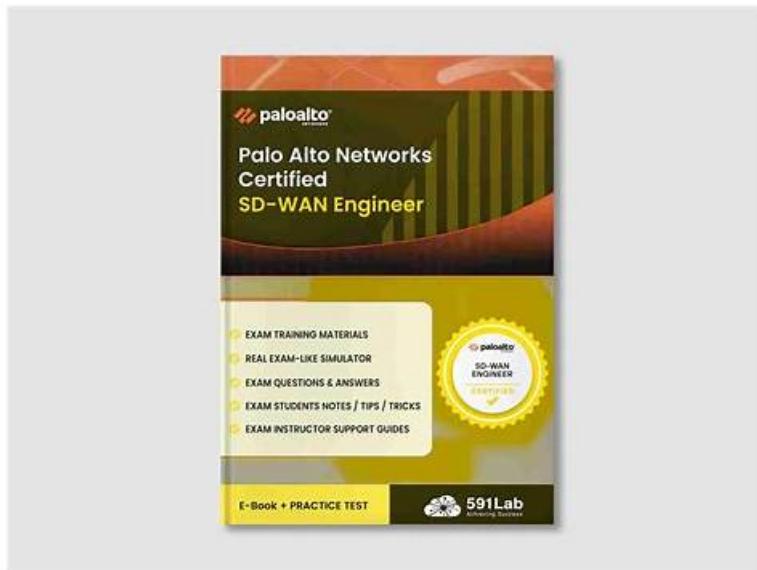


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## Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deployment and Configuration: This domain focuses on Prisma SD-WAN deployment procedures, site-specific settings, configuration templates for different locations, routing protocol tuning, and VRF implementation for network segmentation.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operations and Monitoring: This domain addresses monitoring device statistics, controller events, alerts, WAN Clarity reports, real-time network visibility tools, and SASE-related event management.</li></ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unified SASE: This domain covers Prisma SD-WAN integration with Prisma Access, ADEM configuration, IoT connectivity via Device-ID, Cloud Identity Engine integration, and User</li> <li>Group-based policy implementation.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and Design: This domain covers SD-WAN planning fundamentals including device selection, bandwidth and licensing planning, network assessment, data center and branch configurations, security requirements, high availability, and policy design for path, security, QoS, performance, and NAT.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Troubleshooting: This domain focuses on resolving connectivity, routing, forwarding, application performance, and policy issues using co-pilot data analysis and analytics for network optimization and reporting.</li> </ul>

## Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN Engineer Sample Questions (Q61-Q66):

### NEW QUESTION # 61

A network engineer is troubleshooting a user complaint regarding "slow application performance" for an internal web application. While viewing the Flow Browser in the Prisma SD-WAN portal, the engineer notices that the Server Response Time (SRT) is consistently high (over 500ms), while the Network Transfer Time (NTT) and Round Trip Time (RTT) are low (under 50ms). What does this data indicate about the root cause of the issue?

- A. The issue is due to a misconfigured DNS server at the branch.
- B. The issue is caused by a high packet loss rate on the internet path.
- C. The issue is likely on the application server itself(e.g., high CPU, slow database query), not the network.**
- D. The issue is likely caused by congestion on the WAN circuit, requiring a QoS policy adjustment.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

The Flow Browser and App Response Time metrics in Prisma SD-WAN are critical tools for isolating the fault domain-determining whether a problem lies in the "Network" or the "Application." Network Transfer Time (NTT) / Round Trip Time (RTT): These metrics measure the time it takes for packets to traverse the network (WAN/LAN) and for acknowledgments to return. A low NTT (e.g., <50ms) confirms that the network pipes (SD-WAN overlay, Underlay circuits) are healthy and transporting packets quickly. Server Response Time (SRT): This metric specifically measures the time between the server receiving a request and the server sending the first byte of the response. It essentially measures the "processing time" of the backend server.

In the scenario described, the network metrics (NTT/RTT) are excellent, effectively ruling out WAN congestion, packet loss, or latency (Option A and C). However, the Server Response Time (SRT) is very high (500ms). This signature is a definitive indicator that the network delivered the request instantly, but the application server took a long time to process it. This points the troubleshooting effort toward the server infrastructure (e.g., a slow SQL query, an overloaded web server, or lack of compute resources) rather than the SD-WAN environment.

### NEW QUESTION # 62

Based on the HA topology image below, which two statements describe the end-state when power is removed from the ION 1200-S labeled "Active", assuming that the ION labeled "Standby" becomes the active ION?  
(Choose two.)

- A. The connection to ISP A will be usable, but the connection to LTE/5G will not.
- B. Both the connection to ISP A and the connection to LTE/5G will be usable.**
- C. The VRRP Virtual IP address assigned to any SVIs will be moved to the newly active ION.
- D. The newly active ION will send a gratuitous ARP to the LAN for the IP address of any SVIs.**

**Answer: B,D**

Explanation:

Prisma SD-WAN High Availability (HA) for branch ION devices, particularly the Gen-2 ION 1200-S, is designed to provide "100% WAN Capacity" preservation during a hardware or power failure. This is achieved through the use of Bypass Pairs (Fail-to-Wire). In the provided topology, the ISP A and LTE/5G circuits are cross-connected using the bypass ports (typically ports 3 and 4 on the ION 1200-S).

When the "Active" ION device loses power, the internal physical relays in its bypass ports transition to a closed state, effectively creating a physical bridge between the ports. In this scenario, the LTE/5G signal- which enters the Active ION's port 4-is mechanically bridged to port 3, allowing it to pass through to port 4 of the Standby ION. Simultaneously, ISP A is already connected to the Standby ION. Consequently, once the Standby device completes its transition to the "Active" state, it has physical access to both WAN circuits, validating Statement A.

Regarding the LAN transition, Prisma SD-WAN does not use standard VRRP for ION-to-ION HA; instead, it uses a proprietary Control Plane HA mechanism. When the failover occurs, the newly active ION takes over the IP addresses of all configured Switch Virtual Interfaces (SVIs) and LAN interfaces. To ensure the downstream Layer 2 infrastructure (like the LAN switches shown in the diagram) updates its MAC address tables to point to the new physical hardware for those IPs, the newly active ION immediately broadcasts a Gratuitous ARP (GARP). This ensures that LAN traffic is correctly steered to the new device without a significant timeout, validating Statement C.

## NEW QUESTION # 63

In a Prisma SD-WAN deployment, what is the defining characteristic of a "Standard VPN" compared to a "Secure Fabric Link"?

- A. Standard VPNs use GRE encapsulation, while Secure Fabric Links use VXLAN.
- B. Standard VPNs are manually configured IPSec tunnels to non-ION endpoints, while Secure Fabric Links are automated tunnels between ION devices.
- C. Standard VPNs are automatically built between ION devices, while Secure Fabric Links require manual configuration.
- D. Standard VPNs support BGP, whereas Secure Fabric Links only support static routing.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

In the Prisma SD-WAN architecture, the terminology distinguishes between "Native" automation and "Legacy" interoperability. Secure Fabric Links: These are the proprietary, automated overlay tunnels created between two Prisma SD-WAN ION devices (e.g., Branch ION to Data Center ION). The controller automatically manages the IP addressing, key rotation, and routing for these links. You do not manually configure "Phase 1" or "Phase 2" parameters for Secure Fabric links.

Standard VPNs: These are traditional, standards-based IPSec tunnels configured to connect an ION device to a Non-ION endpoint (Third-Party Peer). This is used for "Data Center to Data Center" connections where one side is a legacy firewall (e.g., Cisco ASA, Palo Alto Networks NGFW) or for connecting to cloud security services (SSE) that do not have a specific CloudBlade integration. For a Standard VPN, the administrator must manually define the IKE/IPSec profiles, pre-shared keys, and peer IP addresses to match the third-party device's configuration.

## NEW QUESTION # 64

A network operator receives a critical SITE\_CONNECTIVITY\_DOWN alarm for a branch site in the Prisma SD-WAN portal. What specific condition triggers this alarm type?

- A. The device has lost power and rebooted.
- B. One of the two internet circuits at the site has gone down.
- C. All Secure Fabric Links (VPNs) to all remote peers are down, isolating the site from the overlay.
- D. The site has exceeded its licensed bandwidth capacity.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

The SITE\_CONNECTIVITY\_DOWN alarm is a high-severity alert indicating a total loss of overlay connectivity for a site.

It does not trigger if just one circuit fails (Option B), provided that other circuits are still up and maintaining VPNs. A single link failure would typically trigger a "Link Down" or "VPN Down" alarm, but the Site connectivity would remain "Up" (degraded).

It does not simply mean the device rebooted (Option A), although a reboot would cause it temporarily; the alarm specifically tracks the state of the VPN fabric.

The SITE\_CONNECTIVITY\_DOWN alarm specifically generates when all Secure Fabric Links (VPN tunnels) on the device are in the "Down" state. This means the branch is completely isolated from the rest of the SD-WAN network (Data Centers and other branches), even if the device itself might still be powered on and reachable via the controller (management plane). It signifies a "Blackout" of the data plane for that location.

## NEW QUESTION # 65

Which implementation allows Prisma SD-WAN to improve application performance for organizations facing inconsistent user experiences across branch locations, especially due to varying device types and network conditions, by using Layer 4 and Layer 7 optimization to boost throughput?

- A. WAN optimization
- B. Forward Error Correction (FEC)
- C. Application acceleration
- D. Packet duplication

### Answer: C

Explanation:

Prisma SD-WAN addresses inconsistent application performance through Application Acceleration, which encompasses a suite of features designed to mitigate the effects of latency and packet loss.<sup>1</sup> While basic SD-WAN functionality handles path selection, Application Acceleration goes further by employing Layer 4 (TCP) and Layer 7 (Application) optimizations. These optimizations are particularly effective for organizations with diverse branch environments where network conditions are unpredictable.

At Layer 4, Prisma SD-WAN implements TCP optimization techniques such as window scaling, selective acknowledgments, and congestion control algorithms.<sup>2</sup> These mechanisms allow the ION devices to "trick" the end hosts into sending data faster by acknowledging packets locally, effectively shielding the application from the round-trip time (RTT) delays inherent in long-distance WAN circuits. This significantly boosts throughput for bulk data transfers and legacy protocols that were not originally designed for high-latency environments.

At Layer 7, the system can perform application-specific optimizations, such as metadata caching or protocol-specific acceleration for services like SMB or HTTP.<sup>3</sup> By reducing the number of "chatty" exchanges required to complete a transaction, Prisma SD-WAN ensures a snappy, consistent user experience regardless of whether the user is on a high-speed fiber link or a degraded cellular connection. This is distinct from Forward Error Correction (FEC) (Option C) or Packet Duplication (Option A), which focus on reconstructing lost packets rather than optimizing the protocol throughput itself. By combining these L4 and L7 techniques, Application Acceleration ensures that business-critical SaaS and data center applications perform optimally across the entire distributed enterprise.

## NEW QUESTION # 66

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