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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Platform Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Appian System Administrators and covers the ability to manage platform operations such as deploying applications across environments, troubleshooting platform-level issues, configuring environment settings, and understanding platform architecture. Candidates are also expected to know when to involve Appian Support and how to adjust admin console configurations to maintain stability and performance.
Topic 2	• Extending Appian: This section of the exam measures skills of Integration Specialists and covers building and troubleshooting advanced integrations using connected systems and APIs. Candidates are expected to work with authentication, evaluate plug-ins, develop custom solutions when needed, and utilize document generation options to extend the platform's capabilities.
Topic 3	• Application Design and Development: This section of the exam measures skills of Lead Appian Developers and covers the design and development of applications that meet user needs using Appian functionality. It includes designing for consistency, reusability, and collaboration across teams. Emphasis is placed on applying best practices for building multiple, scalable applications in complex environments.

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q19-Q24):

NEW QUESTION # 19
You are planning a strategy around data volume testing for an Appian application that queries and writes to a MySQL database. You have administrator access to the Appian application and to the database. What are two key considerations when designing a data volume testing strategy?

- A. Large datasets must be loaded via Appian processes.
- B. Data from previous tests needs to remain in the testing environment prior to loading prepopulated data.
- C. Data model changes must wait until towards the end of the project.
- D. Testing with the correct amount of data should be in the definition of done as part of each sprint.
- E. The amount of data that needs to be populated should be determined by the project sponsor and the stakeholders based on their estimation.

Answer: D,E

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:Data volume testing ensures an Appian application performs efficiently under realistic data loads, especially when interacting with external databases like MySQL. As an Appian Lead Developer with administrative access, the focus is on scalability, performance, and iterative validation. The two key considerations are:
* Option C (The amount of data that needs to be populated should be determined by the project sponsor and the stakeholders based on their estimation):Determining the appropriate data volume is critical to simulate real-world usage. Appian's Performance Testing Best Practices recommend collaborating with stakeholders (e.g., project sponsors, business analysts) to define expected data sizes based on production scenarios. This ensures the test reflects actual requirements-like peak transaction volumes or record counts-rather than arbitrary guesses. For example, if the application will handle 1 million records in production, stakeholders must specify this to guide test data preparation.

* Option D (Testing with the correct amount of data should be in the definition of done as part of each sprint):Appian's Agile Development Guide emphasizes incorporating performance testing (including data volume) into the Definition of Done (DoD) for each sprint. This ensures that features are validated under realistic conditions iteratively, preventing late-stage performance issues. With admin access, you can query/write to MySQL and assess query performance or write latency with the specified data volume, aligning with Appian's recommendation to "test early and often."
* Option A (Data from previous tests needs to remain in the testing environment prior to loading prepopulated data):This is impractical and risky. Retaining old test data can skew results, introduce inconsistencies, or violate data integrity (e.g., duplicate keys in MySQL). Best practices advocate for a clean, controlled environment with fresh, prepopulated data per test cycle.
* Option B (Large datasets must be loaded via Appian processes):While Appian processes can load data, this is not a requirement. With database admin access, you can use SQL scripts ortools like MySQL Workbench for faster, more efficient data population, bypassing Appian process overhead.
Appian documentation notes this as a preferred method for large datasets.
* Option E (Data model changes must wait until towards the end of the project):Delaying data model changes contradicts Agile principles and Appian's iterative design approach. Changes should occur as needed throughout development to adapt to testing insights, not be deferred.
References:Appian Lead Developer Training - Performance Testing Best Practices, Appian Documentation - Data Management and Testing Strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 20
You are reviewing the Engine Performance Logs in Production for a single application that has been live for six months. This application experiences concurrent user activity and has a fairly sustained load during business hours. The client has reported performance issues with the application during business hours.
During your investigation, you notice a high Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size value in the logs. You also notice unattended process activities, including timer events and sending notification emails, are taking far longer to execute than normal.
The client increased the number of CPU cores prior to the application going live.
What is the next recommendation?

- A. Optimize slow-performing user interfaces.
- B. Add execution and analytics shards
- C. Add more application servers.
- D. Add more engine replicas.

Answer: D

Explanation:
As an Appian Lead Developer, analyzing Engine Performance Logs to address performance issues in a Production application requires understanding Appian's architecture and the specific metrics described. The scenario indicates a high "Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size," which reflects a backlog of tasks in the Java Work Queue (managed by Appian engines), and delays in unattended process activities (e.g., timer events, email notifications). These symptoms suggest the Appian engines are overloaded, despite the client increasing CPU cores. Let's evaluate each option:
A . Add more engine replicas:
This is the correct recommendation. In Appian, engine replicas (part of the Appian Engine cluster) handle process execution, including unattended tasks like timers and notifications. A high Java Work Queue Size indicates the engines are overwhelmed by concurrent activity during business hours, causing delays. Adding more engine replicas distributes the workload, reducing queue size and improving performance for both user-driven and unattended tasks. Appian's documentation recommends scaling engine replicas to handle sustained loads, especially in Production with high concurrency. Since CPU cores were already increased (likely on application servers), the bottleneck is likely the engine capacity, not the servers.
B . Optimize slow-performing user interfaces:
While optimizing user interfaces (e.g., SAIL forms, reports) can improve user experience, the scenario highlights delays in unattended activities (timers, emails), not UI performance. The Java Work Queue Size issue points to engine-level processing, not UI rendering, so this doesn't address the root cause. Appian's performance tuning guidelines prioritize engine scaling for queue-related issues, making this a secondary concern.
C . Add more application servers:
Application servers handle web traffic (e.g., SAIL interfaces, API calls), not process execution or unattended tasks managed by engines. Increasing application servers would help with UI concurrency but wouldn't reduce the Java Work Queue Size or speed up timer/email processing, as these are engine responsibilities. Since the client already increased CPU cores (likely on application servers), this is redundant and unrelated to the issue.
D . Add execution and analytics shards:
Execution shards (for process data) and analytics shards (for reporting) are part of Appian's data fabric for scalability, but they don't directly address engine workload or Java Work Queue Size. Shards optimize data storage and query performance, not real-time

process execution. The logs indicate an engine bottleneck, not a data storage issue, so this isn't relevant. Appian's documentation confirms shards are for long-term scaling, not immediate performance fixes.
Conclusion: Adding more engine replicas (A) is the next recommendation. It directly resolves the high Java Work Queue Size and delays in unattended tasks, aligning with Appian's architecture for handling concurrent loads in Production. This requires collaboration with system administrators to configure additional replicas in the Appian cluster.
Reference:
Appian Documentation: "Engine Performance Monitoring" (Java Work Queue and Scaling Replicas).
Appian Lead Developer Certification: Performance Optimization Module (Engine Scaling Strategies).
Appian Best Practices: "Managing Production Performance" (Work Queue Analysis).

NEW QUESTION # 21
You need to design a complex Appian integration to call a RESTful API. The RESTful API will be used to update a case in a customer's legacy system.
What are three prerequisites for designing the integration?

- A. Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits.
- B. Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model.
- C. Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian.
- D. Define the HTTP method that the integration will use.
- E. Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data.

Answer: A,C,D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:
As an Appian Lead Developer, designing a complex integration to a RESTful API for updating a case in a legacy system requires a structured approach to ensure reliability, performance, and alignment with business needs. The integration involves sending a JSON payload (implied by the context) and handling responses, so the focus is on technical and functional prerequisites. Let's evaluate each option:
A . Define the HTTP method that the integration will use:
This is a primary prerequisite. RESTful APIs use HTTP methods (e.g., POST, PUT, GET) to define the operation-here, updating a case likely requires PUT or POST. Appian's Connected System and Integration objects require specifying the method to configure the HTTP request correctly. Understanding the API's method ensures the integration aligns with its design, making this essential for design. Appian's documentation emphasizes choosing the correct HTTP method as a foundational step.
B . Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits:
This is also critical. The JSON payload for updating a case includes fields (e.g., text, dates, numbers), and the API expects a specific structure with field types (e.g., string, integer) and limits (e.g., max length, size constraints). In Appian, the Integration object requires a dictionary or CDT to construct the body, and mismatches (e.g., wrong types, exceeding limits) cause errors (e.g., 400 Bad Request). Appian's best practices mandate understanding the API schema to ensure data compatibility, making this a key prerequisite.
C . Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model:
While knowing the context (interface vs. process model) is useful for design (e.g., synchronous vs. asynchronous calls), it's not a prerequisite for the integration itself-it's a usage consideration. Appian supports integrations in both contexts, and the integration's design (e.g., HTTP method, body) remains the same. This is secondary to technical API details, so it's not among the top three prerequisites.
D . Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian:
This is essential. RESTful APIs return HTTP status codes (e.g., 200 OK, 400 Bad Request, 500 Internal Server Error), and the customer's API likely documents these for failure scenarios (e.g., invalid data, server issues). Appian's Integration objects can handle errors via error mappings or process models, and understanding these codes ensures robust error handling (e.g., retry logic, user notifications). Appian's documentation stresses error handling as a core design element for reliable integrations, making this a primary prerequisite.
E . Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data:
While business rules (e.g., validating case data before sending) are important for the overall application, they aren't a prerequisite for designing the integration itself-they're part of the application logic (e.g., process model or interface). The integration focuses on technical interaction with the API, not business validation, which can be handled separately in Appian. This is a secondary concern, not a core design requirement for the integration.
Conclusion: The three prerequisites are A (define the HTTP method), B (understand the body content and limits), and D (understand error codes and handling). These ensure the integration is technically sound, compatible with the API, and resilient to errors-critical for a complex RESTful API integration in Appian.
Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Designing REST Integrations" (HTTP Methods, Request Body, Error Handling).
Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (Prerequisites for Complex Integrations).
Appian Best Practices: "Building Reliable API Integrations" (Payload and Error Management).
To design a complex Appian integration to call a RESTful API, you need to have some prerequisites, such as:
Define the HTTP method that the integration will use. The HTTP method is the action that the integration will perform on the API, such as GET, POST, PUT, PATCH, or DELETE. The HTTP method determines how the data will be sent and received by the API, and what kind of response will be expected.
Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits. The body is the data that the integration will send to the API, or receive from the API, depending on the HTTP method. The body can be in different formats, such as JSON, XML, or form data. You need to understand how to structure the body according to the API specification, and what kind of data types and values are allowed for each field.
Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian. The error codes are the status codes that indicate whether the API request was successful or not, and what kind of problem occurred if not. The error codes can range from 200 (OK) to 500 (Internal Server Error), and each code has a different meaning and implication. You need to understand how to handle different error codes in Appian, and how to display meaningful messages to the user or log them for debugging purposes.
The other two options are not prerequisites for designing the integration, but rather considerations for implementing it.
Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model. This is not a prerequisite, but rather a decision that you need to make based on your application requirements and design. You can use an integration either in an interface or in a process model, depending on where you need to call the API and how you want to handle the response. For example, if you need to update a case in real-time based on user input, you may want to use an integration in an interface. If you need to update a case periodically based on a schedule or an event, you may want to use an integration in a process model.
Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data. This is not a prerequisite, but rather a part of your application logic that you need to implement after designing the integration. You need to apply business rules to validate, transform, or enrich the data that you send or receive from the API, according to your business requirements and logic. For example, you may need to check if the case status is valid before updating it in the legacy system, or you may need to add some additional information to the case data before displaying it in Appian.

NEW QUESTION # 22
The business database for a large, complex Appian application is to undergo a migration between database technologies, as well as interface and process changes. The project manager asks you to recommend a test strategy. Given the changes, which two items should be included in the test strategy?

- A. Tests that ensure users can still successfully log into the platform
- B. Internationalization testing of the Appian platform
- C. Tests for each of the interfaces and process changes
- D. A regression test of all existing system functionality
- E. Penetration testing of the Appian platform

Answer: C,D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:
As an Appian Lead Developer, recommending a test strategy for a large, complex application undergoing a database migration (e.g., from Oracle to PostgreSQL) and interface/process changes requires focusing on ensuring system stability, functionality, and the specific updates. The strategy must address risks tied to the scope-database technology shift, interface modifications, and process updates-while aligning with Appian's testing best practices. Let's evaluate each option:
A . Internationalization testing of the Appian platform:
Internationalization testing verifies that the application supports multiple languages, locales, and formats (e.g., date formats). While valuable for global applications, the scenario doesn't indicate a change in localization requirements tied to the database migration, interfaces, or processes. Appian's platform handles internationalization natively (e.g., via locale settings), and this isn't impacted by database technology or UI/process changes unless explicitly stated. This is out of scope for the given context and not a priority.
B . A regression test of all existing system functionality:
This is a critical inclusion. A database migration between technologies can affect data integrity, queries (e.g., a!queryEntity), and performance due to differences in SQL dialects, indexing, or drivers. Regression testing ensures that all existing functionality-records, reports, processes, and integrations-works as expected post-migration. Appian Lead Developer documentation mandates regression testing for significant infrastructure changes like this, as unmapped edge cases (e.g., datatype mismatches) could break the application. Given the "large, complex" nature, full-system validation is essential to catch unintended impacts.
C . Penetration testing of the Appian platform:
Penetration testing assesses security vulnerabilities (e.g., injection attacks). While security is important, the changes described-

database migration, interface, and process updates-don't inherently alter Appian's security model (e.g., authentication, encryption), which is managed at the platform level. Appian's cloud or on-premise security isn't directly tied to database technology unless new vulnerabilities are introduced (not indicated here). This is a periodic concern, not specific to this migration, making it less relevant than functional validation.
D . Tests for each of the interfaces and process changes:
This is also essential. The project includes explicit "interface and process changes" alongside the migration. Interface updates (e.g., SAIL forms) might rely on new data structures or queries, while process changes (e.g., modified process models) could involve updated nodes or logic. Testing each change ensures these components function correctly with the new database and meet business requirements. Appian's testing guidelines emphasize targeted validation of modified components to confirm they integrate with the migrated data layer, making this a primary focus of the strategy.
E . Tests that ensure users can still successfully log into the platform:
Login testing verifies authentication (e.g., SSO, LDAP), typically managed by Appian's security layer, not the business database. A database migration affects application data, not user authentication, unless the database stores user credentials (uncommon in Appian, which uses separate identity management). While a quick sanity check, it's narrow and subsumed by broader regression testing (B), making it redundant as a standalone item.
Conclusion: The two key items are B (regression test of all existing system functionality) and D (tests for each of the interfaces and process changes). Regression testing (B) ensures the database migration doesn't disrupt the entire application, while targeted testing (D) validates the specific interface and process updates. Together, they cover the full scope-existing stability and new functionality-aligning with Appian's recommended approach for complex migrations and modifications.
Reference:
Appian Documentation: "Testing Best Practices" (Regression and Component Testing).
Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Maintenance Module (Database Migration Strategies).
Appian Best Practices: "Managing Large-Scale Changes in Appian" (Test Planning).

NEW QUESTION # 23
For each requirement, match the most appropriate approach to creating or utilizing plug-ins Each approach will be used once.
Note: To change your responses, you may deselect your response by clicking the blank space at the top of the selection list.

Answer:

Explanation:
Explanation:
* Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes. # Smart Service plug-in
* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to see where a customer (stored within Appian) is located. # Web-content field
* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to select where a customer is located and store the selected address in Appian. # Component plug-in
* Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users. # Function plug-in Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:Appian plug-ins extend functionality by integrating custom Java code into the platform. The four approaches-Web-content field, Component plug-in, Smart Service plug-in, and Function plug-in-serve distinct purposes, and each requirement must be matched to the most appropriate one based on its use case. Appian's Plug-in Development Guide provides the framework for these decisions.
* Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes # Smart Service plug-in:
This requirement involves processing image data to extract barcode or QR code values, a task that typically occurs within a process model (e.g., as part of a workflow). A Smart Service plug-in is ideal because it allows custom Java logic to be executed as a node in a process, enabling the decoding of images and returning the extracted values to Appian. This approach integrates seamlessly with Appian's process automation, making it the best fit for data extraction tasks.
* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to see where a customer (stored within Appian) is located # Web-content field:
This requires embedding an external mapping interface (e.g., Google Maps) within an Appian interface.
A Web-content field is the appropriate choice, as it allows you to embed HTML, JavaScript, or iframe content from an external source directly into an Appian form or report. This approach is lightweight and does not require custom Java development, aligning with Appian's recommendation for displaying external content without interactive data storage.
* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to select where a customer is located and store the selected address in Appian # Component plug-in:This extends the previous requirement by adding interactivity (selecting an address) and datastorage. A Component plug-in is suitable because it enables the creation of a custom interface component (e.g., a map selector) that can be embedded in Appian interfaces. The plug-in can handle user interactions, communicate with the external mapping service, and update Appian data stores, offering a robust solution for interactive external integrations.

* Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users # Function plug-in:This involves generating an image file dynamically based on user input, a task that can be executed within an expression or interface. A Function plug-in is the best match, as it allows custom Java logic to be called as an expression function (e.g., pluginGenerateBarcode(value)), returning the generated image. This approach is efficient for single-purpose operations and integrates well with Appian's expression-based design.
Matching Rationale:
* Each approach is used once, as specified, covering the spectrum of plug-in types: Smart Service for process-level tasks, Web-content field for static external display, Component plug-in for interactive components, and Function plug-in for expression-level operations.
* Appian's plug-in framework discourages overlap (e.g., using a Smart Service for display or a Component for process tasks), ensuring the selected matches align with intended use cases.
References:Appian Documentation - Plug-in Development Guide, Appian Interface Design Best Practices, Appian Lead Developer Training - Custom Integrations.

NEW QUESTION # 24
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