

# PCA Training Courses - PCA Test Review



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## Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic   | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>                                                 |
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>                                     |
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul> |

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| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> |
| Topic 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>                                   |

>> PCA Training Courses <<

## PCA Training Courses & Useful Tips to help you pass Linux Foundation PCA: Prometheus Certified Associate Exam

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### Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q25-Q30):

#### NEW QUESTION # 25

Which of the following metrics is unsuitable for a Prometheus setup?

- A. `promhttp_metric_handler_requests_total{code="500"}`
- B. `http_response_total{handler="static/*filepath"}`
- C. `user_last_login_timestamp_seconds{email="john.doe@example.com"}`
- D. `prometheus_engine_query_log_enabled`

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The metric `user_last_login_timestamp_seconds{email="john.doe@example.com"}` is unsuitable for Prometheus because it includes a high-cardinality label (email). Each unique email address would generate a separate time series, potentially numbering in the millions, which severely impacts Prometheus performance and memory usage.

Prometheus is optimized for low- to medium-cardinality metrics that represent system-wide behavior rather than per-user data.

High-cardinality metrics cause data explosion, complicating queries and overwhelming the storage engine.

By contrast, the other metrics-`prometheus_engine_query_log_enabled`, `promhttp_metric_handler_requests_total{code="500"}`, and `http_response_total{handler="static/*filepath"}`-adhere to Prometheus best practices. They represent operational or service-level metrics with limited, manageable label value sets.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric and Label Naming Best Practices, Cardinality Management, and Anti-Patterns for Metric Design sections.

#### NEW QUESTION # 26

Which Prometheus component handles service discovery?

- A. Pushgateway
- B. Node Exporter
- C. Alertmanager

- **D. Prometheus Server**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The Prometheus Server is responsible for service discovery, which identifies the list of targets to scrape. It integrates with multiple service discovery mechanisms such as Kubernetes, Consul, EC2, and static configurations.

This allows Prometheus to automatically adapt to dynamic environments without manual reconfiguration.

#### NEW QUESTION # 27

Which metric type uses the delta() function?

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

**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 # 28

What does scrape\_interval configure in Prometheus?

- A. It defines how often to refresh metrics.
- B. It defines how often to send alerts.
- C. It defines how frequently to evaluate rules.
- **D. It defines how frequently to scrape targets.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In Prometheus, the scrape\_interval parameter specifies how frequently the Prometheus server should scrape metrics from its configured targets. Each target exposes an HTTP endpoint (usually /metrics) that Prometheus collects data from at a fixed cadence. By default, the scrape\_interval is set to 1 minute, but it can be overridden globally or per job configuration in the Prometheus YAML configuration file.

This setting directly affects the resolution of collected time series data—a shorter interval increases data granularity but also adds network and storage overhead, while a longer interval reduces load but might miss short-lived metric variations.

It is important to distinguish scrape\_interval from evaluation\_interval, which defines how often Prometheus evaluates recording and alerting rules. Thus, scrape\_interval pertains only to data collection frequency, not to alerting or rule evaluation.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation on Configuration File - scrape\_interval and Scraping Fundamentals sections.

#### NEW QUESTION # 29

Which PromQL expression computes the rate of API Server requests across the different cloud providers from the following metrics?

apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver", instance="192.168.1.220:6443", cloud="aws"} 1

apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver", instance="192.168.1.121:6443", cloud="gcloud"} 5

- A. rate(apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m]) by (cloud)
- B. sum by (cloud) (apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver"})
- C. rate(sum by (cloud)(apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver"})[5m])
- **D. sum by (cloud)(rate(apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m]))**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The rate() function computes the per-second increase of a counter metric over a specified range, while sum by (label) aggregates those rates across dimensions - in this case, the cloud label.

The correct query is:

sum by (cloud)(rate(apiserver\_request\_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m])) This expression:

Calculates the rate of increase in API requests per second for each instance.

Groups and sums those rates by cloud, giving the total request rate per cloud provider.

Option A incorrectly places by (cloud) after rate(), which is not valid syntax.

Option B returns raw counter totals (not rates).

Option D incorrectly applies rate() after aggregation, which distorts the calculation since rate() must operate on individual time series before aggregation.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - rate() Function, Aggregation Operators, and Querying Counters Across Labels sections.

## NEW QUESTION # 30

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