Linux Foundation - KCSA - Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate Authoritative Valid Test Questions

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Linux Foundation KCSA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Kubernetes Cluster Component Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Kubernetes Administrator and focuses on securing the core components that make up a Kubernetes cluster. It encompasses the security configuration and potential vulnerabilities of essential parts such as the API server, etcd, kubelet, container runtime, and networking elements, ensuring each component is hardened against attacks.
Topic 2	• Kubernetes Security Fundamentals: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Kubernetes Administrator and covers the primary security mechanisms within Kubernetes. This includes implementing pod security standards and admissions, configuring robust authentication and authorization systems like RBAC, managing secrets properly, and using network policies and audit logging to enforce isolation and monitor cluster activity.
Topic 3	• Overview of Cloud Native Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and covers the foundational security principles of cloud-native environments. It includes an understanding of the 4Cs security model, the shared responsibility model for cloud infrastructure, common security controls and compliance frameworks, and techniques for isolating resources and securing artifacts like container images and application code.
Topic 4	• Kubernetes Threat Model: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and involves identifying and mitigating potential threats to a Kubernetes cluster. It requires understanding common attack vectors like privilege escalation, denial of service, malicious code execution, and network-based attacks, as well as strategies to protect sensitive data and prevent an attacker from gaining persistence within the environment.

Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate Sample Questions (Q25-Q30):

NEW QUESTION # 25
In Kubernetes, what isPublic Key Infrastructure (PKI)used for?

- A. To manage certificates and ensure secure communication in a Kubernetes cluster.
- B. To monitor and analyze performance metrics of a Kubernetes cluster.
- C. To automate the scaling of containers in a Kubernetes cluster.
- D. To manage networking in a Kubernetes cluster.

Answer: A

Explanation:
* Kubernetes usesPKI certificatesextensively to secure communication between control plane components (API server, etcd, kube-scheduler, kube-controller-manager) and with kubelets.
* Certificates enablemutual TLS authentication and encryptionacross components.
* PKI does not handle scaling, networking, or monitoring.
References:
Kubernetes Documentation - Certificates
CNCF Security Whitepaper - Cluster communication security and the role of PKI.

NEW QUESTION # 26
What is a multi-stage build?

- A. A build process that involves multiple developers collaborating on building an image.
- B. A build process that involves multiple repositories for storing container images.
- C. A build process that involves multiple stages of image creation, allowing for smaller, optimized images.
- D. A build process that involves multiple containers running simultaneously to speed up the image creation.

Answer: C

Explanation:
* Multi-stage buildsare a Docker/Kaniko feature that allows building images in multiple stages # final image contains only runtime artifacts, not build tools.
* This reducesimage size, attack surface, and security risks.
* Exact extract (Docker Docs):
* "Multi-stage builds allow you to use multiple FROM statements in a Dockerfile. You can copy artifacts from one stage to another, resulting in smaller, optimized images."
* Clarifications:
* A: Collaboration is not the definition.
* B: Multiple repositories # multi-stage builds.
* C: Build concurrency # multi-stage builds.
References:
Docker Docs - Multi-Stage Builds: https://docs.docker.com/develop/develop-images/multistage-build/

NEW QUESTION # 27
What information is stored in etcd?

- A. Application logs and monitoring data for auditing and troubleshooting purposes.
- B. Pod data contained in Persistent Volume Claims (e.g. hostPath).
- C. Sensitive user data such as usernames and passwords.
- D. Etcd manages the configuration data, state data, and metadata for Kubernetes.

Answer: D

Explanation:
* etcdis Kubernetes'key-value storeforcluster state.
* Stores: ConfigMaps, Secrets, Pod definitions, Deployments, RBAC policies, and metadata.
* Exact extract (Kubernetes Docs - etcd):
* "etcd is a consistent and highly-available key-value store used as Kubernetes' backing store for all cluster data."
* Clarifications:
* B: Logs/metrics are handled by logging/monitoring solutions, not etcd.
* C: Secrets may be stored here but encoded in base64, not specifically "usernames/passwords" as primary use.
* D: Persistent Volumes are external storage, not stored in etcd.
References:
Kubernetes Docs - etcd: https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/overview/components/#etcd

NEW QUESTION # 28
A container image istrojanizedby an attacker by compromising the build server. Based on the STRIDE threat modeling framework, which threat category best defines this threat?

- A. Denial of Service
- B. Repudiation
- C. Spoofing
- D. Tampering

Answer: D

Explanation:
* In STRIDE,Tamperingis the threat category forunauthorized modification of data or code/artifacts. A trojanized container image is, by definition, an attacker'smodificationof the build output (the image) after compromising the CI/build system-i.e., tampering with the artifact in the software supply chain.
* Why not the others?
* Spoofingis about identity/authentication (e.g., pretending to be someone/something).
* Repudiationis about denying having performed an action without sufficient audit evidence.
* Denial of Servicetargets availability (exhausting resources or making a service unavailable).The scenario explicitly focuses on analtered imageresulting from a compromised build server-this squarely maps toTampering.
Authoritative references (for verification and deeper reading):
* Kubernetes (official docs)- Supply Chain Security (discusses risks such as compromised CI/CD pipelines leading to modified/poisoned images and emphasizes verifying image integrity/signatures).

* Kubernetes Docs#Security#Supply chain securityandSecuring a cluster(sections on image provenance, signing, and verifying artifacts).
* CNCF TAG Security - Cloud Native Security Whitepaper (v2)- Threat modeling in cloud-native and software supply chain risks; describes attackers modifying build outputs (images/artifacts) via CI
/CD compromise as a form oftamperingand prescribes controls (signing, provenance, policy).
* CNCF TAG Security - Software Supply Chain Security Best Practices- Explicitly covers CI/CD compromise leading tomaliciously modified imagesand recommends SLSA, provenance attestation, and signature verification (policy enforcement via admission controls).
* Microsoft STRIDE (canonical reference)- DefinesTamperingasmodifying data or code, which directly fits a trojanized image produced by a compromised build system.

NEW QUESTION # 29
What mechanism can I use to block unsigned images from running in my cluster?

- A. Configuring Container Runtime Interface (CRI) to enforce image signing and validation.
- B. Using Pod Security Standards (PSS) to enforce validation of signatures.
- C. Enabling Admission Controllers to validate image signatures.
- D. Using PodSecurityPolicy (PSP) to enforce image signing and validation.

Answer: C

Explanation:
* KubernetesAdmission Controllers(particularlyValidatingAdmissionWebhooks) can be used to enforce policies that validate image signatures.
* This is commonly implemented withtools like Sigstore/cosign, Kyverno, or OPA Gatekeeper.
* PodSecurityPolicy (PSP):deprecated and never supported image signature validation.
* Pod Security Standards (PSS):only apply to pod security fields (privilege, users, host access), not image signatures.
* CRI:while runtimes (containerd, CRI-O) may integrate with signature verification tools, enforcement in Kubernetes is generally done viaAdmission Controllersat the API layer.
Exact extract (Admission Controllers docs):
* "Admission webhooks can be used to enforce custom policies on the objects being admitted." (e.g., validating signatures).
References:
Kubernetes Docs - Admission Controllers: https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz
/admission-controllers/
Sigstore Project (cosign): https://sigstore.dev/
Kyverno ImageVerify Policy: https://kyverno.io/policies/pod-security/require-image-verification/

NEW QUESTION # 30
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