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## Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Associate Sample Questions (Q68-Q73):

### NEW QUESTION # 68

You're managing a Kubernetes cluster with several deployments using resource requests and limits. Which of the following strategies can help you effectively manage resource utilization and potentially reduce costs?

- A. Use Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to adjust the number of pods based on resource utilization and load.

- B. Set resource limits lower than requests to encourage efficient resource use.
- C. Utilize resource quotas to restrict the total resources that can be consumed by namespaces.
- D. Increase resource requests for all deployments to ensure enough resources are always available.
- E. Configure resource reservation to ensure a minimum amount of resources is always available.

**Answer: A,C,E**

Explanation:

The most effective strategies for managing resource utilization and cost in Kubernetes involve dynamic scaling and resource allocation. Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) allows you to adjust the number of pods based on resource utilization, reducing overprovisioning. Resource quotas restrict the total resources that can be consumed by namespaces, preventing resource exhaustion and potential cost spikes. Resource reservation guarantees a minimum amount of resources for critical applications, ensuring they perform well even under high load. Increasing requests without adjusting limits can lead to overprovisioning, while setting limits lower than requests can limit pod performance.

#### NEW QUESTION # 69

Which statement about Secrets is correct?

- A. Secret data is base64 encoded and stored unencrypted by default.
- B. A Secret can only be used for confidential data.
- C. A Secret is part of a Pod specification.
- D. Secret data is encrypted with the cluster private key by default.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The correct answer is C. By default, Kubernetes Secrets store their data as base64-encoded values in the API (backed by etcd). Base64 is an encoding mechanism, not encryption, so this does not provide confidentiality. Unless you explicitly configure encryption at rest for etcd (via the API server encryption provider configuration) and secure access controls, Secret contents should be treated as potentially readable by anyone with sufficient API access or access to etcd backups.

Option A is misleading: a Secret is its own Kubernetes resource (kind: Secret). While Pods can reference Secrets (as environment variables or mounted volumes), the Secret itself is not "part of the Pod spec" as an embedded object. Option B is incorrect because Kubernetes does not automatically encrypt Secret data with a cluster private key by default; encryption at rest is optional and must be enabled. Option D is incorrect because Secrets can store a range of sensitive or semi-sensitive data (tokens, certs, passwords), but Kubernetes does not enforce "only confidential data" semantics; it's a storage mechanism with size and format constraints.

Operationally, best practices include: enabling encryption at rest, limiting access via RBAC, avoiding broad "list/get secrets" permissions, using dedicated service accounts, auditing access, and considering external secrets managers (Vault, cloud KMS-backed solutions) for higher assurance. Also, don't confuse "Secret" with "secure by default." The default protection is mainly about avoiding accidental plaintext exposure in manifests, not about cryptographic security.

So the only correct statement in the options is C.

#### NEW QUESTION # 70

What components are common in a service mesh?

- A. Tracing and log storage
- B. Data plane and runtime plane
- C. Service proxy and control plane
- D. Circuit breaking and Pod scheduling

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

A service mesh is an architectural pattern that manages service-to-service communication in a microservices environment by inserting a dedicated networking layer. The two most common building blocks you'll see across service mesh implementations are (1) a data plane of proxies and (2) a control plane that configures and manages those proxies—this aligns best with "service proxy and control plane," option D.

In practice, the data plane is usually implemented via sidecar proxies (or sometimes node/ambient proxies) that sit "next to" workloads and handle traffic functions such as mTLS encryption, retries, timeouts, load balancing policies, traffic splitting, and telemetry generation. These proxies can capture inbound and outbound traffic without requiring changes to application code, which is

one of the defining benefits of a mesh.

The control plane provides the management layer: it distributes policy and configuration to the proxies (routing rules, security policies, identities/certificates), discovers services/endpoints, and often coordinates certificate rotation and workload identity. In Kubernetes environments, meshes typically integrate with the Kubernetes API for service discovery and configuration.

Option C is close in spirit but uses non-standard wording ("runtime plane" is not a typical service mesh term; "control plane" is).

Options A and B describe capabilities that may exist in a mesh ecosystem (telemetry, circuit breaking), but they are not the universal "core components" across meshes. Tracing/log storage, for example, is usually handled by external observability backends (e.g., Jaeger, Tempo, Loki) rather than being intrinsic "mesh components." So, the most correct and broadly accepted answer is D: service proxy and control plane.

## NEW QUESTION # 71

You are deploying a stateful application with persistent storage using PersistentVolumeClaims (PVCs). What are the possible ways to ensure that the PVCs are bound to the correct PersistentVolumes (PVs)?

- A. Use the 'accessModes' field in the PVC to specify the access mode (ReadWriteOnce, ReadOnlyMany, ReadWriteMany) that matches the PV
- B. Use the 'capacity' field in the PVC to specify the storage capacity that matches the PV
- C. None of the above
- D. Manually bind the PVC to a specific PV by specifying the PV name in the PVC's 'specvolumeName' field-
- E. Use the 'storageClassName' field in the PVC to specify a storage class that matches the PV

**Answer: A,D,E**

Explanation:

You can ensure PVCs are bound correctly by specifying the 'storageClassName' field to match the PV's storage class, using 'accessModes' to match access types, or by manually binding the PVC to a specific PV. The 'capacity' field can be used to specify the storage capacity needed, but doesn't directly control the binding process.

## NEW QUESTION # 72

What Kubernetes component handles network communications inside and outside of a cluster, using operating system packet filtering if available?

- A. etcd
- B. kube-controller-manager
- C. kube-proxy
- D. kubelet

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

kube-proxy is the Kubernetes component responsible for implementing Service networking on nodes, commonly by programming operating system packet filtering / forwarding rules (like iptables or IPVS), which makes A correct.

Kubernetes Services provide stable virtual IPs and ports that route traffic to a dynamic set of Pod endpoints. kube-proxy watches the API server for Service and EndpointSlice/Endpoints updates and then configures the node's networking so that traffic to a Service is correctly forwarded to one of the backend Pods. In iptables mode, kube-proxy installs NAT and forwarding rules; in IPVS mode, it programs kernel load-balancing tables. In both cases, it leverages OS-level packet handling to efficiently steer traffic. This is the "packet filtering if available" concept referenced in the question.

kube-proxy's work affects both "inside" and "outside" paths in typical setups. Internal cluster clients reach Services via ClusterIP and DNS, and kube-proxy rules forward that traffic to Pods. For external traffic, paths often involve NodePort or LoadBalancer Services or Ingress controllers that ultimately forward into Services/Pods—again relying on node-level service rules. While some modern CNI/eBPF dataplanes can replace or bypass kube-proxy, the classic Kubernetes architecture still defines kube-proxy as the component implementing Service connectivity.

The other options are not networking dataplane components: kubelet runs Pods and reports status; etcd stores cluster state; kube-controller-manager runs control loops for API objects. None of these handle node-level packet routing for Services. Therefore, the correct verified answer is A: kube-proxy.

## NEW QUESTION # 73

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