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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

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

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Appian ACD301 Questions: Pass Exam With Good Scores [2026]

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q31-Q36):

NEW QUESTION # 31

You are in a backlog refinement meeting with the development team and the product owner. You review a story for an integration involving a third-party system. A payload will be sent from the Appian system through the integration to the third-party system. The story is 21 points on a Fibonacci scale and requires development from your Appian team as well as technical resources from the third-party system. This item is crucial to your project's success. What are the two recommended steps to ensure this story can be developed effectively?

- A. Maintain a communication schedule with the third-party resources.
- B. Acquire testing steps from QA resources.
- C. Break down the item into smaller stories.
- D. Identify subject matter experts (SMEs) to perform user acceptance testing (UAT).

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: This question involves a complex integration story rated at 21 points on the Fibonacci scale, indicating significant complexity and effort. Appian Lead Developer best practices emphasize effective collaboration, risk mitigation, and manageable development scopes for such scenarios. The two most critical steps are:

* Option C (Maintain a communication schedule with the third-party resources): Integrations with third-party systems require close coordination, as Appian developers depend on external teams for endpoint specifications, payload formats, authentication details, and testing support. Establishing a regular communication schedule ensures alignment on requirements, timelines, and issue resolution. Appian's Integration Best Practices documentation highlights the importance of proactive communication with external stakeholders to prevent delays and misunderstandings, especially for critical project components.

* Option D (Break down the item into smaller stories): A 21-point story is considered large by Agile standards (Fibonacci scale typically flags anything above 13 as complex). Appian's Agile Development Guide recommends decomposing large stories into smaller, independently deliverable pieces to reduce risk, improve testability, and enable iterative progress. For example, the integration could be split into tasks like designing the payload structure, building the integration object, and testing the connection—each manageable within a sprint. This approach aligns with the principle of delivering value incrementally while maintaining quality.

* Option A (Acquire testing steps from QA resources): While QA involvement is valuable, this step is more relevant during the testing phase rather than backlog refinement or development preparation. It's not a primary step for ensuring effective development of the story.

* Option B (Identify SMEs for UAT): User acceptance testing occurs after development, during the validation phase. Identifying SMEs is important but not a key step in ensuring the story is developed effectively during the refinement and coding stages. By choosing C and D, you address both the external dependency (third-party coordination) and internal complexity (story size), ensuring a smoother development process for this critical integration.

References: Appian Lead Developer Training - Integration Best Practices, Appian Agile Development Guide
- Story Refinement and Decomposition.

NEW QUESTION # 32

You are the project lead for an Appian project with a supportive product owner and complex business requirements involving a customer management system. Each week, you notice the product owner becoming more irritated and not devoting as much time to the project, resulting in tickets becoming delayed due to a lack of involvement. Which two types of meetings should you schedule to address this issue?

- A. A risk management meeting with your program manager to escalate the delayed tickets.
- B. A meeting with the sponsor to discuss the product owner's performance and request a replacement.
- C. An additional daily stand-up meeting to ensure you have more of the product owner's time.
- D. A sprint retrospective with the product owner and development team to discuss team performance.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, managing stakeholder engagement and ensuring smooth project progress are critical responsibilities.

The scenario describes a product owner whose decreasing involvement is causing delays, which requires a proactive and collaborative approach rather than an immediate escalation to replacement. Let's analyze each option:

A . An additional daily stand-up meeting: While daily stand-ups are a core Agile practice to align the team, adding another one specifically to secure the product owner's time is inefficient. Appian's Agile methodology (aligned with Scrum) emphasizes that stand-ups are for the development team to coordinate, not to force stakeholder availability. The product owner's irritation might increase with additional meetings, making this less effective.

B . A risk management meeting with your program manager: This is a correct choice. Appian Lead Developer documentation highlights the importance of risk management in complex projects (e.g., customer management systems). Delays due to lack of product owner involvement constitute a project risk. Escalating this to the program manager ensures visibility and allows for strategic mitigation, such as resource reallocation or additional support, without directly confronting the product owner in a way that could damage the relationship. This aligns with Appian's project governance best practices.

C . A sprint retrospective with the product owner and development team: This is also a correct choice. The sprint retrospective, as per Appian's Agile guidelines, is a key ceremony to reflect on what's working and what isn't. Including the product owner fosters collaboration and provides a safe space to address their reduced involvement and its impact on ticket delays. It encourages team accountability and aligns with Appian's focus on continuous improvement in Agile development.

D . A meeting with the sponsor to discuss the product owner's performance and request a replacement: This is premature and not recommended as a first step. Appian's Lead Developer training emphasizes maintaining strong stakeholder relationships and resolving issues collaboratively before escalating to drastic measures like replacement. This option risks alienating the product owner and disrupting the project further, which contradicts Appian's stakeholder management principles.

Conclusion: The best approach combines B (risk management meeting) to address the immediate risk of delays with a higher-level escalation and C (sprint retrospective) to collaboratively resolve the product owner's engagement issues. These align with Appian's Agile and leadership strategies for Lead Developers.

Reference:

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Agile Project Management Module (Risk Management and Stakeholder Engagement).

Appian Documentation: "Best Practices for Agile Development in Appian" (Sprint Retrospectives and Team Collaboration).

NEW QUESTION # 33

You have an active development team (Team A) building enhancements for an application (App X) and are currently using the TEST environment for User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

A separate operations team (Team B) discovers a critical error in the Production instance of App X that they must remediate.

However, Team B does not have a hotfix stream for which to accomplish this. The available environments are DEV, TEST, and PROD.

Which risk mitigation effort should both teams employ to ensure Team A's capital project is only minimally interrupted, and Team B's critical fix can be completed and deployed quickly to end users?

- A. Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes.
- B. Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment.
- C. Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly.
- D. Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, managing concurrent development and operations (hotfix) activities across limited environments (DEV, TEST, PROD) requires minimizing disruption to Team A's enhancements while ensuring Team B's critical fix reaches PROD quickly. The scenario highlights no hotfix stream, active UAT in TEST, and a critical PROD issue, necessitating a strategic approach. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes: This is the best approach. It ensures collaboration between teams to prevent conflicts, leveraging Appian's version control (e.g.,

object versioning in Appian Designer). Team B identifies the critical component, checks for overlap with Team A's work, and uses versioning to isolate changes. If no overlap exists, the hotfix deploys directly; if overlap occurs, versioning preserves Team A's work, allowing the hotfix to deploy and then reverting the component for Team A's continuation. This minimizes interruption to Team A's UAT, enables rapid PROD deployment, and aligns with Appian's change management best practices.

B . Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment:

This delays Team B's critical fix, as regular deployment (DEV → TEST → PROD) could take weeks, violating the need for "quick deployment to end users." It also risks introducing Team A's untested enhancements into the hotfix, potentially destabilizing PROD. Appian's documentation discourages mixing development and hotfix workflows, favoring isolated changes for urgent fixes, making this inefficient and risky.

C . Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release:

Using TEST for hotfix development disrupts Team A's UAT, as TEST is already in use for their enhancements. Direct deployment from TEST to PROD skips DEV validation, increasing risk, and doesn't address overlap with Team A's work. Appian's deployment guidelines emphasize separate streams (e.g., hotfix streams) to avoid such conflicts, making this disruptive and unsafe.

D . Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly:

Making changes directly in PROD is highly discouraged in Appian due to lack of testing, version control, and rollback capabilities, risking further instability. This violates Appian's Production governance and security policies, and delays Team B's updates until Team A finishes, contradicting the need for a "quick deployment." Appian's best practices mandate using lower environments for changes, ruling this out.

Conclusion: Team B communicating with Team A, versioning components if needed, and deploying the hotfix (A) is the risk mitigation effort. It ensures minimal interruption to Team A's work, rapid PROD deployment for Team B's fix, and leverages Appian's versioning for safe, controlled changes-aligning with Lead Developer standards for multi-team coordination.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Managing Production Hotfixes" (Versioning and Change Management).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Management Module (Hotfix Strategies).

Appian Best Practices: "Concurrent Development and Operations" (Minimizing Risk in Limited Environments).

NEW QUESTION # 34

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

Answer: B,E

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 # 35

You are the project lead for an Appian project with a supportive product owner and complex business requirements involving a customer management system. Each week, you notice the product owner becoming more irritated and not devoting as much time to the project, resulting in tickets becoming delayed due to a lack of involvement. Which two types of meetings should you schedule to address this issue?

- A. A risk management meeting with your program manager to escalate the delayed tickets.
- B. A meeting with the sponsor to discuss the product owner's performance and request a replacement.
- C. An additional daily stand-up meeting to ensure you have more of the product owner's time.
- D. A sprint retrospective with the product owner and development team to discuss team performance.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, managing stakeholder engagement and ensuring smooth project progress are critical responsibilities. The scenario describes a product owner whose decreasing involvement is causing delays, which requires a proactive and collaborative approach rather than an immediate escalation to replacement. Let's analyze each option:

* A. An additional daily stand-up meeting: While daily stand-ups are a core Agile practice to align the team, adding another one specifically to secure the product owner's time is inefficient. Appian's Agile methodology (aligned with Scrum) emphasizes that stand-ups are for the development team to coordinate, not to force stakeholder availability. The product owner's irritation might increase with additional meetings, making this less effective.

* B. A risk management meeting with your program manager: This is a correct choice. Appian Lead Developer documentation highlights the importance of risk management in complex projects (e.g., customer management systems). Delays due to lack of product owner involvement constitute a project risk. Escalating this to the program manager ensures visibility and allows for strategic mitigation, such as resource reallocation or additional support, without directly confronting the product owner in a way that could damage the relationship. This aligns with Appian's project governance best practices.

* C. A sprint retrospective with the product owner and development team: This is also a correct choice.

The sprint retrospective, as per Appian's Agile guidelines, is a key ceremony to reflect on what's working and what isn't. Including the product owner fosters collaboration and provides a safe space to address their reduced involvement and its impact on ticket delays. It encourages team accountability and aligns with Appian's focus on continuous improvement in Agile development.

* D. A meeting with the sponsor to discuss the product owner's performance and request a replacement:

This is premature and not recommended as a first step. Appian's Lead Developer training emphasizes maintaining strong stakeholder

