP	RDP	Remote desktop

Exam traps

22 vs 23 SSH is secure management; Telnet is plaintext and generally the wrong choice.

53 TCP/UDP DNS can use both; do not memorize it as UDP-only.

161 vs 162 SNMP uses separate roles for polling and traps.

80 vs 443 Plain HTTP differs sharply from TLS-protected HTTPS in risk and design.