

High Quality PCA Test Prep Helps You Pass the Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Exam Smoothly



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Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prometheus Fundamentals: This domain evaluates the knowledge of DevOps Engineers and emphasizes the core architecture and components of Prometheus. It includes topics such as configuration and scraping techniques, limitations of the Prometheus system, data models and labels, and the exposition format used for data collection. The section ensures a solid grasp of how Prometheus functions as a monitoring and alerting toolkit within distributed environments.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observability Concepts: This section of the exam measures the skills of Site Reliability Engineers and covers the essential principles of observability used in modern systems. It focuses on understanding metrics, logs, and tracing mechanisms such as spans, as well as the difference between push and pull data collection methods. Candidates also learn about service discovery processes and the fundamentals of defining and maintaining SLOs, SLAs, and SLIs to monitor performance and reliability.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alerting and Dashboarding: This section of the exam assesses the competencies of Cloud Operations Engineers and focuses on monitoring visualization and alert management. It covers dashboarding basics, alerting rules configuration, and the use of Alertmanager to handle notifications. Candidates also learn the core principles of when, what, and why to trigger alerts, ensuring they can create reliable monitoring dashboards and proactive alerting systems to maintain system stability.

Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumentation and Exporters: This domain evaluates the abilities of Software Engineers and addresses the methods for integrating Prometheus into applications. It includes the use of client libraries, the process of instrumenting code, and the proper structuring and naming of metrics. The section also introduces exporters that allow Prometheus to collect metrics from various systems, ensuring efficient and standardized monitoring implementation.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PromQL: This section of the exam measures the skills of Monitoring Specialists and focuses on Prometheus Query Language (PromQL) concepts. It covers data selection, calculating rates and derivatives, and performing aggregations across time and dimensions. Candidates also study the use of binary operators, histograms, and timestamp metrics to analyze monitoring data effectively, ensuring accurate interpretation of system performance and trends.

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Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q15-Q20):

NEW QUESTION # 15

What is an example of a single-target exporter?

- A. Blackbox Exporter
- B. Node Exporter
- C. SNMP Exporter
- **D. Redis Exporter**

Answer: D

Explanation:

A single-target exporter in Prometheus is designed to expose metrics for a specific service instance rather than multiple dynamic endpoints. The Redis Exporter is a prime example - it connects to one Redis server instance and exports its metrics (like memory usage, keypace hits, or command statistics) to Prometheus.

By contrast, exporters like the SNMP Exporter and Blackbox Exporter can probe multiple targets dynamically, making them multi-target exporters. The Node Exporter, while often deployed per host, is considered a host-level exporter, not a true single-target one in configuration behavior.

The Redis Exporter is instrumented specifically for a single Redis endpoint per configuration, aligning it with Prometheus's single-target exporter definition. This design simplifies monitoring and avoids dynamic reconfiguration.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation and official exporter guidelines - Writing Exporters, Exporter Types, and Redis Exporter Overview sections.

NEW QUESTION # 16

Which kind of metrics are associated with the function deriv()?

- A. Counters
- **B. Gauges**
- C. Summaries
- D. Histograms

Answer: B

Explanation:

The `deriv()` function in PromQL calculates the per-second derivative of a time series using linear regression over the provided time range. It estimates the instantaneous rate of change for metrics that can both increase and decrease - which are typically gauges. Because counters can only increase (except when reset), `rate()` or `increase()` functions are more appropriate for them. `deriv()` is used to identify trends in fluctuating metrics like CPU temperature, memory utilization, or queue depth, where values rise and fall continuously.

In contrast, summaries and histograms consist of multiple sub-metrics (e.g., `_count`, `_sum`, `_bucket`) and are not directly suited for derivative calculation without decomposition.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - PromQL Functions - `deriv()`, Understanding Rates and Derivatives, and Gauge Metric Examples.

NEW QUESTION # 17

How would you correctly name a metric that provides metadata information about the binary?

- A. `app_metadata`
- B. `app_build_desc`
- C. `app_build_info`
- D. `app_build`

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Prometheus naming convention for metrics that expose build or version information about an application binary uses the `_info` suffix. The standard pattern is:

```
<application>_build_info
```

This metric typically includes constant labels such as `version`, `revision`, `branch`, and `goversion` to describe the build environment.

For example:

```
app_build_info{version="1.2.3", revision="abc123", goversion="go1.22"} 1
```

This approach follows the official Prometheus instrumentation guidelines, where metrics ending in `_info` convey metadata or constant characteristics about the running process.

The other options do not conform to the Prometheus best practice of suffix-based semantic naming.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric Naming Conventions, Exposing Build Information, and Standard `_info` Metrics sections.

NEW QUESTION # 18

Which PromQL expression computes how many requests in total are currently in-flight for the following time series data?

```
apiserver_current_inflight_requests{instance="1"} 5
```

```
apiserver_current_inflight_requests{instance="2"} 7
```

- A. `max(apiserver_current_inflight_requests)`
- B. `min(apiserver_current_inflight_requests)`
- C. `sum(apiserver_current_inflight_requests)`
- D. `sum_over_time(apiserver_current_inflight_requests[10m])`

Answer: C

Explanation:

In Prometheus, when you have multiple time series that represent the same type of measurement across different instances, the `sum()` aggregation operator is used to compute their total value.

Here, each instance (1 and 2) exposes the metric `apiserver_current_inflight_requests`, indicating the number of active API requests currently being processed.

To find the total number of in-flight requests across all instances, the correct expression is:

```
sum(apiserver_current_inflight_requests)
```

This returns $5 + 7 = 12$.

`min()` would return the lowest value (5).

`max()` would return the highest value (7).

`sum_over_time()` calculates the cumulative sum over a range vector, not the current value, so it's incorrect here.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Aggregation Operators and Summing Across Dimensions sections.

NEW QUESTION # 19

Which of the following PromQL queries is invalid?

- A. max by (instance) up
- B. max without (instance) up
- C. max on (instance) (up)
- D. max without (instance, job) up

Answer: C

Explanation:

The max operator in PromQL is an aggregation operator, not a binary vector matching operator. Therefore, the valid syntax for aggregation uses by() or without(), not on().

- max by (instance) up → Valid; aggregates maximum values per instance.
- max without (instance) up and max without (instance, job) up → Valid; aggregates over all labels except those listed.
- max on (instance) (up) → Invalid; the keyword on() is only valid in binary operations (e.g., +, -, and, or, unless), where two vectors are being matched on specific labels.

Hence, max on (instance) (up) is a syntax error in PromQL because on() cannot be used directly with aggregation operators.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Aggregation Operators, Vector Matching - on()/ignoring(), and PromQL Language Syntax Reference sections.

NEW QUESTION # 20

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