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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	• 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	• 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.

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q11-Q16):

NEW QUESTION # 11
As a Cloud Native Platform Associate, you need to implement an observability strategy for your Kubernetes clusters. Which of the following tools is most commonly used for collecting and monitoring metrics in cloud native environments?

- A. Prometheus
- B. Grafana
- C. ELK Stack
- D. OpenTelemetry

Answer: A

Explanation:
Prometheus is the de facto standard for collecting and monitoring metrics in Kubernetes and other cloud native environments. Option D is correct because Prometheus is a CNCF graduated project designed for multi- dimensional data collection, time-series storage, and powerful querying using PromQL. It integrates seamlessly with Kubernetes, automatically discovering targets such as Pods and Services through service discovery.
Option A (Grafana) is widely used for visualization but relies on Prometheus or other data sources to collect metrics. Option B (ELK Stack) is better suited for log aggregation rather than real-time metrics. Option C (OpenTelemetry) provides standardized instrumentation but is focused on generating and exporting metrics, logs, and traces rather than storage, querying, and alerting.
Prometheus plays a central role in platform observability strategies, often paired with Alertmanager for notifications and Grafana for dashboards. Together, they enable proactive monitoring, SLO/SLI measurement, and incident detection, making Prometheus indispensable in cloud native platform engineering.
References:- CNCF Observability Whitepaper- Prometheus CNCF Project Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 12
During a platform engineering meeting, a team discusses the importance of automating deployment processes to enhance collaboration and efficiency. What is the primary benefit of implementing automation in DevOps practices within platform engineering?

- A. It creates dependencies on specific tools and platforms.
- B. It reduces the need for communication between team members.
- C. It eliminates the need for any manual intervention.
- D. It accelerates deployments, enabling faster iterations and continuous delivery.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Automation in DevOps practices is central to platform engineering because it enables faster, reliable, and repeatable deployments. Option D is correct: automation accelerates deployments, reduces bottlenecks, and enables continuous delivery and rapid iterations. By automating build, test, and deployment pipelines, teams can deliver new features quickly while maintaining high quality and compliance.
Option A is incorrect because automation does not reduce the need for communication-it complements collaboration by removing friction. Option B is unrealistic: some manual oversight may remain (e.g., in production approvals for sensitive workloads). Option C is not a primary benefit-while tools may be involved, the focus is on outcomes, not tool dependency.
By embedding automation, teams reduce toil, enforce consistency, and free developers to focus on value creation rather than repetitive tasks. This results in shorter lead times, higher deployment frequency, and overall improved developer experience, which aligns with DORA metrics.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Continuous Delivery Foundation Guidance- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 13
Which platform component enables one-click provisioning of sandbox environments, including both infrastructure and application code?

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

Answer: B

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 # 14
What is the primary purpose of using multiple environments (e.g., development, staging, production) in a cloud native platform?

- A. Increases application performance by distributing traffic.
- B. Reduces cloud costs by running applications in different locations.
- C. Ensures all applications use the same infrastructure.
- D. Isolates different stages of application development and deployment

Answer: D

Explanation:
The primary reason for implementing multiple environments in cloud native platforms is to isolate the different phases of the software development lifecycle. Option A is correct because environments such as development, staging, and production enable testing and validation at each stage without impacting end users. Development environments allow rapid iteration, staging environments simulate production for integration and performance testing, and production environments serve real users.
Option B (reducing costs) may be a side effect but is not the main purpose. Option C (distributing traffic) relates more to load balancing and high availability, not environment separation. Option D is the opposite of the goal-different environments often require tailored infrastructure to meet their distinct purposes.
Isolation through multiple environments is fundamental to reducing risk, supporting continuous delivery, and ensuring stability. This practice also allows for compliance checks, automated testing, and user acceptance validation before changes reach production.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies & Platform Engineering Guidance- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 15
In a GitOps workflow, what is a secure and efficient method for managing secrets within a Git repository?

- A. Use environment variables to manage secrets outside the repository.
- B. Use a secrets management tool and store references in the repository.
- C. Encrypt secrets and store them directly in the repository.
- D. Store secrets in plain text within the repository.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The secure and efficient way to handle secrets in a GitOps workflow is to use a dedicated secrets management tool (e.g., HashiCorp Vault, Sealed Secrets, or External Secrets Operator) and store only references or encrypted placeholders in the Git repository. Option B is correct because Git should remain the source of truth for configuration, but sensitive values should be abstracted or encrypted to maintain security.
Option A (environment variables) can supplement secret management but lacks versioning and auditability when used alone. Option C (encrypting secrets in Git) can work with tools like Mozilla SOPS, but it still requires external key management, making Option B a more complete and secure approach. Option D (plain text secrets) is highly insecure and should never be used.
By integrating secrets managers into GitOps workflows, teams achieve both security and automation, ensuring secrets are delivered securely during reconciliation without exposing sensitive data in Git.
References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 16
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