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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Platform Engineering Core Fundamentals: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and covers essential foundations such as declarative resource management, DevOps practices, application environments, platform architecture, and the core goals of platform engineering. It also includes continuous integration fundamentals, delivery approaches, and GitOps principles.
Topic 2	• Platform APIs and Provisioning Infrastructure: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on the use of Kubernetes reconciliation loops, APIs for self-service platforms, and infrastructure provisioning with Kubernetes. It also assesses knowledge of the Kubernetes operator pattern for integration and platform scalability.
Topic 3	• Continuous Delivery & Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI • CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q83-Q88):

NEW QUESTION # 83
In the context of Istio, what is the purpose of PeerAuthentication?

- A. Defining how traffic is routed between services
- B. Monitoring and logging service communication
- C. Managing network policies for ingress traffic
- D. Securing service-to-service communication

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Istio, PeerAuthentication is used to configure how workloads authenticate traffic coming from other services in the mesh. Option C is correct because PeerAuthentication primarily secures service-to-service communication using mutual TLS (mTLS), ensuring encryption in transit and verifying the identity of both communicating parties.
Option A (network policies for ingress traffic) relates to Kubernetes NetworkPolicy, not Istio PeerAuthentication. Option B (traffic routing) is handled by Istio's VirtualService and DestinationRule resources. Option D (monitoring/logging) is part of Istio's telemetry features, not PeerAuthentication.
PeerAuthentication policies define whether mTLS is disabled, permissive, or strict, giving platform teams fine-grained control over how services communicate securely. This aligns with zero-trust security models and ensures compliance with organizational policies without requiring application code changes.
References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- Istio Security Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 84
Which of the following statements describes the fundamental relationship between Continuous Integration (CI) and Continuous Delivery (CD) in modern software development?

- A. CI and CD are interchangeable terms; they both refer to the process of automating software release management.
- B. CI is a prerequisite for CD; CI automates the building and testing of code, and CD builds upon this by automating the release process.
- C. CI and CD are entirely separate practices; CI focuses on code quality, while CD focuses on infrastructure management.
- D. CD is a prerequisite for CI; CD automates the deployment of code and CI builds upon this by automating the integration of code changes.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Continuous Integration (CI) and Continuous Delivery (CD) are complementary practices. Option A is correct:
CI is a prerequisite for CD. CI focuses on automating code integration by building, testing, and validating changes, ensuring code quality and early detection of defects. CD builds upon CI by automating the process of releasing validated builds into staging and production environments, making delivery repeatable and reliable.
Option B incorrectly treats them as entirely separate. Option C reverses the relationship, as CD cannot exist without CI pipelines. Option D is inaccurate because CI and CD are not interchangeable-they represent distinct stages in the software delivery lifecycle. Together, CI/CD accelerates software delivery, reduces risk, and improves quality. In platform engineering, CI /CD pipelines are critical enablers of developer productivity and efficient operations.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Continuous Delivery Foundation Guidance- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 85

Development teams frequently raise support tickets for short-term access to staging clusters, creating a growing burden on the platform team. What's the best long-term solution to balance control, efficiency, and developer experience?

- A. Provide pre-approved kubeconfigs to trusted developers so they can access staging clusters without platform intervention.
- B. Use GitOps to manage RBAC roles and allow teams to request access via pull requests with automatic approval for non-sensitive environments.
- C. Set up scheduled access windows and batch all requests into specific time slots managed by the platform team.
- D. Dedicate one Cloud Native Platform Engineer to triage and fulfill all access requests to maintain fast turnaround times.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The most sustainable solution for managing developer access while balancing governance and self-service is to adopt GitOps-based RBAC management. Option A is correct because it leverages Git as the source of truth for access permissions, allowing developers to request access through pull requests. For non-sensitive environments such as staging, approvals can be automated, ensuring efficiency while still maintaining auditability. This approach aligns with platform engineering principles of self-service, automation, and compliance.
Option B places the burden entirely on one engineer, which does not scale. Option C introduces bottlenecks, delays, and reduces developer experience. Option D bypasses governance and auditability, potentially creating security risks.
GitOps for RBAC not only improves developer experience but also ensures all changes are versioned, reviewed, and auditable. This model supports compliance while reducing manual intervention from the platform team, thus enhancing efficiency.
References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 86
Which approach is an effective method for securing secrets in CI/CD pipelines?

- A. Storing secrets and encrypting them in a secrets manager.
- B. Storing secrets as plain-text environment variables managed through config files.
- C. Storing secrets in configuration files with restricted access.
- D. Encoding secrets in the source code using base64.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The most secure and scalable method for handling secrets in CI/CD pipelines is to use a secrets manager with encryption. Option B is correct because solutions like HashiCorp Vault, AWS Secrets Manager, or Kubernetes Secrets (backed by KMS) securely store, encrypt, and control access to sensitive values such as API keys, tokens, or credentials.
Option A (restricted config files) may protect secrets but lacks auditability and rotation capabilities. Option C (plain-text environment variables) exposes secrets to accidental leaks through logs or misconfigurations.
Option D (base64 encoding) is insecure because base64 is an encoding, not encryption, and secrets can be trivially decoded.
Using a secrets manager ensures secure retrieval, audit trails, access policies, and secret rotation. This aligns with supply chain security and zero-trust practices, reducing risks of credential leakage in CI/CD pipelines.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Best Practices- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 87
In a Continuous Integration (CI) pipeline, what is a key benefit of using automated builds?

- A. Eliminates coding errors.
- B. Ensures consistent builds.
- C. Minimizes server costs.
- D. Reduces code redundancy.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The key benefit of automated builds in a CI pipeline is ensuring consistent and reproducible builds. Option C is correct because automation eliminates the variability introduced by manual processes, guaranteeing that each build follows the same steps, uses the same dependencies, and produces artifacts that are predictable and testable.
Option A (minimizing server costs) may be a side effect but is not the primary advantage. Option B (eliminates coding errors) is

inaccurate-automated builds do not prevent developers from writing faulty code; instead, they surface errors earlier. Option D (reduces code redundancy) relates more to code design than CI pipelines.
Automated builds are fundamental to DevOps and platform engineering because they establish reliability in the software supply chain, integrate seamlessly with automated testing, and enable continuous delivery. This practice ensures that code changes are validated quickly, improving developer productivity and reducing integration risks.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Continuous Delivery Foundation Best Practices- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 88
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