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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• Measuring your Platform: This part of the exam assesses Procurement Specialists on how to measure platform efficiency and team productivity. It includes knowledge of applying DORA metrics for platform initiatives and monitoring outcomes to align with organizational goals.
Topic 3	• 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.

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

NEW QUESTION # 11
A Cloud Native Platform Engineer is tasked with improving the integration between teams through effective API management. Which aspect of API-driven initiatives is most crucial for fostering collaboration in platform engineering?

- A. APIs should be designed to be as complex as possible to accommodate all potential use cases.
- B. APIs must be documented properly to ensure all teams understand how to use them.
- C. APIs should be released without versioning to simplify maintenance.
- D. APIs should be tightly coupled to specific teams to enforce accountability.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Proper documentation is critical for fostering collaboration through APIs. Option A is correct because well- documented APIs ensure that all teams-platform engineers, developers, and operations-understand how to consume and integrate services effectively. Clear documentation reduces friction, accelerates adoption, and minimizes support overhead.
Option B (no versioning) is poor practice, as versioning ensures backward compatibility and safe upgrades.
Option C (tight coupling) restricts collaboration and creates silos, which goes against platform engineering principles. Option D (complex design) reduces usability and increases cognitive load, the opposite of platform goals.
APIs serve as the contracts between teams and systems. In platform engineering, well-documented, versioned, and abstracted APIs provide a consistent and predictable way to interact with platform services, improving collaboration and developer experience.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies Guidance- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 12
Which of the following is a primary benefit of using Kubernetes Custom Resource Definitions (CRDs) in a self-service platform model?

- A. CRDs enable platform teams to define custom APIs without modifying the Kubernetes API server code.
- B. CRDs automatically manage the scaling and failover of platform services without additional configuration.
- C. CRDs eliminate the need for Role-based access control (RBAC) configurations in Kubernetes clusters.
- D. CRDs provide built-in support for multi-cloud deployments without additional tooling.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Kubernetes Custom Resource Definitions (CRDs) extend the Kubernetes API by allowing platform teams to create and expose custom APIs without modifying the core Kubernetes API server code. Option C is correct because this extensibility enables teams to define new abstractions (e.g., Database, Application, or Environment resources) tailored to organizational needs, which developers can consume through a self- service model.
Option A is incorrect because scaling and failover are handled by controllers or operators, not CRDs themselves. Option B is wrong because RBAC is still required for access control over custom resources.
Option D is misleading because multi-cloud support depends on how CRDs and their controllers are implemented, not a built-in CRD feature.
By leveraging CRDs, platform teams can standardize workflows, hide complexity, and implement guardrails, all while presenting developers with simplified abstractions. This is central to platform engineering, as it empowers developers with self-service APIs while maintaining operational control.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Kubernetes Extensibility Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 13
For a cloud native platform handling sensitive customer data, which approach ensures compliance with data privacy regulations like GDPR and PCI DSS within a Kubernetes environment?

- A. Utilizing standard Kubernetes Secrets with encrypted storage and manual access reviews.
- B. Deploying a policy engine like Open Policy Agent (OPA) with real-time data masking and audit logging.
- C. Relying on default cloud provider IAM policies with minimal Kubernetes customizations.

- D. Implementing Kubernetes Role-based access control (RBAC) with basic network policies and periodic manual audits.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Compliance with regulations like GDPR and PCI DSS requires fine-grained control, auditing, and data protection. Option C is correct because deploying a policy engine like Open Policy Agent (OPA) enables dynamic enforcement of policies, real-time data masking, and comprehensive audit logging. This ensures sensitive data is protected while providing traceability and compliance reporting.
Option A is insufficient, as default IAM policies without Kubernetes-level governance do not provide the granularity required for compliance. Option B (Kubernetes Secrets) adds encryption but lacks auditability and runtime enforcement. Option D (RBAC and network policies) improves security posture but does not provide comprehensive compliance coverage or data privacy features like masking and logging.
OPA and similar tools integrate with Kubernetes admission control to enforce compliance policies consistently, providing the flexibility and auditability needed in regulated industries.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Best Practices- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 14
In a GitOps setup, which of the following correctly describes the interaction between components when using a pull-based approach?

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

Answer: A

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

NEW QUESTION # 15
A platform engineering team is building an Internal Developer Platform (IDP). Which of the following enables application teams to manage infrastructure resources independently, without requiring direct platform team support?

- A. Self-service resource provisioning APIs.
- B. A comprehensive platform knowledge center.
- C. Manual infrastructure deployment services.
- D. Centralized logging and monitoring interfaces.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The defining capability of an IDP is enabling self-service so developers can independently access infrastructure and platform resources. Option D is correct because self-service resource provisioning APIs allow developers to provision resources such as namespaces, databases, or environments without relying on manual intervention from the platform team. These APIs embed governance, compliance, and organizational guardrails while giving autonomy to development teams.
Option A (manual deployment services) defeats the purpose of self-service. Option B (knowledge centers) improve documentation but do not provide automation. Option C (logging/monitoring interfaces) are observability tools, not resource provisioning mechanisms.
Self-service APIs empower developers, reduce cognitive load, and minimize bottlenecks. They also align with the platform

engineering principle of "treating the platform as a product," where developers are customers, and the platform offers curated golden paths to simplify consumption of infrastructure and services.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 16
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