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## Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proactively Design for Scalability and Performance: This section of the exam measures skills of Application Performance Engineers and covers building scalable applications and optimizing Appian components for performance. It includes planning load testing, diagnosing performance issues at the application level, and designing systems that can grow efficiently without sacrificing reliability.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Data Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Data Architects and covers analyzing, designing, and securing data models. Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of how to use Appian's data fabric and manage data migrations. The focus is on ensuring performance in high-volume data environments, solving data-related issues, and implementing advanced database features effectively.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project and Resource Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Agile Project Leads and covers interpreting business requirements, recommending design options, and leading Agile teams through technical delivery. It also involves governance, and process standardization.</li></ul>

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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### Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q37-Q42):

#### NEW QUESTION # 37

Your team has deployed an application to Production with an underperforming view. Unexpectedly, the production data is ten times that of what was tested, and you must remediate the issue. What is the best option you can take to mitigate their performance concerns?

- A. Bypass Appian's query rule by calling the database directly with a SQL statement.
- B. Introduce a data management policy to reduce the volume of data.
- **C. Create a materialized view or table.**
- D. Create a table which is loaded every hour with the latest data.

#### Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, addressing performance issues in production requires balancing Appian's best practices, scalability, and maintainability. The scenario involves an underperforming view due to a significant increase in data volume (ten times the tested amount), necessitating a solution that optimizes performance while adhering to Appian's architecture. Let's evaluate each option:

\* A. Bypass Appian's query rule by calling the database directly with a SQL statement: This approach involves circumventing Appian's query rules (e.g., a!queryEntity) and directly executing SQL against the database. While this might offer a quick performance boost by avoiding Appian's abstraction layer, it violates Appian's core design principles. Appian Lead Developer documentation explicitly discourages direct database calls, as they bypass security (e.g., Appian's row-level security), auditing, and portability features. This introduces maintenance risks, dependencies on database-specific logic, and potential production instability—making it an unsustainable and non-recommended solution.

\* B. Create a table which is loaded every hour with the latest data: This suggests implementing a staging table updated hourly (e.g., via an Appian process model or ETL process). While this could reduce query load by pre-aggregating data, it introduces latency (data is only fresh hourly), which may not meet real-time requirements typical in Appian applications (e.g., a customer-facing view). Additionally, maintaining an hourly refresh process adds complexity and overhead (e.g., scheduling, monitoring).

Appian's documentation favors more efficient, real-time solutions over periodic refreshes unless explicitly required, making this less optimal for immediate performance remediation.

\* C. Create a materialized view or table: This is the best choice. A materialized view (or table, depending on the database) pre-computes and stores query results, significantly improving retrieval performance for large datasets. In Appian, you can integrate a materialized view with a Data Store Entity, allowing a!

queryEntity to fetch data efficiently without changing application logic. Appian Lead Developer training emphasizes leveraging database optimizations like materialized views to handle large data volumes, as they reduce query execution time while keeping data consistent with the source (via periodic or triggered refreshes, depending on the database). This aligns with Appian's performance optimization guidelines and addresses the tenfold data increase effectively.

\* D. Introduce a data management policy to reduce the volume of data: This involves archiving or purging data to shrink the dataset (e.g., moving old records to an archive table). While a long-term data management policy is a good practice (and supported by Appian's Data Fabric principles), it doesn't immediately remediate the performance issue. Reducing data volume requires business approval, policy design, and implementation-delays resolution. Appian documentation recommends combining such strategies with technical fixes (like C), but as a standalone solution, it's insufficient for urgent production concerns.

Conclusion: Creating a materialized view or table (C) is the best option. It directly mitigates performance by optimizing data retrieval,

integrates seamlessly with Appian's Data Store, and scales for large datasets-all while adhering to Appian's recommended practices. The view can be refreshed as needed (e.g., via database triggers or schedules), balancing performance and data freshness. This approach requires collaboration with a DBA to implement but ensures a robust, Appian-supported solution.

References:

- \* Appian Documentation: "Performance Best Practices" (Optimizing Data Queries with Materialized Views).
- \* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Performance Module (Database Optimization Techniques).
- \* Appian Best Practices: "Working with Large Data Volumes in Appian" (Data Store and Query Performance).

## NEW QUESTION # 38

You need to connect Appian with LinkedIn to retrieve personal information about the users in your application. This information is considered private, and users should allow Appian to retrieve their information. Which authentication method would you recommend to fulfill this request?

- A. API Key Authentication
- B. Basic Authentication with user's login information
- **C. OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant**
- D. Basic Authentication with dedicated account's login information

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, integrating with an external system like LinkedIn to retrieve private user information requires a secure, user-consented authentication method that aligns with Appian's capabilities and industry standards. The requirement specifies that users must explicitly allow Appian to access their private data, which rules out methods that don't involve user authorization. Let's evaluate each option based on Appian's official documentation and LinkedIn's API requirements:

- \* A. API Key Authentication: API Key Authentication involves using a single static key to authenticate requests. While Appian supports this method via Connected Systems (e.g., HTTP Connected System with an API key header), it's unsuitable here. API keys authenticate the application, not the user, and don't provide a mechanism for individual user consent. LinkedIn's API for private data (e.g., profile information) requires per-user authorization, which API keys cannot facilitate. Appian documentation notes that API keys are best for server-to-server communication without user context, making this option inadequate for the requirement.
- \* B. Basic Authentication with user's login information: This method uses a username and password (typically base64-encoded) provided by each user. In Appian, Basic Authentication is supported in Connected Systems, but applying it here would require users to input their LinkedIn credentials directly into Appian. This is insecure, impractical, and against LinkedIn's security policies, as it exposes user passwords to the application. Appian Lead Developer best practices discourage storing or handling user credentials directly due to security risks (e.g., credential leakage) and maintenance challenges.

Moreover, LinkedIn's API doesn't support Basic Authentication for user-specific data access-it requires OAuth 2.0. This option is not viable.

- \* C. Basic Authentication with dedicated account's login information: This involves using a single, dedicated LinkedIn account's credentials to authenticate all requests. While technically feasible in Appian's Connected System (using Basic Authentication), it fails to meet the requirement that "users should allow Appian to retrieve their information." A dedicated account would access data on behalf of all users without their individual consent, violating privacy principles and LinkedIn's API terms.

LinkedIn restricts such approaches, requiring user-specific authorization for private data. Appian documentation advises against blanket credentials for user-specific integrations, making this option inappropriate.

- \* D. OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant: This is the recommended choice. OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Grant, supported natively in Appian's Connected System framework, is designed for scenarios where users must authorize an application (Appian) to access their private data on a third-party service (LinkedIn). In this flow, Appian redirects users to LinkedIn's authorization page, where they grant permission. Upon approval, LinkedIn returns an authorization code, which Appian exchanges for an access token via the Token Request Endpoint. This token enables Appian to retrieve private user data (e.g., profile details) securely and per user. Appian's documentation explicitly recommends this method for integrations requiring user consent, such as LinkedIn, and provides tools like `a!authorizationLink()` to handle authorization failures gracefully. LinkedIn's API (e.g., v2 API) mandates OAuth 2.0 for personal data access, aligning perfectly with this approach.

Conclusion: OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant (D) is the best method. It ensures user consent, complies with LinkedIn's API requirements, and leverages Appian's secure integration capabilities. In practice, you'd configure a Connected System in Appian with LinkedIn's Client ID, Client Secret, Authorization Endpoint (e.g., <https://www.linkedin.com/oauth/v2/authorization>), and Token Request Endpoint (e.g., <https://www.linkedin.com/oauth/v2/accessToken>), then use an Integration object to call LinkedIn APIs with the access token. This solution is scalable, secure, and aligns with Appian Lead Developer certification standards for third-party integrations.

References:

- \* Appian Documentation: "Setting Up a Connected System with the OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Grant" (Connected Systems).

\* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (OAuth 2.0 Configuration and Best Practices).

\* LinkedIn Developer Documentation: "OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Flow" (API Authentication Requirements).

### NEW QUESTION # 39

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.

Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes.

Select a match:

Web-content field

Component plug-in  
Smart Service plug-in  
Function plug-in

Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to select where a customer (stored within Appian) is located.

Select a match:

Web-content field

Component plug-in  
Smart Service plug-in  
Function plug-in

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.

Select a match:

Web-content field

Component plug-in  
Smart Service plug-in  
Function plug-in

Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users.

Select a match:

Web-content field

Component plug-in  
Smart Service plug-in  
Function plug-in

### Answer:

Explanation:

Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes.

Select a match:

Web-content field
Component plug-in
Smart Service plug-in
Function 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.

Select a match:

Web-content field
Component plug-in
Smart Service plug-in
Function plug-in

Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users to see where a customer is located and store the selected address in Appian.

Select a match:

Web-content field
Component plug-in
Smart Service plug-in
Function plug-in

Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users.

Select a match:

Web-content field
Component plug-in
Smart Service plug-in
Function plug-in

## NEW QUESTION # 40

Your Agile Scrum project requires you to manage two teams, with three developers per team. Both teams are to work on the same application in parallel. How should the work be divided between the teams, avoiding issues caused by cross-dependency?

- A. Group epics and stories by feature, and allocate work between each team by feature.
- B. Group epics and stories by technical difficulty, and allocate one team the more challenging stories.
- C. Have each team choose the stories they would like to work on based on personal preference.
- D. Allocate stories to each team based on the cumulative years of experience of the team members.

### Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: In an Agile Scrum environment with two teams working on the same application in parallel, effective work division is critical to avoid cross-dependency, which can lead to delays, conflicts, and inefficiencies.

Appian's Agile Development Best Practices emphasize team autonomy and minimizing dependencies to ensure smooth progress.

\* Option B (Group epics and stories by feature, and allocate work between each team by feature):

This is the recommended approach. By dividing the application's functionality into distinct features (e.g.,

Team 1 handles customer management, Team 2 handles campaign tracking), each team can work independently on a specific domain. This reduces cross-dependency because teams are not reliant on each other's deliverables within a sprint. Appian's guidance on multi-team projects suggests feature-based partitioning as a best practice, allowing teams to own their backlog items, design, and testing without frequent coordination. For example, Team 1 can develop and test customer-related interfaces while Team 2 works on campaign processes, merging their work during integration phases.

\* Option A (Group epics and stories by technical difficulty, and allocate one team the more challenging stories): This creates an imbalance, potentially overloading one team and underutilizing the other, which can lead to morale issues and uneven progress. It also doesn't address cross-dependency, as challenging stories might still require input from both teams (e.g., shared data models), increasing coordination needs.

\* Option C (Allocate stories to each team based on the cumulative years of experience of the team members): Experience-based allocation ignores the project's functional structure and can result in mismatched skills for specific features. It also risks dependencies if experienced team members are needed across teams, complicating parallel work.

\* Option D (Have each team choose the stories they would like to work on based on personal preference): This lacks structure and could lead to overlap, duplication, or neglect of critical features. It increases the risk of cross-dependency as teams might select interdependent stories without coordination, undermining parallel development.

Feature-based division aligns with Scrum principles of self-organization and minimizes dependencies, making it the most effective strategy for this scenario.

### NEW QUESTION # 41

You are the lead developer for an Appian project, in a backlog refinement meeting. You are presented with the following user story: "As a restaurant customer, I need to be able to place my food order online to avoid waiting in line for takeout." Which two functional acceptance criteria would you consider 'good'?

- A. The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day.
- B. **The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields.**
- C. The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed.
- D. **The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history.**

**Answer: B,D**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, defining "good" functional acceptance criteria for a user story requires ensuring they are specific, testable, and directly tied to the user's need (placing an online food order to avoid waiting in line). Good criteria focus on functionality, usability, and reliability, aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices. Let's evaluate each option:

A . The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history:

This is a "good" criterion. It directly validates the core functionality of the user story-placing an order online. Saving order data in the ORDER table (likely via a process model or Data Store Entity) ensures persistence, and audit history (e.g., using Appian's audit logs or database triggers) tracks changes, supporting traceability and compliance. This is specific, testable (e.g., verify data in the table and logs), and essential for the user's goal, aligning with Appian's data management and user experience guidelines.

B . The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed:

While useful, this is a "nice-to-have" enhancement, not a core requirement of the user story. The story focuses on placing an order online to avoid waiting, not on completion notifications. Email notifications add value but aren't essential for validating the primary functionality. Appian's user story best practices prioritize criteria tied to the main user need, making this secondary and not "good" in this context.

C . The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day:

This is a non-functional requirement (performance/scalability), not a functional acceptance criterion. It describes system capacity, not specific user behavior or functionality. While important for design, it's not directly testable for the user story's outcome (placing an order) and isn't tied to the user's experience. Appian's Agile methodologies separate functional and non-functional requirements, making this less relevant as a "good" criterion here.

D . The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields:

This is a "good" criterion. It ensures data integrity and usability by preventing incomplete orders, directly supporting the user's ability to place a valid online order. In Appian, this can be implemented using form validation (e.g., required attributes in SAIL interfaces or process model validations), making it specific, testable (e.g., verify form submission fails with missing fields), and critical for a reliable user experience. This aligns with Appian's UI design and user story validation standards.

Conclusion: The two "good" functional acceptance criteria are A (order saved with audit history) and D (required fields enforced). These directly validate the user story's functionality (placing a valid order online), are testable, and ensure a reliable, user-friendly experience-aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices for user stories.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Writing Effective User Stories and Acceptance Criteria" (Functional Requirements).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Agile Development Module (Acceptance Criteria Best Practices).

Appian Best Practices: "Designing User Interfaces in Appian" (Form Validation and Data Persistence).

### NEW QUESTION # 42

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