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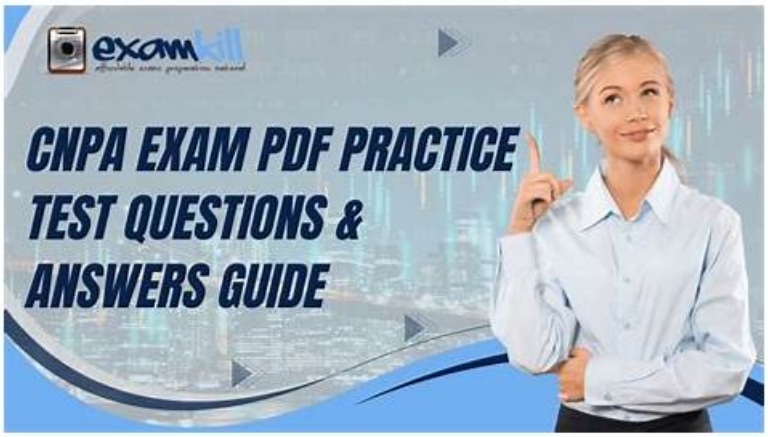

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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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.
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.
Topic 4	• 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.

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q53-Q58):

NEW QUESTION # 53
A company is implementing a service mesh for secure service-to-service communication in their cloud native environment. What is the primary benefit of using mutual TLS (mTLS) within this context?

- A. Enables logging of all service communications for audit purposes.
- B. Simplifies the deployment of microservices by automatically scaling them.
- C. Allows services to authenticate each other and secure data in transit.
- D. Allows services to bypass security checks for better performance.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Mutual TLS (mTLS) is a core feature of service meshes, such as Istio or Linkerd, that enhances security in cloud native environments by ensuring that both communicating services authenticate each other and that the communication channel is encrypted.
Option A is correct because mTLS delivers two critical benefits:
authentication (verifying the identity of both client and server services) and encryption (protecting data in transit from interception or tampering).
Option B is incorrect because mTLS does not bypass security-it enforces it. Option C is partly true in that service meshes often support observability and logging, but that is not the primary purpose of mTLS. Option D relates to scaling, which is outside the scope of mTLS.
In platform engineering, mTLS is a fundamental security mechanism that provides zero-trust networking between microservices, ensuring secure communication without requiring application-level changes. It strengthens compliance with security and data protection requirements, which are crucial in regulated industries.
References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 54
What is the main benefit of using minimal base container images and SBOM attestation practices in CI/CD pipelines?

- A. Giving developers the maximum flexibility in what to include.
- B. Reducing the number of security vulnerabilities within container images.
- C. Reducing the size of container images and therefore storage costs.
- D. Checking for duplicate libraries and that latest versions are being used.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The use of minimal base container images and Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) attestation is a best practice for strengthening software supply chain security. Option B is correct because smaller base images contain fewer components, which inherently reduces the attack surface and the number of potential vulnerabilities. SBOMs, meanwhile, provide a detailed inventory of included libraries and dependencies, enabling vulnerability scanning, license compliance, and traceability.
Option A is only a partial benefit, not the primary goal. Option C (maximum flexibility) contradicts the principle of minimal images, which deliberately restrict included software. Option D (reducing storage costs) may be a side effect but is not the core benefit in a security-focused context.
By combining minimal images with SBOM practices, platform teams ensure stronger compliance with supply chain security frameworks, enable early detection of vulnerabilities in CI/CD pipelines, and support fast remediation. This is emphasized in CNCF security and platform engineering guidance as a way to align with zero-trust principles.
References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 55
Which tool is commonly used to automate environment provisioning?

- A. Prometheus
- B. Docker
- C. Kubernetes
- D. OpenTofu

Answer: D

Explanation:
OpenTofu (the open-source fork of Terraform) is one of the most widely used tools for automating environment provisioning. Option D is correct because OpenTofu allows teams to define infrastructure as code, supporting multiple cloud providers and services. It enables declarative, reusable, and version- controlled provisioning workflows, ensuring consistency across environments.
Option A (Kubernetes) orchestrates containers and workloads but does not provision infrastructure outside its cluster scope. Option B (Prometheus) is an observability tool, not an IaC tool. Option C (Docker) manages containers but does not provision full environments or infrastructure.
By using tools like OpenTofu/Terraform, platform engineers ensure scalable, repeatable environment provisioning integrated into CI/CD or GitOps workflows. This aligns with platform engineering's goals of reducing toil and enabling self-service with compliance.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Infrastructure as Code Best Practices- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 56
In a scenario where an Internal Developer Platform (IDP) is being used to enable developers to self-service provision products and capabilities such as Namespace-as-a-Service, which answer best describes who is responsible for resolving application-related incidents?

- A. Platform teams delegate appropriate permissions to the application teams to allow them to self-manage and resolve any underlying infrastructure and application-related problems.
- B. A separate team is created which includes people previously from the platform and application teams to solve all problems for the organization.
- C. Platform teams are responsible for investigating and resolving underlying infrastructure problems whilst application teams are responsible for investigating and resolving application-related problems.
- D. Platform teams are responsible for investigating and resolving all problems related to the platform, including application ones, before the app teams notice.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Platform engineering clearly separates responsibilities between platform teams and application teams. Option C is correct because platform teams manage the platform and infrastructure layer, ensuring stability, compliance, and availability, while application teams own their applications, including troubleshooting application-specific issues.
Option A (creating a single merged team) introduces inefficiency and removes specialization. Option B incorrectly suggests application teams should also solve infrastructure issues, which conflicts with platform- as-a-product principles. Option D places all responsibilities on platform teams, which creates bottlenecks and undermines application team ownership.
By splitting responsibilities, IDPs empower developers with self-service provisioning while maintaining clear boundaries. This ensures both agility and accountability: platform teams focus on enabling and securing the platform, while application teams take ownership of their code and services.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies (Platform as a Product Model)- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 57
Which key observability signal helps detect real-time performance bottlenecks in a Kubernetes cluster?

- A. Logs
- B. Events
- C. Metrics
- D. Traces

Answer: C

Explanation:
Metrics are the observability signal most effective at detecting real-time performance bottlenecks in Kubernetes. Option C is correct

because metrics provide numerical, time-series data (e.g., CPU usage, memory consumption, request latency, pod restarts) that can be aggregated and monitored continuously. This makes them the best fit for identifying performance degradation and bottlenecks before they escalate into outages.
Option A (logs) capture detailed events but are better for debugging after issues occur. Option B (traces) provide request-level insights across distributed systems but focus on transaction flow rather than cluster-wide performance. Option D (events) record discrete system changes but are not designed for continuous performance monitoring.
Metrics integrate with tools like Prometheus and Grafana, enabling SLO/SLI monitoring and alerting. They allow proactive capacity planning, scaling decisions, and real-time issue detection-critical aspects of cloud native observability.
References:- CNCF Observability Whitepaper- Prometheus CNCF Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 58
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