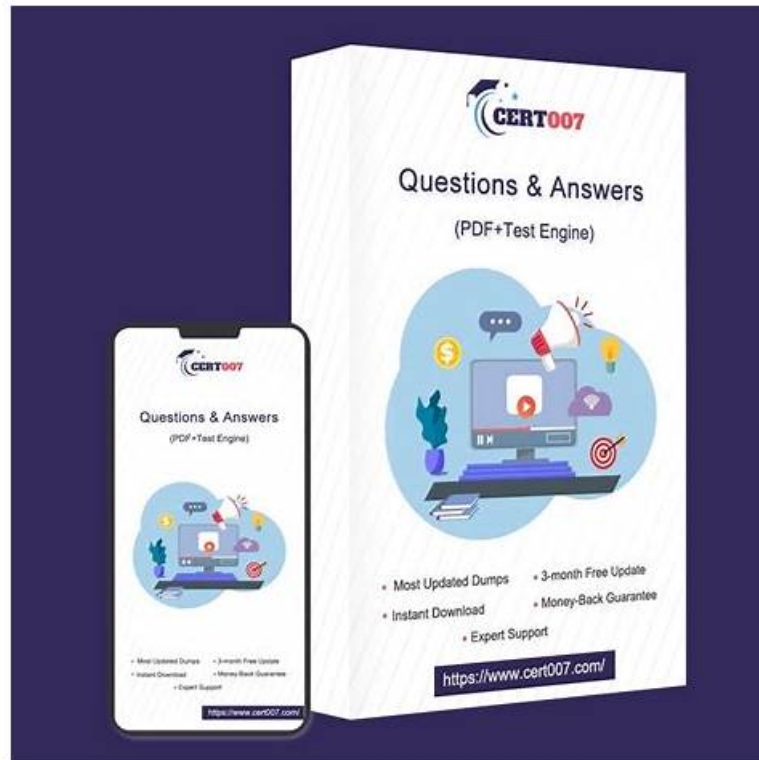


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Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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	• 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 3	• 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 4	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 5	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.

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Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q45-Q50):

NEW QUESTION # 45

How would you name a metric that tracks HTTP request duration?

- A. http_request_duration
- B. request_duration_seconds
- C. http.request_latency
- D. http_request_duration_seconds

Answer: D

Explanation:

According to Prometheus metric naming conventions, a metric name must clearly describe what is being measured and include a unit suffix that specifies the base unit of measurement, following SI standards. For durations, the suffix `_seconds` is mandatory.

Therefore, the correct and standards-compliant name for a metric tracking HTTP request duration is:

`http_request_duration_seconds`

This name communicates:

`http_request` → the subject being measured (HTTP requests),

`duration` → the aspect being measured (the latency or time taken),

`_seconds` → the unit of measurement (seconds).

This metric name typically corresponds to a histogram or summary, exposing submetrics such as `_count`, `_sum`, and `_bucket`. These represent the number of observations, total duration, and distribution across time buckets respectively.

Options A, B, and C fail to fully comply with Prometheus naming standards - they either omit the `http_` prefix, use invalid separators (dots), or lack the required unit suffix.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric and Label Naming Conventions, Instrumentation Best Practices, and Histogram and Summary Metric Naming Patterns.

NEW QUESTION # 46

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

Prometheus TSDB belongs?

- A. `month(prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds)`
- B. `format_date(prometheus_tsdb_lowest_timestamp_seconds,"%M")`
- 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 # 47

Where does Prometheus store its time series data by default?

- A. In an embedded TSDB on local disk.
- B. In-memory only.
- C. In etcd.
- D. In an external database such as InfluxDB.

Answer: A

Explanation:

By default, Prometheus stores its time series data in a local, embedded Time Series Database (TSDB) on disk. The data is organized in block files under the `data/` directory inside Prometheus's storage path.

Each block typically covers two hours of data, containing chunks, index, and metadata files. Older blocks are compacted and deleted based on retention settings.

NEW QUESTION # 48

How do you configure the rule evaluation interval in Prometheus?

- A. You can configure the evaluation interval in the global configuration file and in the rule configuration file.
- B. You can configure the evaluation interval in the Prometheus TSDB configuration file and in the rule configuration file.
- C. You can configure the evaluation interval in the scraping job configuration file and in the command-line flags.
- D. You can configure the evaluation interval in the service discovery configuration and in the command-line flags.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Prometheus evaluates alerting and recording rules at a regular cadence determined by the `evaluation_interval` setting. This can be defined globally in the main Prometheus configuration file (`prometheus.yml`) under the `global:` section or overridden for specific rule groups in the rule configuration files.

The global `evaluation_interval` specifies how frequently Prometheus should execute all configured rules, while rule-specific intervals can fine-tune evaluation frequency for individual groups. For instance:

`global:`

`evaluation_interval: 30s`

This means Prometheus evaluates rules every 30 seconds unless a rule file specifies otherwise.

This parameter is distinct from `scrape_interval`, which governs metric collection frequency from targets. It has no relation to TSDB,

service discovery, or command-line flags.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Configuration File Reference, Rule Evaluation and Recording Rules sections.

NEW QUESTION # 49

Which of the following PromQL queries is invalid?

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

Answer: B

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 # 50

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