

# Questions and Answers for the XSIAM-Engineer Exam, Authentic 2026



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## Palo Alto Networks XSIAM-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planning and Installation: This section of the exam measures skills of XSIAM Engineers and covers the planning, evaluation, and installation of Palo Alto Networks Cortex XSIAM components. It focuses on assessing existing IT infrastructure, defining deployment requirements for hardware, software, and integrations, and establishing communication needs for XSIAM architecture. Candidates must also configure agents, Broker VMs, and engines, along with managing user roles, permissions, and access controls.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Content Optimization: This section of the exam measures skills of Detection Engineers and focuses on refining XSIAM content and detection logic. It includes deploying parsing and data modeling rules for normalization, managing detection rules based on correlation, IOCs, BIOCs, and attack surface management, and optimizing incident and alert layouts. Candidates must also demonstrate proficiency in creating custom dashboards and reporting templates to support operational visibility.</li></ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and Troubleshooting: This section of the exam measures skills of Security Operations Engineers and covers post-deployment maintenance and troubleshooting of XSIAM components. It includes managing exception configurations, updating software components such as XDR agents and Broker VMs, and diagnosing data ingestion, normalization, and parsing issues. Candidates must also troubleshoot integrations, automation playbooks, and system performance to ensure operational reliability.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration and Automation: This section of the exam measures skills of SIEM Engineers and focuses on data onboarding and automation setup in XSIAM. It covers integrating diverse data sources such as endpoint, network, cloud, and identity, configuring automation feeds like messaging, authentication, and threat intelligence, and implementing Marketplace content packs. It also evaluates the ability to plan, create, customize, and debug playbooks for efficient workflow automation.</li> </ul>

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### Palo Alto Networks XSIAM Engineer Sample Questions (Q341-Q346):

#### NEW QUESTION # 341

During a rule review, an XSIAM engineer identifies a correlation rule that consistently triggers false positives due to a common, legitimate system process that temporarily matches a suspicious pattern. Simply adding the process name to a global exclusion list is not an option, as the process could still be malicious under different circumstances. How can this specific false positive scenario be mitigated without losing the rule's overall detection capability for actual threats?

- A. Increase the time window for the correlation to 24 hours, making it less likely to catch short-lived legitimate activity.
- B. Create a post-detection automation playbook that automatically closes alerts generated by this specific process, without analyzing the underlying conditions.
- C. Disable the rule for a week and then re-enable it to see if the false positives subside.
- D.**

Implement a conditional exclusion within the rule itself, specifying that if `process_name = 'legit_process.exe' AND parent_process_name = 'system_service.exe'` AND `command_line LIKE '%temp_arg%'`, then do NOT trigger an alert.
- E. Reduce the rule's severity to 'informational' so it generates fewer alerts.

#### Answer: D

Explanation:

Option B is the most precise and effective method. By implementing a conditional exclusion, you can specify exact circumstances under which the legitimate process should NOT trigger an alert, while still allowing the rule to catch instances where the same process might be used maliciously (e.g., if its parent process or command line arguments differ). This maintains the rule's fidelity for true threats while eliminating specific false positives. Options A, C, D, and E are either ineffective, harmful to detection, or merely reactive.

#### NEW QUESTION # 342

An XSIAM administrator is troubleshooting an issue where a specific set of XDR Agents are failing to connect to the XSIAM cloud after a Broker VM firmware update. Other agents are connecting successfully. The Broker VM's status appears healthy in the XSIAM console, and network connectivity from the affected agents to the Broker VM is confirmed. Which of the following is the MOST likely cause and the first area to investigate on the Broker VM itself?

- A. The XDR Agent version on the affected endpoints is incompatible with the updated Broker VM firmware. Downgrade the Broker VM or upgrade the agents.
- B. The Broker VM's internal certificates expired or were corrupted during the firmware update. Review the Broker VM's**

certificate status and logs for TLS/SSL errors.

- C. The Broker VM's IP address changed after the update, and agents have not updated their configuration. Check the Broker VM's network settings.
- D. The Broker VM's inbound firewall rules were inadvertently reset during the firmware update, blocking agent connections. Verify the Broker VM's firewall configuration.
- E. The Broker VM's internal proxy settings were cleared, preventing it from reaching the XSIAM cloud. Reconfigure proxy settings on the Broker VM.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

If some agents connect but others don't, and network connectivity to the Broker VM is confirmed, it suggests an issue internal to the Broker VM that affects communication. Firmware updates can sometimes interfere with or require re-establishment of internal cryptographic components. Expired or corrupted certificates would specifically prevent successful TLS handshakes between agents and the Broker VM, leading to connection failures for certain agents if their trust store isn't correctly updated or if the Broker VM presents an invalid certificate. While A, C, and D are possible, they would likely affect all agents, not just a subset. E is less likely as Broker VM firmware updates are generally backward compatible with slightly older agent versions for a graceful upgrade path.

**NEW QUESTION # 343**

You are debugging an XSIAM setup where a critical 'DLP Exfiltration' alert (base score 85) is occasionally being scored much lower, sometimes as low as 30. You suspect an issue with a 'data\_sensitivity' field, which can be 'Public', 'Confidential', or 'Secret', affecting scoring. You examine the following simplified XQL snippet from a problematic scoring rule:

```
dataset = alerts | filter detection_rule_id = 'dlp_exfil_rule_id' | if (data_sensitivity = 'Public', score 0.5, if  
if (data_sensitivity = 'Confidential', score 0.8, score 1.0)) as final_score | ...
```

Assuming this XQL logic is being applied within a scoring rule's action. What are the potential issues with this approach or the expected outcome if an alert with 'data\_sensitivity = 'Public'' and base score 85 processes through this rule?

- A. The provided XQL fragment is too simplistic for a 'Set Total Score' action, and typical XSIAM scoring rules use discrete 'Additive' or 'Multiplicative' actions per condition, not complex inline XQL 'if statements for direct score manipulation.
- B. If 'data\_sensitivity' is 'Public', the score will correctly become 42.5. The issue is likely another rule overriding this. The XQL itself is valid for score adjustment.
- C. The XQL 'if function is designed for filtering, not for dynamic score modification within a scoring rule's 'Action' field. This rule would likely fail to apply any score change.
- D. The 'final\_score' alias is only for internal calculation within the XQL query. It will not actually update the 'alert.score' field, leading to no visible change in the alert's score.
- E. The logic is sound, but the 'score 1.0' for 'Secret' data implies no score change, which might be a misconfiguration if 'Secret' data should actually boost the score.

**Answer: A,C,D**

Explanation:

This question highlights several common pitfalls or misconceptions about how XSIAM scoring rules are configured, especially at a 'Very tough' level, assuming direct UI configuration and not backend API manipulation. Option A (Correct): The 'if function within an XQL query is primarily for conditional logic within the query's processing stream (e.g., for creating new fields or filtering). Directly placing this kind of XQL 'if statement for score modification in the 'Action' field of a scoring rule (which typically expects 'Additive', 'Multiplicative', or 'Set Total Score' with a fixed value or simple reference) is generally not how XSIAM's scoring rule configuration works. It would likely result in an error or the rule failing to apply any score change as intended. Option C (Correct): Even if the XQL itself was valid for execution, creating an alias like 'as final\_score' within a subquery or a transformation does not automatically update the 'alert.score' attribute that the XSIAM platform uses for display and prioritization. To modify 'alert.score', you need to use the specific 'Actions' provided by the scoring rule engine C Additive Score Change', 'Multiplicative Score Change', 'Set Total Score'). Option E (Correct): This sums up the primary issue. XSIAM's scoring rules, when configured through the UI, generally expect discrete conditions and then specific, predefined actions for score modification (Additive, Multiplicative, Set Total Score with a single value). They do not support embedding complex, multi-conditional XQL directly to calculate and apply a score. For such dynamic, conditional scoring, you would typically use multiple separate scoring rules, each with its own condition and a simple 'Additive' or 'Multiplicative' action, or potentially a 'set Total Score' in combination with an XQL lookup to fetch the desired final score from a table. The provided XQL is more suited for a detection rule's query or a standalone enrichment query, not a scoring rule's action. Option B: Incorrect. While 42.5 is the correct mathematical result of 85 \* 0.5, the XQL itself is not applied in the way needed to achieve this as a scoring rule action. Option D: Incorrect. While a 'score 1' for 'Secret' data might seem like a misconfiguration, it's a separate issue from the fundamental problem of the XQL logic not being applicable in a scoring rule's action. The primary issue is the mechanism of score application, not the specific values.

### NEW QUESTION # 344

A critical zero-day vulnerability is discovered in a widely used web server. To rapidly analyze potential exploitation attempts, the security team needs to configure the Broker VM to capture and forward network packets (not just flow data) related to the web server's traffic, for a limited time. This requires enabling packet capture on the Broker VM itself. Which command-line utility or configuration adjustment on the Broker VM would facilitate this on a specific network interface, assuming the web server traffic is traversing that interface?

- `tcpdump -i eth0 -w /tmp/capture.pcap 'host <web_server_ip> and port 80 or port 443'` followed by manual upload to Cortex XSIAM.
- Accessing the Broker VM's web UI and enabling 'Packet Capture' under the 'Network Diagnostics' section for the relevant interface.
- Modifying `/etc/network/interfaces` to set the interface to promiscuous mode and then restarting the data collector service.
- Running `/opt/demisto/xdr-utils/enable_packet_mirroring.sh -interface eth0 --filter "host <web_server_ip>"` to mirror traffic to the XSIAM cloud.
- Deploying a dedicated network tap or SPAN port that sends traffic to a separate network interface on the Broker VM configured for promiscuous mode.

- A. Option E
- B. Option B
- **C. Option D**
- D. Option A
- E. Option C

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The Broker VM is designed to integrate with XSIAM for various functions, including potentially live packet capture. While `tcpdump` (A) can capture packets, it's a generic Linux utility and doesn't directly integrate the capture into XSIAM. Broker VM typically doesn't have a web UI for network diagnostics (B). Modifying `/etc/network/interfaces` (C) is a low-level OS change and not the XSIAM-integrated method. Option E describes a network architecture, not a Broker VM configuration. Option D suggests a purpose-built script provided by Palo Alto Networks (`enable_packet_mirroring.sh`) which would be the intended way to enable packet capture and forward it directly to the XSIAM cloud for analysis, making it the most relevant and integrated solution.

### NEW QUESTION # 345

An XSIAM engineer is reviewing an agent installation script for Linux. The script uses an installation token and attempts to assign the agent to a group. The script fails consistently with an 'Authentication Failed' or 'Invalid Token' error, even though the token was copied directly from the XSIAM console. Upon investigation, it's found that the console URL for generating the token includes a region-specific endpoint, but the script uses a generic cloud URL. Which of the following is the most likely cause of the failure, and what should be the immediate corrective action?

- **A. The agent is attempting to connect to the wrong XSIAM cloud region/instance. The installation command must explicitly include the correct FQDN for the XSIAM cloud instance, which is tied to the tenant's region.**
- B. The agent group 'Production\_Linux' does not exist in the XSIAM console. Create the group and re-run the script.
- C. The installation token has expired. Regenerate a new token from the XSIAM console and re-run the script.
- D. The Linux server's time is out of sync with the XSIAM cloud, causing SSL certificate validation failures. Synchronize the server's NTP.
- E. There is a network firewall blocking outbound TCP port 443 to the XSIAM cloud. Open the firewall for the generic cloud URL.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Option C is the most likely and critical cause for 'Authentication Failed' or 'Invalid Token' errors when the token itself seems correct but the agent can't connect. Cortex XSIAM tenants are hosted in specific cloud regions (e.g., US, EU, APAC). The installation token generated from the console is implicitly linked to that region's FQDN. If the agent installation command or script attempts to connect to a generic or incorrect XSIAM cloud URL (e.g., a default `*cloud.xdr.paloaltonetworks.com` instead of `'us.xdr.paloaltonetworks.com'`), it will fail to authenticate with your specific tenant, even if the token itself is valid. The immediate corrective action is to ensure the installation command or script explicitly uses the full and correct region-specific XSIAM cloud FQDN as provided by the console for your tenant. While A, B, D, and E can cause issues, the specific 'Authentication Failed' with a seemingly valid token points strongest to an endpoint connection to the wrong XSIAM instance.

### NEW QUESTION # 346

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