2026 Linux Foundation CKS: Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist (CKS) Latest Free Sample Questions

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The CKS certification exam is designed for professionals who are already certified in the Kubernetes Administration (CKA) exam or have equivalent knowledge and experience. The CKS exam covers a broad range of topics related to Kubernetes security, including cluster hardening, network policies, authentication, authorization, and encryption. CKS Exam also tests the candidate's ability to identify and mitigate common security threats and vulnerabilities in Kubernetes clusters.

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To take the CKS Certification Exam, candidates must have a valid CNCF (Cloud Native Computing Foundation) CKA (Certified Kubernetes Administrator) certification, which demonstrates their proficiency in Kubernetes administration. Candidates must also have experience working with Kubernetes in production environments and have a good understanding of Linux command-line tools and utilities.

Linux Foundation Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist (CKS) Sample Questions (Q18-Q23):

NEW QUESTION # 18
SIMULATION
Context
A Role bound to a Pod's ServiceAccount grants overly permissive permissions. Complete the following tasks to reduce the set of permissions.
Task
Given an existing Pod named web-pod running in the namespace security.
Edit the existing Role bound to the Pod's ServiceAccount sa-dev-1 to only allow performing watch operations, only on resources of

type services.
Create a new Role named role-2 in the namespace security, which only allows performing update operations, only on resources of type namespaces.
Create a new RoleBinding named role-2-binding binding the newly created Role to the Pod's ServiceAccount.

Answer:

Explanation:
SeetheExplanationbelowExplanation:

NEW QUESTION # 19
SIMULATION
A container image scanner is set up on the cluster.
Given an incomplete configuration in the directory
/etc/kubernetes/confcontrol and a functional container image scanner with HTTPS endpoint https://test-server.local.8081/image_policy
1. Enable the admission plugin.
2. Validate the control configuration and change it to implicit deny.
Finally, test the configuration by deploying the pod having the image tag as latest.

- A. Send us the Feedback on it.

Answer: A

NEW QUESTION # 20
SIMULATION
Context
You must fully integrate a container image scanner into the kubeadm provisioned cluster.
Task
Given an incomplete configuration located at /etc/kubernetes/bouncer and a functional container image scanner with an HTTPS endpoint at https://smooth-yak.local/review, perform the following tasks to implement a validating admission controller.
First, re-configure the API server to enable all admission plugin(s) to support the provided AdmissionConfiguration.
Next, re-configure the ImagePolicyWebhook configuration to deny images on backend failure.
Next, complete the backend configuration to point to the container image scanner's endpoint at https://smooth-yak.local/review.
Finally, to test the configuration, deploy the test resource defined in /home/candidate/vulnerable.yaml which is using an image that should be denied.
You may delete and re-create the resource as often as needed.
The container image scanner's log file is located at /var/log/nginx/access_log.

Answer:

Explanation:
See the Explanation below for complete solution
Explanation:
Below is the CKS exam style "do-this-exactly" runbook for Q3. It includes the minimal discovery commands (so you don't guess filenames), then the exact lines/blocks to set.
QUESTION 3 - ImagePolicyWebhook (Validating Admission) - Exam Steps
0) SSH + root
ssh cks000002
sudo -i
1) Identify the provided config files (no guessing)
ls -la /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
You are looking for files typically named like:
admission_configuration.yaml (AdmissionConfiguration)
imagepolicywebhook.yaml (ImagePolicyWebhookConfiguration) OR the ImagePolicyWebhook config embedded inside the AdmissionConfiguration kubeconfig (webhook kubeconfig) If unsure which is which, quick peek:
grep -R "ImagePolicyWebhook" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
grep -R "AdmissionConfiguration" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer

grep -R "kubeconfig" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
PART A - Reconfigure API Server to enable required admission plugin(s)
2) Edit API server static pod manifest
vi /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml
2.1 Enable the admission plugin ImagePolicyWebhook
Find the line starting with:
- --enable-admission-plugins=
Ensure ImagePolicyWebhook is included in that comma list.
Example (your list may differ; just add ImagePolicyWebhook):
- --enable-admission-plugins=NodeRestriction,ImagePolicyWebhook
If the flag does not exist, add one line under command::
- --enable-admission-plugins=ImagePolicyWebhook
2.2 Point API server to the provided AdmissionConfiguration
In the same file, ensure this flag exists (use the file in /etc/kubernetes/bouncer that contains AdmissionConfiguration):
- --admission-control-config-file=/etc/kubernetes/bouncer/admission_configuration.yaml If your file is named differently, use the real filename you found in step 1, but keep the flag name exactly --admission-control-config-file.
Save/exit:
:wq
Static pod will restart automatically (kubelet watches the manifest).
Optional quick watch:
docker ps | grep kube-apiserver
or:
crictl ps | grep kube-apiserver
PART B - Configure ImagePolicyWebhook to deny images on backend failure
3) Edit the ImagePolicyWebhook config
One of these is true on your cluster:
Option 1 (most common in these tasks): ImagePolicyWebhook config is a standalone file Edit the file in /etc/kubernetes/bouncer that contains kind: ImagePolicyWebhookConfiguration:
grep -R "kind: ImagePolicyWebhookConfiguration" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer vi /etc/kubernetes/bouncer/<THE_FILE_YOU_FOUND>.yaml Set (or ensure) exactly:
defaultAllow: false
Option 2: ImagePolicyWebhook config is embedded inside AdmissionConfiguration Edit the AdmissionConfiguration file:
vi /etc/kubernetes/bouncer/admission_configuration.yaml
Find the plugin section for ImagePolicyWebhook and ensure the config includes:
defaultAllow: false
 Save/exit:
:wq
PART C - Point backend configuration to https://smooth-yak.local/review
4) Edit the webhook kubeconfig to use the scanner endpoint
Find the kubeconfig file referenced by the ImagePolicyWebhook config.
Search for kubeConfigFile:
grep -R "kubeConfigFile" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
Open that kubeconfig path (example name below; yours may differ):
vi /etc/kubernetes/bouncer/kubeconfig
In kubeconfig, set the cluster server exactly:
clusters:
- cluster:
server: https://smooth-yak.local/review
 Save/exit:
:wq
PART D - Restart effect (make sure API server picks up config)
Because you already edited /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml, the API server restarted.
To be safe (and fast), force a restart by "touching" the manifest (no content change needed):
touch /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml
PART E - Test: apply vulnerable workload and confirm it is denied
5) Use admin kubeconfig (because old kubectl config may break)
export KUBECONFIG=/etc/kubernetes/admin.conf
kubectl get nodes
6) Deploy the test resource (should be DENIED)
kubectl apply -f /home/candidate/vulnerable.yaml
Expected: admission error/denied message.

If it already exists:
kubectl delete -f /home/candidate/vulnerable.yaml
kubectl apply -f /home/candidate/vulnerable.yaml
PART F - Verify the scanner was called (log check)
7) Check scanner access log
tail -n 50 /var/log/nginx/access_log
You should see requests hitting /review.
Quick "what to check if it doesn't deny"
Run these in order:
Confirm API server flags:
grep -n "enable-admission-plugins" /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml grep -n "admission-control-config-file" /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml Confirm deny-on-failure:
grep -R "defaultAllow" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
Must show:
defaultAllow: false
Confirm endpoint:
grep -R "server: https://smooth-yak.local/review" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer API server logs (docker runtime):
docker ps | grep kube-apiserver
docker logs $(docker ps -q --filter name=kube-apiserver) --tail 80
If you paste the output of:
ls -/etc/kubernetes/bouncer
grep -R "kind: AdmissionConfiguration" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer
grep -R "ImagePolicyWebhook" -n /etc/kubernetes/bouncer

NEW QUESTION # 21
SIMULATION
Context
For testing purposes, the kubeadm provisioned cluster 's API server
was configured to allow unauthenticated and unauthorized access.
Task
First, secure the cluster 's API server configuring it as follows:
. Forbid anonymous authentication
. Use authorization mode Node,RBAC
. Use admission controller NodeRestriction
The cluster uses the Docker Engine as its container runtime . If needed, use the docker command to troubleshoot running containers.
kubectl is configured to use unauthenticated and unauthorized access. You do not have to change it, but be aware that kubectl will stop working once you have secured the cluster .
You can use the cluster 's original kubectl configuration file located at etc/kubernetes/admin.conf to access the secured cluster.
Next, to clean up, remove the ClusterRoleBinding
system:anonymous.

Answer:

Explanation:
See the Explanation below for complete solution
Explanation:
1) SSH to control-plane node
ssh cks000002
sudo -i
2) Edit API Server static pod manifest
API server in kubeadm runs as a static pod.
vi /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml
3) Apply required API Server security settings
3.1 Forbid anonymous authentication
Find command: section and ensure this line exists:
- --anonymous-auth=false
3.2 Use authorization mode Node,RBAC
Ensure exactly this line exists (and no AlwaysAllow):
- --authorization-mode=Node,RBAC
 Remove if present:

- --authorization-mode=AlwaysAllow
3.3 Enable admission controller NodeRestriction
Find --enable-admission-plugins and ensure NodeRestriction is included.
Correct example:
- --enable-admission-plugins=NodeRestriction
If other plugins already exist, append NodeRestriction, e.g.:
- --enable-admission-plugins=NamespaceLifecycle,ServiceAccount,NodeRestriction
4) Save file and let kubelet restart API server
Just save and exit (:wq)
Kubelet will automatically restart the API server pod.
5) Switch kubectl to secured config
Current kubectl will stop working after API server hardening.
export KUBECONFIG=/etc/kubernetes/admin.conf
Verify access:
kubectl get nodes
6) Remove insecure ClusterRoleBinding
Delete system:anonymous binding:
kubectl delete clusterrolebinding system:anonymous
Verify removal:
kubectl get clusterrolebinding | grep anonymous
(no output = correct)
7) Quick validation (optional but fast)
API server flags check:
grep -n "anonymous-auth" /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml
grep -n "authorization-mode" /etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml grep -n "NodeRestriction"
/etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml

NEW QUESTION # 22
Cluster: scanner
Master node: controlplane
Worker node: worker1
You can switch the cluster/configuration context using the following command:
[desk@cli] $ kubectl config use-context scanner
Given:
You may use Trivy's documentation.
Task:
Use the Trivy open-source container scanner to detect images with severe vulnerabilities used by Pods in the namespace nato.
Look for images with High or Critical severity vulnerabilities and delete the Pods that use those images.
Trivy is pre-installed on the cluster's master node. Use cluster's master node to use Trivy.

Answer:

Explanation:
[controlplane@cli] $ k get pods -n nato -o yaml | grep "image: "
[controlplane@cli] $ trivy image <image-name>
[controlplane@cli] $ k delete pod <vulnerable-pod> -n nato
[desk@cli] $ ssh controlnode
[controlplane@cli] $ k get pods -n nato
NAME READY STATUS RESTARTS AGE
alohmora 1/1 Running 0 3m7s
c3d3 1/1 Running 0 2m54s
neon-pod 1/1 Running 0 2ml 1s
thor 1/1 Running 0 58s
[controlplane@cli] $ k get pods -n nato -o yaml | grep "image: "
[controlplane@cli] $ k delete pod thor -n nato
[controlplane@cli] $ k delete pod neon-pod -n nato Reference: https://github.com/aquasecurity/trivy
[controlplane@cli] $ k delete pod neon-pod -n nato Reference: https://github.com/aquasecurity/trivy

NEW QUESTION # 23

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