

PCA Pass4sure Pass Guide | New PCA Exam Format

PCA PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 2024

PCA - answer Patient controlled analgesia

-reusable pump that administers drug via IV route when patient presses button

PCEA - answer Patient controlled epidural analgesia

-drug administered via catheter into epidural space around spinal cord

-binds to nerve roots

-blocks sensory impulses

PCA therapy uses - answer -post op

-trauma

-terminally ill

-chronic disease pain

-labor/delivery

Candidates for PCA - answer -mentally alert

-Able to understand and comply with instructions

Contraindications for PCA - answer -Hx of respiratory conditions

-Hx of drug abuse

-Psychiatric disorder

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Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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.

Topic 2	<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 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"> • 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.

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100% Pass 2026 PCA: Valid Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Pass4sure Pass Guide

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Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q17-Q22):

NEW QUESTION # 17

How can you use Prometheus Node Exporter?

- A. You can use it to collect metrics for hardware and OS metrics.
- B. You can use it to instrument applications with metrics.
- C. You can use it to probe endpoints over HTTP, HTTPS.
- D. You can use it to collect resource metrics from the application HTTP server.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Prometheus Node Exporter is a core system-level exporter that exposes hardware and operating system metrics from *nix-based hosts. It collects metrics such as CPU usage, memory, disk I/O, filesystem space, network statistics, and load averages. It runs as a lightweight daemon on each host and exposes metrics via an HTTP endpoint (default: :9100/metrics), which Prometheus scrapes periodically.

Key clarification:

It does not instrument applications (A).

It does not collect metrics directly from application HTTP endpoints (B).

It is unrelated to HTTP probing tasks - those are handled by the Blackbox Exporter (D).

Thus, the correct use of the Node Exporter is to collect and expose hardware and OS-level metrics for Prometheus monitoring.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Node Exporter Overview, Host-Level Monitoring, and Exporter Usage Best Practices sections.

NEW QUESTION # 18

Which metric type uses the delta() function?

- A. Histogram
- **B. Gauge**
- C. Counter
- D. Info

Answer: B

Explanation:

The delta() function in PromQL calculates the difference between the first and last samples in a range vector over a specified time window. This function is primarily used with gauge metrics, as they can move both up and down, and delta() captures that net change directly.

For example, if a gauge metric like node_memory_Active_bytes changes from 1000 to 1200 within a 5-minute window, delta(node_memory_Active_bytes[5m]) returns 200.

Unlike rate() or increase(), which are designed for monotonically increasing counters, delta() is ideal for metrics representing resource levels, capacities, or instantaneous measurements that fluctuate over time.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - PromQL Range Functions - delta(), Gauge Semantics and Usage, and Comparing delta() and rate() sections.

NEW QUESTION # 19

How would you name a metric that measures gRPC response size?

- **A. grpc_response_size_bytes**
- B. grpc_response_size
- C. grpc_response_size_sum
- D. grpc_response_size_total

Answer: A

Explanation:

Following Prometheus's metric naming conventions, every metric should indicate:

What it measures (the quantity or event).

The unit of measurement in base SI units as a suffix.

Since the metric measures response size, the base unit is bytes. Therefore, the correct and compliant metric name is:

grpc_response_size_bytes

This clearly communicates that it measures gRPC response payload sizes expressed in bytes.

The _bytes suffix is the Prometheus-recommended unit indicator for data sizes. The other options violate naming rules:

_total is reserved for counters.

_sum is used internally by histograms or summaries.

Omitting the unit (grpc_response_size) is discouraged, as it reduces clarity.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric Naming Conventions, Instrumentation Best Practices, and Standard Units for Size and Time Measurements.

NEW QUESTION # 20

What is the maximum number of Alertmanagers that can be added to a Prometheus instance?

- A. 0
- **B. More than 3**
- C. 1

- D. 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

Prometheus supports integration with multiple Alertmanager instances for redundancy and high availability. The alerting section of the Prometheus configuration file (prometheus.yml) allows specifying a list of Alertmanager targets, enabling Prometheus to send alerts to several Alertmanager nodes simultaneously.

There is no hard-coded limit on the number of Alertmanagers that can be added. The typical best practice is to run a minimum of three Alertmanagers in a clustered setup to achieve fault tolerance and ensure reliable alert delivery, but Prometheus can be configured with more than three if desired.

Each Alertmanager node in the cluster communicates state information (active, silenced, inhibited alerts) with its peers to maintain consistency.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Alertmanager Integration, High Availability Setup, and Prometheus Configuration - alerting Section.

NEW QUESTION # 21

When can you use the Grafana Heatmap panel?

- A. You can use it to graph a gauge metric.
- B. You can use it to graph a counter metric.
- C. You can use it to graph an info metric.
- **D. You can use it to graph a histogram metric.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Grafana Heatmap panel is best suited for visualizing histogram metrics collected from Prometheus. Histograms provide bucketed data distributions (e.g., request durations, response sizes), and the heatmap effectively displays these as a two-dimensional density chart over time.

In Prometheus, histogram metrics are exposed as multiple time series with the `_bucket` suffix and the label `le` (less than or equal).

Grafana interprets these buckets to create visual bands showing how frequently different value ranges occurred.

Counters, gauges, and info metrics do not have bucketed distributions, so a heatmap would not produce meaningful output for them.

Reference:



Verified from Grafana documentation - Heatmap Panel Overview, Visualizing Prometheus Histograms, and Prometheus documentation - Understanding Histogram Buckets.

NEW QUESTION # 22

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