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1 / 15

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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proactively Design for Scalability and Performance: This section of the exam measures skills of Application Performance Engineers and covers building scalable applications and optimizing Appian components for performance. It includes planning load testing, diagnosing performance issues at the application level, and designing systems that can grow efficiently without sacrificing reliability.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Data Architects and covers analyzing, designing, and securing data models. Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of how to use Appian's data fabric and manage data migrations. The focus is on ensuring performance in high-volume data environments, solving data-related issues, and implementing advanced database features effectively.

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending Appian: This section of the exam measures skills of Integration Specialists and covers building and troubleshooting advanced integrations using connected systems and APIs. Candidates are expected to work with authentication, evaluate plug-ins, develop custom solutions when needed, and utilize document generation options to extend the platform's capabilities.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Design and Development: This section of the exam measures skills of Lead Appian Developers and covers the design and development of applications that meet user needs using Appian functionality. It includes designing for consistency, reusability, and collaboration across teams. Emphasis is placed on applying best practices for building multiple, scalable applications in complex environments.

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q29-Q34):

NEW QUESTION # 29

You are required to create an integration from your Appian Cloud instance to an application hosted within a customer's self-managed environment.

The customer's IT team has provided you with a REST API endpoint to test with: <https://internal.network/api/api/ping>.

Which recommendation should you make to progress this integration?

- A. Add Appian Cloud's IP address ranges to the customer network's allowed IP listing.
- B. Set up a VPN tunnel.**
- C. Expose the API as a SOAP-based web service.
- D. Deploy the API/service into Appian Cloud.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, integrating an Appian Cloud instance with a customer's self-managed (on-premises) environment requires addressing network connectivity, security, and Appian's cloud architecture constraints. The provided endpoint (<https://internal>) is a REST API on an internal network, inaccessible directly from Appian Cloud due to firewall restrictions and lack of public exposure. Let's evaluate each option:

* A. Expose the API as a SOAP-based web service: Converting the REST API to SOAP isn't a practical recommendation. The customer has provided a REST endpoint, and Appian fully supports REST integrations via Connected Systems and Integration objects. Changing the API to SOAP adds unnecessary complexity, development effort, and risks for the customer, with no benefit to Appian's integration capabilities. Appian's documentation emphasizes using the API's native format (REST here), making this irrelevant.

* B. Deploy the API/service into Appian Cloud: Deploying the customer's API into Appian Cloud is infeasible. Appian Cloud is a managed PaaS environment, not designed to host customer applications or APIs. The API resides in the customer's self-managed environment, and moving it would require significant architectural changes, violating security and operational boundaries. Appian's integration strategy focuses on connecting to external systems, not hosting them, ruling this out.

* C. Add Appian Cloud's IP address ranges to the customer network's allowed IP listing: This approach involves whitelisting Appian Cloud's IP ranges (available in Appian documentation) in the customer's firewall to allow direct HTTP/HTTPS requests. However, Appian Cloud's IPs are dynamic and shared across tenants, making this unreliable for long-term integrations—changes in IP ranges could break connectivity. Appian's best practices discourage relying on IP whitelisting for cloud-to-on-premises integrations due to this limitation, favoring secure tunnels instead.

* D. Set up a VPN tunnel: This is the correct recommendation. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel establishes a secure, encrypted connection between Appian Cloud and the customer's self-managed network, allowing Appian to access the internal REST API (<https://internal.network/api/api/ping>).

Appian supports VPNs for cloud-to-on-premises integrations, and this approach ensures reliability, security, and compliance with network policies. The customer's IT team can configure the VPN, and Appian's documentation recommends this for such scenarios, especially when dealing with internal endpoints.

Conclusion: Setting up a VPN tunnel (D) is the best recommendation. It enables secure, reliable connectivity from Appian Cloud to the customer's internal API, aligning with Appian's integration best practices for cloud- to-on-premises scenarios.

References:

* Appian Documentation: "Integrating Appian Cloud with On-Premises Systems" (VPN and Network Configuration).

* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (Cloud-to-On-Premises Connectivity).

* Appian Best Practices: "Securing Integrations with Legacy Systems" (VPN Recommendations).

NEW QUESTION # 30

You need to generate a PDF document with specific formatting. Which approach would you recommend?

- A. Use the Word Doc from Template smart service in a process model to add the specific format.
- **B. Use the PDF from XSL-FO Transformation smart service to generate the content with the specific format.**
- C. Create an embedded interface with the necessary content and ask the user to use the browser "Print" functionality to save it as a PDF.
- D. There is no way to fulfill the requirement using Appian. Suggest sending the content as a plain email instead.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, generating a PDF with specific formatting is a common requirement, and Appian provides several tools to achieve this. The question emphasizes "specific formatting," which implies precise control over layout, styling, and content structure. Let's evaluate each option based on Appian's official documentation and capabilities:

A . Create an embedded interface with the necessary content and ask the user to use the browser "Print" functionality to save it as a PDF:

This approach involves designing an interface (e.g., using SAIL components) and relying on the browser's native print-to-PDF feature. While this is feasible for simple content, it lacks precision for "specific formatting." Browser rendering varies across devices and browsers, and print styles (e.g., CSS) are limited in Appian's control. Appian Lead Developer best practices discourage relying on client-side functionality for critical document generation due to inconsistency and lack of automation. This is not a recommended solution for a production-grade requirement.

B . Use the PDF from XSL-FO Transformation smart service to generate the content with the specific format:

This is the correct choice. The "PDF from XSL-FO Transformation" smart service (available in Appian's process modeling toolkit) allows developers to generate PDFs programmatically with precise formatting using XSL-FO (Extensible Stylesheet Language Formatting Objects). XSL-FO provides fine-grained control over layout, fonts, margins, and styling—ideal for "specific formatting" requirements. In a process model, you can pass XML data and an XSL-FO stylesheet to this smart service, producing a downloadable PDF. Appian's documentation highlights this as the preferred method for complex PDF generation, making it a robust, scalable, and Appian-native solution.

C . Use the Word Doc from Template smart service in a process model to add the specific format:

This option uses the "Word Doc from Template" smart service to generate a Microsoft Word document from a template (e.g., a .docx file with placeholders). While it supports formatting defined in the template and can be converted to PDF post-generation (e.g., via a manual step or external tool), it's not a direct PDF solution. Appian doesn't natively convert Word to PDF within the platform, requiring additional steps outside the process model. For "specific formatting" in a PDF, this is less efficient and less precise than the XSL-FO approach, as Word templates are better suited for editable documents rather than final PDFs.

D . There is no way to fulfill the requirement using Appian. Suggest sending the content as a plain email instead:

This is incorrect. Appian provides multiple tools for document generation, including PDFs, as evidenced by options B and C.

Suggesting a plain email fails to meet the requirement of generating a formatted PDF and contradicts Appian's capabilities. Appian Lead Developer training emphasizes leveraging platform features to meet business needs, ruling out this option entirely.

Conclusion: The PDF from XSL-FO Transformation smart service (B) is the recommended approach. It provides direct PDF generation with specific formatting control within Appian's process model, aligning with best practices for document automation and precision. This method is scalable, repeatable, and fully supported by Appian's architecture.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "PDF from XSL-FO Transformation Smart Service" (Process Modeling > Smart Services).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Document Generation Module (PDF Generation Techniques).

Appian Best Practices: "Generating Documents in Appian" (XSL-FO vs. Template-Based Approaches).

NEW QUESTION # 31

Users must be able to navigate throughout the application while maintaining complete visibility in the application structure and easily navigate to previous locations. Which Appian Interface Pattern would you recommend?

- A. **Include a Breadcrumbs pattern on applicable interfaces to show the organizational hierarchy.**
- B. Implement an Activity History pattern to track an organization's activity measures.
- C. Implement a Drilldown Report pattern to show detailed information about report data.
- D. Use Billboards as Cards pattern on the homepage to prominently display application choices.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

The requirement emphasizes navigation with complete visibility of the application structure and the ability to return to previous locations easily. The Breadcrumbs pattern is specifically designed to meet this need. According to Appian's design best practices, the Breadcrumbs pattern provides a visual trail of the user's navigation path, showing the hierarchy of pages or sections within the application. This allows users to understand their current location relative to the overall structure and quickly navigate back to previous levels by clicking on the breadcrumb links.

Option A (Billboards as Cards): This pattern is useful for presenting high-level options or choices on a homepage in a visually appealing way. However, it does not address navigation visibility or the ability to return to previous locations, making it irrelevant to the requirement.

Option B (Activity History): This pattern tracks and displays a log of activities or actions within the application, typically for auditing or monitoring purposes. It does not enhance navigation or provide visibility into the application structure.

Option C (Drilldown Report): This pattern allows users to explore detailed data within reports by drilling into specific records. While it supports navigation within data, it is not designed for general application navigation or maintaining structural visibility.

Option D (Breadcrumbs): This is the correct choice as it directly aligns with the requirement. Per Appian's Interface Patterns documentation, Breadcrumbs improve usability by showing a hierarchical path (e.g., Home > Section > Subsection) and enabling backtracking, fulfilling both visibility and navigation needs.

NEW QUESTION # 32

You have an active development team (Team A) building enhancements for an application (App X) and are currently using the TEST environment for User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

A separate operations team (Team B) discovers a critical error in the Production instance of App X that they must remediate. However, Team B does not have a hotfix stream for which to accomplish this. The available environments are DEV, TEST, and PROD.

Which risk mitigation effort should both teams employ to ensure Team A's capital project is only minorly interrupted, and Team B's critical fix can be completed and deployed quickly to end users?

- A. **Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes.**
- B. Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release.
- C. Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment.
- D. Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, managing concurrent development and operations (hotfix) activities across limited environments (DEV, TEST, PROD) requires minimizing disruption to Team A's enhancements while ensuring Team B's critical fix reaches PROD quickly. The scenario highlights no hotfix stream, active UAT in TEST, and a critical PROD issue, necessitating a strategic approach. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes: This is the best approach. It ensures collaboration between teams to prevent conflicts, leveraging Appian's version control (e.g., object versioning in Appian Designer). Team B identifies the critical component, checks for overlap with Team A's work, and uses versioning to isolate changes. If no overlap exists, the hotfix deploys directly; if overlap occurs, versioning preserves Team A's work, allowing the hotfix to deploy and then reverting the component for Team A's continuation. This minimizes interruption to Team A's UAT, enables rapid PROD deployment, and aligns with Appian's change management best practices.

B . Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment:

This delays Team B's critical fix, as regular deployment (DEV → TEST → PROD) could take weeks, violating the need for "quick deployment to end users." It also risks introducing Team A's untested enhancements into the hotfix, potentially destabilizing PROD. Appian's documentation discourages mixing development and hotfix workflows, favoring isolated changes for urgent fixes, making this inefficient and risky.

C . Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release:

Using TEST for hotfix development disrupts Team A's UAT, as TEST is already in use for their enhancements. Direct deployment from TEST to PROD skips DEV validation, increasing risk, and doesn't address overlap with Team A's work. Appian's deployment guidelines emphasize separate streams (e.g., hotfix streams) to avoid such conflicts, making this disruptive and unsafe.

D . Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly:

Making changes directly in PROD is highly discouraged in Appian due to lack of testing, version control, and rollback capabilities, risking further instability. This violates Appian's Production governance and security policies, and delays Team B's updates until Team A finishes, contradicting the need for a "quick deployment." Appian's best practices mandate using lower environments for changes, ruling this out.

Conclusion: Team B communicating with Team A, versioning components if needed, and deploying the hotfix (A) is the risk mitigation effort. It ensures minimal interruption to Team A's work, rapid PROD deployment for Team B's fix, and leverages Appian's versioning for safe, controlled changes-aligning with Lead Developer standards for multi-team coordination.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Managing Production Hotfixes" (Versioning and Change Management).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Management Module (Hotfix Strategies).

Appian Best Practices: "Concurrent Development and Operations" (Minimizing Risk in Limited Environments).

NEW QUESTION # 33

You are the lead developer for an Appian project, in a backlog refinement meeting. You are presented with the following user story: "As a restaurant customer, I need to be able to place my food order online to avoid waiting in line for takeout." Which two functional acceptance criteria would you consider 'good'?

- A. The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields.
- B. The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day.
- C. The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed.
- D. The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:As an Appian Lead Developer, defining "good" functional acceptance criteria for a user story requires ensuring they are specific, testable, and directly tied to the user's need (placing an online food order to avoid waiting in line). Good criteria focus on functionality, usability, and reliability, aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices. Let's evaluate each option:

* A. The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history:This is a "good" criterion. It directly validates the core functionality of the user story-placing an order online. Saving order data in the ORDER table (likely via a process model or Data Store Entity) ensures persistence, and audit history (e.g., using Appian's audit logs or database triggers) tracks changes, supporting traceability and compliance. This is specific, testable (e.g., verify data in the table and logs), and essential for the user's goal, aligning with Appian's data management and user experience guidelines.

* B. The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed:While useful, this is a "nice-to-have" enhancement, not a core requirement of the user story. The story focuses on placing an order online to avoid waiting, not on completion notifications. Email notifications add value but aren't essential for validating the primary functionality. Appian's user

story best practices prioritize criteria tied to the main user need, making this secondary and not "good" in this context.

* C. The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day: This is a non-functional requirement (performance/scalability), not a functional acceptance criterion. It describes system capacity, not specific user behavior or functionality. While important for design, it's not directly testable for the user story's outcome (placing an order) and isn't tied to the user's experience. Appian's Agile methodologies separate functional and non-functional requirements, making this less relevant as a "good" criterion here.

* D. The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields: This is a "good" criterion. It ensures data integrity and usability by preventing incomplete orders, directly supporting the user's ability to place a valid online order. In Appian, this can be implemented using form validation (e.g., required attributes in SAIL interfaces or process model validations), making it specific, testable (e.g., verify form submission fails with missing fields), and critical for a reliable user experience. This aligns with Appian's UI design and user story validation standards.

Conclusion: The two "good" functional acceptance criteria are A (order saved with audit history) and D (required fields enforced). These directly validate the user story's functionality (placing a valid order online), are testable, and ensure a reliable, user-friendly experience-aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices for user stories.

References:

- * Appian Documentation: "Writing Effective User Stories and Acceptance Criteria" (Functional Requirements).
- * Appian Lead Developer Certification: Agile Development Module (Acceptance Criteria Best Practices).
- * Appian Best Practices: "Designing User Interfaces in Appian" (Form Validation and Data Persistence).

NEW QUESTION # 34

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