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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• IDPs and Developer Experience: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on improving developer experience. It covers simplified access to platform capabilities, API-driven service catalogs, developer portals for platform adoption, and the role of AI • ML in platform automation.
Topic 2	• 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 3	• Platform Observability, Security, and Conformance: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on key aspects of observability and security. It includes working with traces, metrics, logs, and events while ensuring secure service communication. Policy engines, Kubernetes security essentials, and protection in CI • CD pipelines are also assessed here.
Topic 4	• 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.
Topic 5	• 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.

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q40-Q45):

NEW QUESTION # 40
In a cloud native environment, what is one of the security benefits of implementing a service mesh?

- A. Limiting network access to services based on IP allowlisting.
- B. Using a centralized logging system to monitor service interactions.
- C. Automatically scaling services to handle increased traffic.
- D. Enabling encryption of communication between services using mTLS.

Answer: D

Explanation:
A key advantage of using a service mesh is its ability to secure service-to-service communication transparently, without requiring application code changes. Option A is correct because service meshes (e.g., Istio, Linkerd) provide mutual TLS (mTLS) by default, ensuring both encryption in transit and authentication between services. This establishes a zero-trust networking model inside the cluster.
Option B (scaling) is managed by Kubernetes (Horizontal Pod Autoscaler), not service mesh. Option C (logging) may be supported as an observability feature, but it is not the primary security benefit. Option D (IP allowlisting) is an outdated, less flexible mechanism compared to identity-based policies that meshes provide.
Service meshes enforce security consistently across all services, support fine-grained policies, and ensure compliance without burdening developers with complex configurations. This makes mTLS a foundational benefit in cloud native platform security.
References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 41
What is the primary purpose of Kubernetes runtime security?

- A. Protects workloads against threats during execution.

- B. Encrypts the sensitive data stored in etcd.
- C. Scans container images before deployment.
- D. Manages the access control to the Kubernetes API.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The main purpose of Kubernetes runtime security is to protect workloads during execution. Option B is correct because runtime security focuses on monitoring active Pods, containers, and processes to detect and prevent malicious activity such as privilege escalation, anomalous network connections, or unauthorized file access.
Option A (etcd encryption) addresses data at rest, not runtime. Option C (image scanning) occurs pre- deployment, not during execution. Option D (API access control) is enforced through RBAC and IAM, not runtime security.
Runtime security solutions (e.g., Falco, Cilium, or Kyverno) continuously observe system calls, network traffic, and workload behaviors to enforce policies and detect threats in real time. This ensures compliance, strengthens defenses in zero-trust environments, and provides critical protection for cloud native workloads in production.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Guidance- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 42
In the context of Agile methodology, which principle aligns best with DevOps practices in platform engineering?

- A. Teams should strictly adhere to initial project plans without making adjustments during development.
- B. Teams should continuously gather feedback and iterate on their work to improve outcomes.
- C. Customer involvement should be limited during the development process to avoid disruptions.
- D. Development and operations teams should remain separate to maintain clear responsibilities.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Agile and DevOps share the principle of continuous improvement through rapid feedback and iteration.
Option B is correct because gathering feedback continuously and iterating aligns directly with DevOps practices such as CI/CD, observability-driven development, and platform engineering's focus on developer experience. This ensures platforms and applications evolve quickly in response to real-world conditions.
Option A contradicts Agile, which emphasizes active customer collaboration. Option C reflects rigid waterfall methodologies, not Agile or DevOps. Option D enforces silos, which is the opposite of DevOps principles of cross-functional collaboration.
By embracing continuous feedback loops, both Agile and platform engineering accelerate delivery, improve resilience, and ensure that platforms deliver real value to developers and end users. This cultural alignment ensures both speed and quality in cloud native environments.
References:- Agile Manifesto Principles- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 43
In a CI/CD pipeline, why is a build artifact (e.g., a Docker image) pushed to an OCI-compliant registry?

- A. To store the image in a central registry so deployment environments can pull it for release.
- B. To enable the registry service to execute automated tests on the uploaded container image.
- C. To allow the container image to be analyzed and transformed back into source code.
- D. To publish versioned artifacts that can be tracked and used to inform users of new releases.

Answer: A

Explanation:
In cloud native CI/CD workflows, build artifacts such as Docker/OCI images are pushed to a central container registry to ensure consistent, reproducible deployments. Option A is correct because registries serve as a single source of truth where immutable artifacts are stored, versioned, and distributed across environments.
Deployment systems like Kubernetes pull images from these registries, ensuring that the same tested artifact is deployed in staging and production.
Option B is incorrect because images cannot be directly transformed back into source code. Option C partially describes benefits (version tracking) but misses the primary function of deployment consistency. Option D is misleading-registries typically don't run automated tests; CI/CD pipelines do that before pushing the image.
By using OCI-compliant registries, organizations gain portability, interoperability, and compliance with supply chain security

practices such as image signing and SBOM attestation. This ensures traceability, reliability, and secure distribution of artifacts across the platform.
References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 44
Which platform component enables one-click provisioning of sandbox environments, including both infrastructure and application code?

- A. Observability pipeline
- B. Service bus
- C. Service mesh
- D. CI/CD pipeline

Answer: D

Explanation:
A CI/CD pipeline is the platform component that enables automated provisioning of sandbox environments with both infrastructure and application code. Option A is correct because modern pipelines integrate Infrastructure as Code (IaC) with application deployment, enabling "one-click" or self-service provisioning of complete environments. This capability is central to platform engineering because it empowers developers to spin up temporary or permanent sandbox environments quickly for testing, experimentation, or demos.
Option B (service mesh) focuses on secure, observable service-to-service communication but does not provision environments. Option C (service bus) is used for asynchronous communication between services, not environment provisioning. Option D (observability pipeline) deals with collecting telemetry data, not provisioning.
By leveraging CI/CD pipelines integrated with GitOps and IaC tools (such as Terraform, Crossplane, or Kubernetes manifests), platform teams ensure consistency, compliance, and automation. Developers benefit from reduced friction, faster feedback cycles, and a better overall developer experience.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF GitOps Principles- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 45
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