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Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q48-Q53):

NEW QUESTION # 48

Given the following Histogram metric data, how many requests took less than or equal to 0.1 seconds?

```
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="+Inf"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="0.05"} 0
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="0.1"} 1
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="1"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_count{job="kube-apiserver"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_sum{job="kube-apiserver"} 0.554003785
```

- A. 0
- B. 0.554003785
- C. 1
- **D. 2**

Answer: D

Explanation:

In Prometheus, histogram metrics use cumulative buckets to record the count of observations that fall within specific duration

thresholds. Each bucket has a label le ("less than or equal to"), representing the upper bound of that bucket.

In the given metric, the bucket labeled $le="0.1"$ has a value of 1, meaning exactly one request took less than or equal to 0.1 seconds.

Buckets are cumulative, so:

$le="0.05" \rightarrow 0$ requests ≤ 0.05 seconds

$le="0.1" \rightarrow 1$ request ≤ 0.1 seconds

$le="1" \rightarrow 3$ requests ≤ 1 second

$le="+Inf" \rightarrow$ all 3 requests total

The `_sum` and `_count` values represent total duration and request count respectively, but the number of requests below a given threshold is read directly from the bucket's le value.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Understanding Histograms and Summaries, Bucket Semantics, and Histogram Query Examples sections.

NEW QUESTION # 49

What should you do with counters that have labels?

- A. Make sure every counter with labels has an extra counter, aggregated, without labels.
- **B. Instantiate them with their possible label values when creating them so they are exposed with a zero value.**
- C. Investigate if you can move their label value inside their metric name to limit the number of labels.
- D. Save their state between application runs so you can restore their last value on startup.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Prometheus counters with labels can cause missing time series in queries if some label combinations have not yet been observed. To ensure visibility and continuity, the recommended best practice is to instantiate counters with all expected label values at application startup, even if their initial value is zero.

This ensures that every possible labeled time series is exported consistently, which helps when dashboards or alerting rules expect the presence of those series. For example, if a counter like `http_requests_total{method="POST",status="200"}` has not yet received a POST request, initializing it with a zero ensures it is still exposed.

Option A is incorrect - label values should never be encoded into metric names.

Option B adds redundancy and does not solve the initialization issue.

Option D is discouraged; counters should reset naturally upon restart, reflecting Prometheus's ephemeral metric model.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Instrumentation Best Practices, Counters with Labels, and Avoid Missing Time Series by Initializing Metrics.

NEW QUESTION # 50

What popular open-source project is commonly used to visualize Prometheus data?

- A. Loki
- **B. Grafana**
- C. Thanos
- D. Kibana

Answer: B

Explanation:

The most widely used open-source visualization and dashboarding platform for Prometheus data is Grafana. Grafana provides native integration with Prometheus as a data source, allowing users to create real-time, interactive dashboards using PromQL queries. Grafana supports advanced visualization panels (graphs, heatmaps, gauges, tables, etc.) and enables users to design custom dashboards to monitor infrastructure, application performance, and service-level objectives (SLOs). It also provides alerting capabilities that can complement or extend Prometheus's own alerting system.

While Kibana is part of the Elastic Stack and focuses on log analytics, Thanos extends Prometheus for long-term storage and high availability, and Loki is a log aggregation system. None of these tools serve as the primary dashboarding solution for Prometheus metrics the way Grafana does.

Grafana's seamless Prometheus integration and templating support make it the de facto standard visualization tool in the Prometheus ecosystem.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Visualizing Data with Grafana, and Grafana documentation - Prometheus Data Source Integration and Dashboard Creation Guide.

NEW QUESTION # 51

You'd like to monitor a short-lived batch job. What Prometheus component would you use?

- A. PullGateway
- B. PushProxy
- C. PushGateway
- D. PullProxy

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prometheus normally operates on a pull-based model, where it scrapes metrics from long-running targets. However, short-lived batch jobs (such as cron jobs or data processing tasks) often finish before Prometheus can scrape them. To handle this scenario, Prometheus provides the Pushgateway component.

The Pushgateway allows ephemeral jobs to push their metrics to an intermediary gateway. Prometheus then scrapes these metrics from the Pushgateway like any other target. This ensures short-lived jobs have their metrics preserved even after completion.

The Pushgateway should not be used for continuously running applications because it breaks Prometheus's usual target lifecycle semantics. Instead, it is intended solely for transient job metrics, like backups or CI/CD tasks.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Pushing Metrics - The Pushgateway and Use Cases for Short-Lived Jobs sections.

NEW QUESTION # 52

What is the difference between client libraries and exporters?

- A. Exporters and client libraries mean the same thing.
- B. Exporters are written in Go. Client libraries are written in many languages.
- C. Exporters expose metrics for scraping. Client libraries push metrics via Remote Write.
- D. Exporters run next to the services to monitor, and use client libraries internally.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The fundamental difference between Prometheus client libraries and exporters lies in how and where they are used.

Client libraries are integrated directly into the application's codebase. They allow developers to instrument their own code to define and expose custom metrics. Prometheus provides official client libraries for multiple languages, including Go, Java, Python, and Ruby.

Exporters, on the other hand, are standalone processes that run alongside the applications or systems they monitor. They use client libraries internally to collect and expose metrics from software that cannot be instrumented directly (e.g., operating systems, databases, or third-party services). Examples include the Node Exporter (for system metrics) and MySQL Exporter (for database metrics).

Thus, exporters are typically used for external systems, while client libraries are used for self-instrumented applications.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Writing Exporters, Client Libraries Overview, and Best Practices for Exporters and Instrumentation.

NEW QUESTION # 53

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