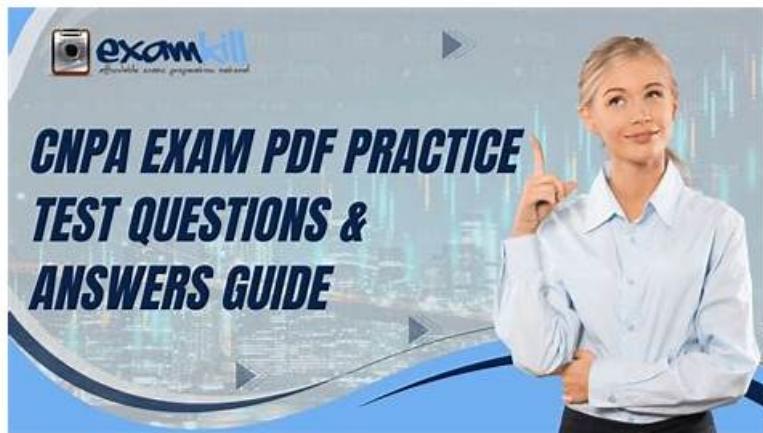


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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q70-Q75):

NEW QUESTION # 70

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

- A. Using a centralized logging system to monitor service interactions.
- B. Limiting network access to services based on IP allowlisting.
- 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 Option D (IP allowlisting) is an outdated, less flexible mechanism compared to identity-based policies that meshes provide.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 # 71

A developer is struggling to access the necessary services on a cloud native platform due to complex Kubernetes configurations. What approach can best simplify their access to platform capabilities?

- A. Provide detailed documentation on Kubernetes configurations.
- **B. Implement a web portal that abstracts the Kubernetes complexities.**
- C. Limit user access to only a few services.
- D. Increase the number of required configurations to enhance security.

Answer: B

Explanation:

One of the primary objectives of internal developer platforms (IDPs) is to improve developer experience by reducing cognitive load. Complex Kubernetes configurations often overwhelm developers who simply want to consume services and deploy code without worrying about infrastructure intricacies.

Option B is correct because implementing a self-service web portal (or developer portal) abstracts away Kubernetes complexities, providing developers with easy access to platform services through standardized workflows, templates, and golden paths. This aligns with platform engineering principles: empowering developers with self-service capabilities while maintaining governance, security, and compliance.

Option A increases burden unnecessarily and negatively impacts productivity. Option C limits access to services, reducing flexibility and developer autonomy, which goes against the core goal of IDPs. Option D, while helpful for education, does not remove complexity-it only shifts the responsibility back to the developer. By leveraging portals, APIs, and automation, platform teams allow developers to focus on building business value instead of managing infrastructure details.

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

NEW QUESTION # 72

Which approach is an effective method for securing secrets in CI/CD pipelines?

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

Answer: B

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 # 73

What does the latest tag usually represent in a container image registry?

- A. The only image tag that can be deployed to production systems.

- B. A signed image that has passed all security validations.
- C. A system-generated version number based on Git history.
- D. The most recently built image unless otherwise specified.

Answer: D

Explanation:

In most container registries, the latest tag is simply an alias pointing to whichever image was most recently built and pushed, unless explicitly overridden. Option A is correct because the latest tag does not carry any semantic guarantee beyond being the most recently tagged version.

Option B is incorrect-latest does not imply security validation or attestation. Option C is false because production systems should not rely on latest; instead, immutable, versioned tags or digests should be used for reproducibility. Option D is misleading, as latest is not tied to Git history but rather to tag assignment during the build/push process.

While convenient for testing or local development, relying on latest in production pipelines is discouraged.

Platform engineering best practices emphasize explicit versioning and image immutability to ensure consistency, reproducibility, and traceability. Using signed images with SBOM attestation is recommended for security and compliance, while latest should only be used in controlled, non-production workflows.

References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 74

A cloud native application needs to establish secure communication between its microservices. Which mechanism is essential for implementing security in service-to-service communications?

- A. Service Mesh
- B. API Gateway
- C. Load Balancer
- D. mTLS (Mutual TLS)

Answer: D

Explanation:

Mutual TLS (mTLS) is the core mechanism for securing service-to-service communication in cloud native environments. Option B is correct because mTLS provides encryption in transit and mutual authentication, ensuring both the client and server verify each other's identity. This prevents unauthorized access, man-in-the-middle attacks, and data leakage.

Option A (API Gateway) manages ingress traffic from external clients but does not secure internal service-to-service communication. Option C (Service Mesh) is a broader infrastructure layer (e.g., Istio, Linkerd) that implements mTLS, but mTLS itself is the mechanism that enforces secure communications. Option D (Load Balancer) distributes traffic but does not handle encryption or authentication.

mTLS is foundational to zero-trust networking inside Kubernetes clusters. Service meshes typically provide automated certificate management and policy enforcement, ensuring seamless adoption of mTLS without requiring developers to modify application code.

References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 75

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