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Amazon SOA-C03 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, Logging, Analysis, Remediation, and Performance Optimization: This section of the exam measures skills of CloudOps Engineers and covers implementing AWS monitoring tools such as CloudWatch, CloudTrail, and Prometheus. It evaluates configuring alarms, dashboards, and notifications, analyzing performance metrics, troubleshooting issues using EventBridge and Systems Manager, and applying strategies to optimize compute, storage, and database performance.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and Compliance: This section measures skills of Security Engineers and includes implementing IAM policies, roles, MFA, and access controls. It focuses on troubleshooting access issues, enforcing compliance, securing data at rest and in transit using AWS KMS and ACM, protecting secrets, and applying findings from Security Hub, GuardDuty, and Inspector.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking and Content Delivery: This section measures skills of Cloud Network Engineers and focuses on VPC configuration, subnets, routing, network ACLs, and gateways. It includes optimizing network cost and performance, configuring DNS with Route 53, using CloudFront and Global Accelerator for content delivery, and troubleshooting network and hybrid connectivity using logs and monitoring tools.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability and Business Continuity: This section measures the skills of System Administrators and focuses on maintaining scalability, elasticity, and fault tolerance. It includes configuring load balancing, auto scaling, Multi-AZ deployments, implementing backup and restore strategies with AWS Backup and versioning, and ensuring disaster recovery to meet RTO and RPO goals.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment, Provisioning, and Automation: This section measures the skills of Cloud Engineers and covers provisioning and maintaining cloud resources using AWS CloudFormation, CDK, and third-party tools. It evaluates automation of deployments, remediation of resource issues, and managing infrastructure using Systems Manager and event-driven processes like Lambda or S3 notifications.

Amazon AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate Sample Questions (Q117-Q122):

NEW QUESTION # 117

A CloudOps engineer is using AWS Compute Optimizer to generate recommendations for a fleet of Amazon EC2 instances. Some of the instances use newly released instance types, while other instances use older instance types.

After the analysis is complete, the CloudOps engineer notices that some of the EC2 instances are missing from the Compute Optimizer dashboard.

What is the likely cause of this issue?

- A. The missing instances are running a Windows operating system.
- B. Compute Optimizer already considers the missing instances to be optimized.
- C. The missing instances have insufficient historical Amazon CloudWatch metric data for analysis.
- D. Compute Optimizer does not support the instance types of the missing instances.

Answer: D

Explanation:

According to the AWS Cloud Operations and Compute Optimizer documentation, Compute Optimizer provides right-sizing recommendations by analyzing Amazon CloudWatch metrics and instance configuration data. However, AWS explicitly notes that only supported instance types are included in Compute Optimizer analyses. If an EC2 instance type is newly released or not yet supported by Compute Optimizer, it will not appear in the Compute Optimizer dashboard until official support is added.

The documentation explains that "Compute Optimizer analyses only supported resource types and instance families. Instances using unsupported or newly launched instance types will not appear in the Compute Optimizer console." This ensures the service provides accurate recommendations based on sufficient performance history and benchmark data.

While CloudWatch metrics are required for analysis, the complete absence of instances from the dashboard - rather than "insufficient metric data" notifications - indicates unsupported instance types. Compute Optimizer would normally still display those with limited metrics but would flag them as "insufficient data," not remove them entirely.

Therefore, the most accurate cause of missing instances in this case is that Compute Optimizer does not support the newly released instance types, making option B correct.

Reference: AWS Cloud Operations & Compute Optimizer Guide - Section: Supported Resources and Limitations in Compute Optimizer

NEW QUESTION # 118

A company has a new security policy that requires all Amazon Elastic Block Store (Amazon EBS) volumes to be encrypted at rest. The company needs to use a custom key policy to manage access to the encryption keys.

The company must rotate the keys once each year.

Which solution will meet these requirements with the LEAST operational overhead?

- A. Use AWS owned AWS KMS keys across the company's AWS environment.
- B. Create AWS KMS symmetric customer managed keys by using imported key material. Rotate the keys on a yearly basis.
- **C. Create AWS KMS symmetric customer managed keys. Enable automatic key rotation.**
- D. Create AWS KMS asymmetric customer managed keys. Enable automatic key rotation.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract of AWS CloudOps Documents:

The correct answer is A because AWS KMS symmetric customer managed keys with automatic key rotation provide encryption, access control, and compliance with minimal operational effort. AWS CloudOps documentation states that Amazon EBS encryption supports AWS KMS symmetric keys only, and customer managed keys allow administrators to define custom key policies to control access.

Automatic key rotation is supported for symmetric customer managed keys and rotates the backing key material once every year, fully satisfying the company's rotation requirement without manual intervention.

This approach minimizes operational overhead while maintaining strong security controls and auditability.

Option B is incorrect because AWS owned keys do not allow custom key policies and therefore cannot meet the access control requirement. Option C is incorrect because asymmetric KMS keys are not supported for EBS encryption. Option D is incorrect because imported key material requires manual rotation and re-import, increasing operational complexity and risk.

AWS CloudOps security best practices strongly recommend customer managed symmetric keys with automatic rotation when organizations need fine-grained access control, regulatory compliance, and low maintenance overhead.

References:

AWS KMS Developer Guide - Customer Managed Keys and Rotation

Amazon EBS User Guide - Encryption at Rest

AWS SysOps Administrator Study Guide - Security and Key Management

NEW QUESTION # 119

A company runs an application on Amazon EC2 that connects to an Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL database. A developer accidentally drops a table from the database, causing application errors. Two hours later, a CloudOps engineer needs to recover the data and make the application functional again.

Which solution will meet this requirement?

- **A. Perform a point-in-time recovery and create a new database to restore the database to a specified point in time, 2 hours in the past. Reconfigure the application to use a new database endpoint.**
- B. Perform a point-in-time recovery on the existing database to restore the database to a specified point in time, 2 hours in the past.
- C. Use the Aurora Backtrack feature to rewind the database to a specified time, 2 hours in the past.
- D. Create a new Aurora cluster. Choose the Restore data from S3 bucket option. Choose log files up to the failure time 2 hours in the past.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In the AWS Cloud Operations and Aurora documentation, when data loss occurs due to human error such as dropped tables, Point-in-Time Recovery (PITR) is the recommended method for restoration. PITR creates a new Aurora cluster restored to a specific time before the failure.

The restored cluster has a new endpoint that must be reconfigured in the application to resume normal operations. AWS does not support performing PITR directly on an existing production database because that would overwrite current data.

Aurora Backtrack (Option A) applies only to Aurora MySQL, not PostgreSQL. Option B is incorrect because PITR cannot be executed in place. Option D refers to an import process from S3, which is unrelated to time-based recovery.

Hence, Option C is correct and follows the AWS CloudOps standard recovery pattern for PostgreSQL workloads.

NEW QUESTION # 120

A company runs a business application on more than 300 Linux-based instances. Each instance has the AWS Systems Manager Agent (SSM Agent) installed. The company expects the number of instances to grow in the future. All business application instances have the same user-defined tag.

A CloudOps engineer wants to run a command on all the business application instances to download and install a package from a private repository. To avoid overwhelming the repository, the CloudOps engineer wants to ensure that no more than 30 downloads occur at one time.

Which solution will meet this requirement in the MOST operationally efficient way?

- **A. Use a Systems Manager Run Command document to download and install the package. Use rate control to set concurrency to 30. Specify the target by using the user-defined tag as part of the Run Command document.**
- B. Use a secondary tag to create 10 batches of 30 instances each. Use a Systems Manager Run Command document to download and install the package. Specify the target as part of the Run Command document by using the secondary tag. Run each batch one time.
- C. Use a parallel workflow state in AWS Step Functions to automatically run a Systems Manager Run Command document that reads a list of instance IDs that have the user-defined tag. Set the number of parallel states to 30. Run the Step Functions workflow 10 times.
- D. Use an AWS Lambda function to automatically run a Systems Manager Run Command document that reads a list of instance IDs that have the user-defined tag. Set reserved concurrency for the Lambda function to 30.

Answer: A

Explanation:

AWS Systems Manager Run Command supports rate control, where you can set max concurrency (e.g., 30) and target instances by tag. This lets you run the command on all tagged instances while automatically limiting concurrent executions to 30, avoiding repository overload and scaling cleanly as the number of instances grows, without extra scripting or manual batching.

NEW QUESTION # 121

A company runs an application on Amazon EC2 instances behind an Elastic Load Balancer (ELB) in an Auto Scaling group. The application performs well except during a 2-hour period of daily peak traffic, when performance slows.

A CloudOps engineer must resolve this issue with minimal operational effort.

What should the engineer do?

- A. Adjust the minimum capacity of the Auto Scaling group to the size required to meet the increased demand during the 2-hour period.
- **B. Create a scheduled scaling action to scale out the number of EC2 instances shortly before the increase in user traffic occurs.**
- C. Adjust the launch template that is associated with the Auto Scaling group to be more sensitive to increases in user traffic.
- D. Manually add a few more EC2 instances to the Auto Scaling group to support the increase in user traffic. Enable instance scale-in protection on the Auto Scaling group.

Answer: B

Explanation:

According to the AWS Cloud Operations and Compute documentation, when workloads exhibit predictable traffic patterns, the best practice is to use scheduled scaling for Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling groups.

With scheduled scaling, administrators can predefine the desired capacity of an Auto Scaling group to increase before anticipated demand (in this case, before the 2-hour peak) and scale back down afterward. This ensures that sufficient compute capacity is provisioned proactively, avoiding performance degradation while maintaining cost efficiency.

AWS notes: "Scheduled actions enable scaling your Auto Scaling group at predictable times, allowing you to pre-warm instances before demand spikes." Manual scaling (Option D) adds operational overhead. Adjusting launch templates (Option B) doesn't affect scaling behavior, and permanently increasing minimum capacity (Option A) wastes resources outside of peak hours.

Thus, Option C provides an automated, cost-effective, and operationally efficient CloudOps solution.

NEW QUESTION # 122

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