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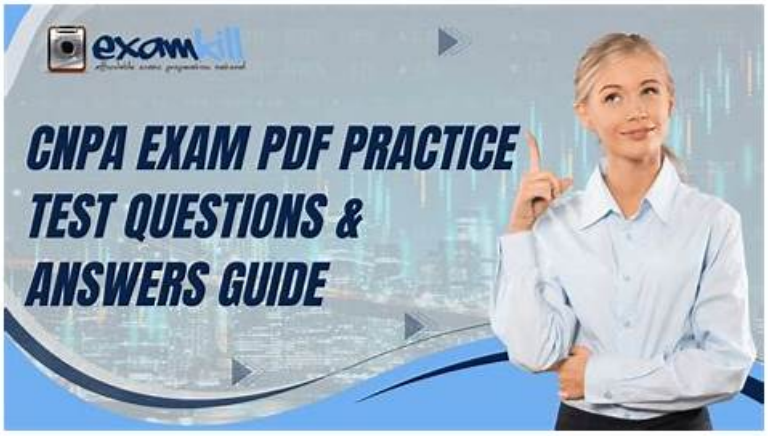

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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Platform Observability, Security, and Conformance: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on key aspects of observability and security. It includes working with traces, metrics, logs, and events while ensuring secure service communication. Policy engines, Kubernetes security essentials, and protection in CI • CD pipelines are also assessed here.
Topic 2	• IDPs and Developer Experience: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on improving developer experience. It covers simplified access to platform capabilities, API-driven service catalogs, developer portals for platform adoption, and the role of AI • ML in platform automation.

Topic 3	• Continuous Delivery & Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI • CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.

Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q62-Q67):

NEW QUESTION # 62
In a GitOps workflow, what is a secure and efficient method for managing secrets within a Git repository?

- A. Use environment variables to manage secrets outside the repository.
- B. Use a secrets management tool and store references in the repository.
- C. Encrypt secrets and store them directly in the repository.
- D. Store secrets in plain text within the repository.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The secure and efficient way to handle secrets in a GitOps workflow is to use a dedicated secrets management tool (e.g., HashiCorp Vault, Sealed Secrets, or External Secrets Operator) and store only references or encrypted placeholders in the Git repository.
Option B is correct because Git should remain the source of truth for configuration, but sensitive values should be abstracted or encrypted to maintain security.
Option A (environment variables) can supplement secret management but lacks versioning and auditability when used alone. Option C (encrypting secrets in Git) can work with tools like Mozilla SOPS, but it still requires external key management, making Option B a more complete and secure approach. Option D (plain text secrets) is highly insecure and should never be used.
By integrating secrets managers into GitOps workflows, teams achieve both security and automation, ensuring secrets are delivered securely during reconciliation without exposing sensitive data in Git.
References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 63
Which of the following would be considered an advantage of using abstract APIs when offering cloud service provisioning and management as platform services?

- A. Abstractions enforce explicit platform team approval before any cloud resource is deployed.
- B. Abstractions allow customization of cloud services and resources without guardrails.
- C. Abstractions curate cloud services with built-in guardrails for development teams.
- D. Development teams can arbitrarily deploy cloud services via abstractions.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Abstract APIs are an essential component of platform engineering, providing a simplified interface for developers to consume infrastructure and cloud services without deep knowledge of provider-specific details.
Option B is correct because abstractions allow platform teams to curate services with built-in guardrails, ensuring compliance, security, and operational standards are enforced automatically. Developers get the benefit of self-service and flexibility while the platform team ensures governance.
Option A would slow down the process, defeating the purpose of abstraction. Option C removes guardrails, which risks security and compliance violations. Option D allows uncontrolled deployments, which can create chaos and undermine platform governance.
Abstract APIs strike the balance between developer experience and organizational control. They provide golden paths and opinionated defaults while maintaining the flexibility needed for developer productivity.
This approach ensures efficient service provisioning at scale with reduced cognitive load on developers.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 64
In a cloud native environment, how do policy engines facilitate a unified approach for teams to consume platform services?

- A. Provides centralized reusable policies to ensure security and compliance.
- B. Enforces strict compliance policies with security standards.
- C. Enforces service-level agreements (SLAs) across all teams.
- D. Integrates with CI/CD pipelines to streamline service provisioning.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Policy engines (such as Open Policy Agent - OPA or Kyverno) play a critical role in enforcing governance, security, and compliance consistently across cloud native platforms. Option D is correct because policy engines provide centralized, reusable policies that can be applied across clusters, services, and environments. This ensures that developers consume platform services in a compliant and secure manner, without needing to manage these controls manually.
Option A is partially correct but too narrow, as policies extend beyond compliance to include operational, security, and cost-control measures. Option B is not the primary function of policy engines, though integration with CI/CD is possible. Option C is incorrect because SLAs are business agreements, not enforced by policy engines directly.
Policy engines enforce guardrails like image signing, RBAC rules, resource quotas, and network policies automatically, reducing cognitive load for developers while giving platform teams confidence in compliance.
This supports the platform engineering principle of combining self-service with governance.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Security TAG (OPA, Kyverno)- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 65
What is the primary purpose of Kubernetes runtime security?

- A. Manages the access control to the Kubernetes API.
- B. Scans container images before deployment.
- C. Protects workloads against threats during execution.
- D. Encrypts the sensitive data stored in etcd.

Answer: C

Explanation:
The main purpose of Kubernetes runtime security is to protect workloads during execution. Option B is correct because runtime security focuses on monitoring active Pods, containers, and processes to detect and prevent malicious activity such as privilege escalation, anomalous network connections, or unauthorized file access.
Option A (etcd encryption) addresses data at rest, not runtime. Option C (image scanning) occurs pre- deployment, not during execution. Option D (API access control) is enforced through RBAC and IAM, not runtime security.
Runtime security solutions (e.g., Falco, Cilium, or Kyverno) continuously observe system calls, network traffic, and workload behaviors to enforce policies and detect threats in real time. This ensures compliance, strengthens defenses in zero-trust environments, and provides critical protection for cloud native workloads in production.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Guidance- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 66
Which of the following would be considered an advantage of using abstract APIs when offering cloud service provisioning and management as platform services?

- A. Abstractions enforce explicit platform team approval before any cloud resource is deployed.
- B. Abstractions allow customization of cloud services and resources without guardrails.
- C. Abstractions curate cloud services with built-in guardrails for development teams.
- D. Development teams can arbitrarily deploy cloud services via abstractions.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Abstract APIs are an essential component of platform engineering, providing a simplified interface for developers to consume infrastructure and cloud services without deep knowledge of provider-specific details.

Option B is correct because abstractions allow platform teams to curate services with built-in guardrails, ensuring compliance, security, and operational standards are enforced automatically. Developers get the benefit of self-service and flexibility while the platform team ensures governance.
Option A would slow down the process, defeating the purpose of abstraction. Option C removes guardrails, which risks security and compliance violations. Option D allows uncontrolled deployments, which can create chaos and undermine platform governance.
Abstract APIs strike the balance between developer experience and organizational control. They provide golden paths and opinionated defaults while maintaining the flexibility needed for developer productivity.
This approach ensures efficient service provisioning at scale with reduced cognitive load on developers.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 67
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