

# Knowledge PCA Points | Exam PCA Details



## GCP-PCA Exam Details

Exam Name	Google Professional Cloud Architect
Exam Code	GCP-PCA
Exam Price	\$200 USD
Duration	120 minutes
Number of Questions	50
Passing Score	Pass / Fail (Approx 70%)
Recommended Training / Books	<a href="#">Google Cloud training</a> <a href="#">Google Cloud documentation</a> <a href="#">Google Cloud solutions</a>
Schedule Exam	<a href="#">PEARSON VUE</a>
Sample Questions	<a href="#">Google GCP-PCA Sample Questions</a>
Recommended Practice	<a href="#">Google Cloud Platform - Professional Cloud Architect (GCP-PCA) Practice Test</a>

## GCP-PCA Exam Syllabus

Section	Objectives
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## Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prometheus Fundamentals:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alerting and Dashboarding:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Instrumentation and Exporters:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Observability Concepts:</b> 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.</li> </ul>

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### Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q35-Q40):

#### NEW QUESTION # 35

Which of the following signals belongs to symptom-based alerting?

- **A. API latency**
- B. CPU usage
- C. Database availability
- D. Disk space

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Symptom-based alerting focuses on detecting user-visible or service-impacting issues rather than internal resource states. Metrics like API latency, error rates, and availability directly indicate degraded user experience and are therefore the preferred triggers for alerts.

In contrast, resource-based alerts (like CPU usage or disk space) often represent underlying causes, not symptoms. Alerting on them can produce noise and distract from actual service health problems.

For example, high API latency (`http_request_duration_seconds`) clearly reflects that users are experiencing delays, which is actionable and business-relevant.

This concept aligns with the RED (Rate, Errors, Duration) and USE (Utilization, Saturation, Errors) monitoring models promoted in Prometheus and SRE best practices.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Alerting Best Practices, Symptom vs. Cause Alerting, and RED/USE Monitoring Principles.

### NEW QUESTION # 36

Which PromQL statement returns the sum of all values of the metric `node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes` from 10 minutes ago?

- A. `offset sum(node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes[10m])`
- B. `sum(node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes offset 10m)`
- C. `sum(node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes) offset 10m`
- D. `sum(node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes) setoff 10m`

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

In PromQL, the `offset` modifier allows you to query metrics as they were at a past time relative to the current evaluation. To retrieve the value of `node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes` as it was 10 minutes ago, you place the `offset` keyword inside the aggregation function's argument, not after it.

The correct query is:

```
sum(node_memory_MemAvailable_bytes offset 10m)
```

This computes the total available memory across all instances, based on data from exactly 10 minutes in the past.

Placing `offset` after the aggregation (as in option B) is syntactically invalid because modifiers apply to instant and range vector selectors, not to complete expressions.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - PromQL Evaluation Modifiers: `offset`, Aggregation Operators, and Temporal Query Examples.

### NEW QUESTION # 37

How can you send metrics from your Prometheus setup to a remote system, e.g., for long-term storage?

- A. With "federation"
- B. With "scraping"
- C. With S3 Buckets
- D. With "remote write"

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Prometheus provides a feature called Remote Write to transmit scraped and processed metrics to an external system for long-term storage, aggregation, or advanced analytics. When configured, Prometheus continuously pushes time series data to the remote endpoint defined in the `remote_write` section of the configuration file.

This mechanism is often used to integrate with long-term data storage backends such as Cortex, Thanos, Mimir, or InfluxDB, enabling durable retention and global query capabilities beyond Prometheus's local time series database limits.

In contrast, "scraping" refers to data collection from targets, while "federation" allows hierarchical Prometheus setups (pulling metrics from other Prometheus instances) but does not serve as long-term storage. Using "S3 Buckets" directly is also unsupported in native Prometheus configurations.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Remote Write/Read APIs and Long-Term Storage Integrations sections.

### NEW QUESTION # 38

Which Prometheus component handles service discovery?

- A. Node Exporter
- B. Pushgateway
- C. Prometheus Server

- D. Alertmanager

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The Prometheus Server is responsible for service discovery, which identifies the list of targets to scrape. It integrates with multiple service discovery mechanisms such as Kubernetes, Consul, EC2, and static configurations.

This allows Prometheus to automatically adapt to dynamic environments without manual reconfiguration.

### NEW QUESTION # 39

Given the metric `prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds`, how do you know in which month the lowest timestamp of your Prometheus TSDB belongs?

- A. `format_date(prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds,"%M")`
- B. `month(prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds)`
- C. `prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds % month`
- D. `(time() - prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds) / 86400`

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The metric `prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds` provides the oldest stored sample timestamp in Prometheus's local TSDB (in Unix epoch seconds). To determine the age or approximate date of this timestamp, you compare it with the current time (using `time()` in PromQL).

The expression:

`(time() - prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds) / 86400`

converts the difference between the current time and the oldest timestamp from seconds into days (1 day = 86,400 seconds). This gives the number of days since the earliest sample was stored, allowing you to infer the time range and approximate month manually. The other options are invalid because PromQL does not support direct date formatting (`format_date`) or `month()` extraction functions.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - TSDB Internal Metrics, Time Functions in PromQL, and Using `time()` for Relative Calculations.

### NEW QUESTION # 40

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