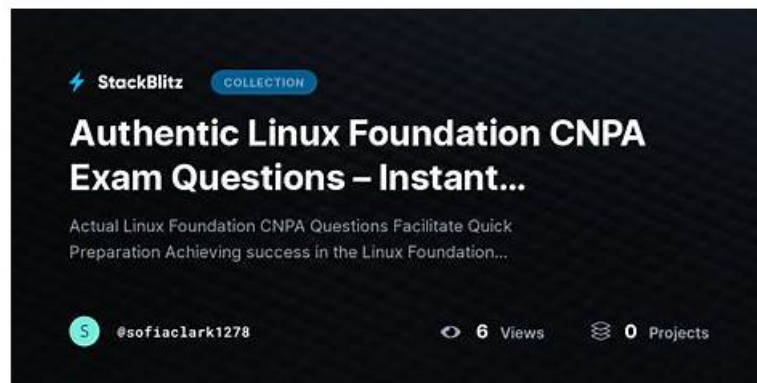


# Questions for the Linux Foundation CNPA Exam 2026 - Ensure Your Success



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## Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• ML in platform automation.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• CD pipelines are also assessed here.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous Delivery &amp; Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI</li><li>• CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.</li></ul>

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# Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate

## Sample Questions (Q18-Q23):

### NEW QUESTION # 18

As a platform engineer, how do you automate application deployments across multiple Kubernetes clusters using GitOps, Helm, and Crossplane, ensuring a consistent application state?

- A. Integrate Helm and Crossplane into a GitOps-enabled CI/CD pipeline.
- B. Leverage Git for configuration storage, with manual application of Helm and Crossplane.
- **C. Employ a GitOps controller to synchronize Git-stored Helm and Crossplane configurations.**
- D. Use Helm and Crossplane, with manual GUI-based configuration updates.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The most effective way to achieve consistent, automated deployments across multiple Kubernetes clusters is to combine GitOps controllers (e.g., Argo CD, Flux) with declarative configurations managed by Helm and Crossplane. Option A is correct because the GitOps controller continuously reconciles the desired state stored in Git-Helm charts for applications and Crossplane manifests for infrastructure-ensuring consistency across clusters.

Option B and D rely on manual updates, which are error-prone and not scalable. Option C mischaracterizes GitOps by suggesting push-based pipelines rather than the core GitOps model of pull-based reconciliation.

This combination leverages Helm for application packaging, Crossplane for cloud infrastructure provisioning, and GitOps for declarative, version-controlled delivery. It ensures applications remain in sync with Git, providing auditability, automation, and resilience in multi-cluster environments.

References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 19

Which of the following best represents an effective golden path implementation in platform engineering?

- **A. A templated workflow that guides developers through deploying a complete microservice with integrated testing and monitoring.**
- B. A central documentation repository listing available database services with their configuration parameters.
- C. An API service catalog providing comprehensive details about available infrastructure components and their consumption patterns.
- D. A monitoring dashboard system that displays the operational health metrics and alerting thresholds for all platform services.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

A golden path in platform engineering refers to a curated, opinionated workflow that makes the easiest way the right way for developers. Option C is correct because a templated workflow for deploying a microservice with integrated testing and monitoring embodies the golden path concept. It provides developers with a pre-validated, secure, and efficient approach that reduces cognitive load and accelerates delivery.

Option A (documentation) provides information but lacks automation and enforced best practices. Option B (monitoring dashboards) improves observability but does not guide developers in delivery workflows. Option D (API service catalog) is useful but more about service discovery than curated workflows.

Golden paths improve adoption by embedding guardrails, automation, and organizational standards directly into workflows, making compliance seamless. They ensure consistency while allowing developers to focus on innovation rather than platform complexity.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies & Platform Engineering Practices- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 20

A development team is struggling to find and connect to various services within a cloud platform. What is the primary benefit of implementing an API-driven service catalog for this team?

- A. It increases the time taken to provision services.
- B. It allows the team to bypass security protocols.
- **C. It enables easier service discovery through a consistent interface.**

- D. It requires the development team to manage provisioning details themselves.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

An API-driven service catalog provides a centralized and standardized interface where developers can discover and provision platform services. Option A is correct because it simplifies service discovery, allowing teams to connect to databases, messaging systems, and other infrastructure without needing in-depth platform knowledge. This improves productivity and developer experience by reducing cognitive load and ensuring consistent, governed access.

Option B is the opposite of the benefit-catalogs accelerate provisioning. Option C is incorrect because catalogs do not bypass security; they enforce guardrails and compliance. Option D is also incorrect because service catalogs abstract away provisioning details rather than forcing developers to manage them.

By providing golden paths and API-driven self-service, service catalogs ensure developers focus on building applications while platform teams maintain consistency and compliance.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 21

In the context of Istio, what is the purpose of PeerAuthentication?

- A. Defining how traffic is routed between services
- B. Managing network policies for ingress traffic
- C. Monitoring and logging service communication
- **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 # 22

In a GitOps setup, which of the following correctly describes the interaction between components when using a pull-based approach?

- A. The syncer uses webhooks to notify the target cluster of changes in the git repository.
- B. The git repository pushes configuration changes directly to the syncer without any checks.
- **C. The syncer continuously checks the git repository for changes and applies them to the target cluster.**
- D. The target cluster sends updates to the git repository whenever a change is made.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

GitOps uses a pull-based approach, where controllers inside the cluster continuously reconcile the desired state stored in Git with the actual cluster state. Option A is correct because GitOps sync agents (e.g., Argo CD, Flux) poll or watch Git repositories for changes and automatically apply updates to the cluster.

Option B reverses the model-clusters do not send updates to Git; Git is the source of truth. Option C is partially misleading: webhooks can trigger faster syncs but reconciliation is still pull-based. Option D misrepresents GitOps-Git never pushes directly to clusters.

This pull-based approach ensures greater security (clusters pull changes rather than exposing themselves to pushes), consistency (Git as source of truth), and continuous reconciliation (drift correction).

## NEW QUESTION # 23

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