# Activity sheet 3.23: Penetration testing

*Learning outcome B: Cyber security*

*B2: Prevention and management of threats to data*

1. Explain what is meant by penetration testing.

1. Is penetration testing an example of ethical or unethical hacking? Explain your answer.

1. Is penetration testing carried out by a grey hat hacker or a white hat hacker? Explain   
   your answer.

1. **a.** What are the five main stages of a penetration test?

**b.** Describe what happens at each of the five stages.



















As you saw in Activity sheet 3.22, Jackson’s Solicitors manages legal work on behalf of clients. For example, they help when people buy and sell property, and they defend clients in court cases. They have recently carried out a review of computer security and have discovered some weaknesses. As a result, they have decided to implement penetration testing.

1. Explain what Jackson’s Solicitors should do with the results of the penetration testing.

**Take it further**

Research some examples of ethical hacking.

Which are examples of white-hat hacking and which are examples of grey-hat hacking?

To what extent should organisations rely on the actions of grey-hat hackers?