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The screenshot shows a practice exam interface for AWS Certified Security Specialty. The title is 'AWS Certified Security Specialty Practice Exams 2021' with a rating of 4.9 stars. The mode is 'Final Test Mode'. The question asks about encrypting communications between on-premises servers and Amazon EC2 instances. The correct answer is 'C. Use a dynamic reference in the CloudFormation template to reference the database credentials in Secrets Manager.'

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Amazon AWS Certified Security - Specialty Sample Questions (Q87-Q92):

NEW QUESTION # 87

A company needs to follow security best practices to deploy resources from an AWS CloudFormation template. The CloudFormation template must be able to configure sensitive database credentials. The company already uses AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) and AWS Secrets Manager. Which solution will meet the requirements?

- A. Use a parameter in the CloudFormation template to reference the database credentials. Encrypt the CloudFormation template by using AWS KMS.
- B. Use a SecureString parameter in the CloudFormation template to reference an encrypted value in AWS KMS.
- C. Use a dynamic reference in the CloudFormation template to reference the database credentials in Secrets Manager.
- D. Use a SecureString parameter in the CloudFormation template to reference the database credentials in Secrets Manager.

Answer: C

Explanation:

AWS CloudFormation dynamic references provide a secure mechanism for retrieving sensitive values from AWS Secrets Manager at stack creation or update time. According to the AWS Certified Security - Specialty documentation, dynamic references ensure

that sensitive data such as database credentials are never stored in plaintext in CloudFormation templates, parameters, stack metadata, or logs.

When a dynamic reference to Secrets Manager is used, CloudFormation retrieves the secret value at runtime and passes it securely to the resource that requires it. The secret value is not exposed to users who view the template, stack, or change sets.

NEW QUESTION # 88

A company runs workloads in an AWS account. A security engineer observes some unusual findings in Amazon GuardDuty. The security engineer wants to investigate a specific IAM role and generate an investigation report. The report must contain details about anomalous behavior and any indicators of compromise.

Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Use Amazon Detective to perform an investigation on the IAM role.
- B. Use AWS Audit Manager to create an assessment. Specify the IAM role. Run an assessment report.
- C. Use Amazon Inspector to run an on-demand scan of the IAM role.
- D. Use Amazon Inspector to create an assessment. Specify the IAM role. Run an assessment report.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Amazon Detective is a purpose-built AWS service designed to analyze, investigate, and visualize security data to help identify the root cause of suspicious or malicious activity. According to the AWS Certified Security - Specialty Official Study Guide, Amazon Detective directly integrates with Amazon GuardDuty findings, AWS CloudTrail logs, Amazon VPC Flow Logs, and Amazon EKS audit logs to automatically create behavior graphs and timelines.

When GuardDuty generates findings related to anomalous activity, Amazon Detective enables security engineers to pivot directly to an investigation focused on a specific IAM role, user, or resource. Detective automatically correlates historical activity, identifies deviations from baseline behavior, and highlights indicators of compromise, such as unusual API calls, credential misuse, or suspicious network activity.

AWS Audit Manager (Option B) is designed for compliance and audit evidence collection, not threat investigation. Amazon Inspector (Options C and D) is focused on vulnerability scanning of compute resources and does not analyze IAM behavior or GuardDuty findings.

AWS documentation explicitly states that Amazon Detective is the recommended service for deep-dive investigations following GuardDuty alerts, providing enriched context and investigation reports for security incidents.

* AWS Certified Security - Specialty Official Study Guide

* Amazon Detective User Guide

* Amazon GuardDuty Integration Documentation

NEW QUESTION # 89

A security administrator is setting up a new AWS account. The security administrator wants to secure the data that a company stores in an Amazon S3 bucket. The security administrator also wants to reduce the chance of unintended data exposure and the potential for misconfiguration of objects that are in the S3 bucket. Which solution will meet these requirements with the LEAST operational overhead?

- A. Configure the S3 Block Public Access feature for the AWS account.
- B. Deactivate ACLs for objects that are in the bucket.
- C. Use AWS PrivateLink for Amazon S3 to access the bucket.
- D. Configure the S3 Block Public Access feature for all objects that are in the bucket.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Amazon S3 Block Public Access configured at the AWS account level is the recommended and most effective approach to protect data stored in Amazon S3 while minimizing operational overhead. AWS Security Specialty documentation explains that S3 Block Public Access provides centralized, preventative controls designed to block public access to S3 buckets and objects regardless of individual bucket policies or object-level ACL configurations. When enabled at the account level, these controls automatically apply to all existing and newly created buckets, significantly reducing the risk of accidental exposure caused by misconfigured permissions. The AWS Certified Security - Specialty Study Guide emphasizes that public access misconfiguration is a leading cause of data leaks in cloud environments. Account-level S3 Block Public Access acts as a guardrail by overriding any attempt to grant public permissions through bucket policies or ACLs. This eliminates the need to manage security settings on a per-bucket or per-object basis, thereby reducing administrative complexity and human error.

Configuring Block Public Access at the object level, as in option B, requires continuous monitoring and manual configuration, which increases operational overhead. Disabling ACLs alone, as described in option C, does not fully prevent public access because bucket policies can still allow public permissions. Using AWS PrivateLink, as in option D, controls network access but does not protect against public exposure through misconfigured S3 policies.

AWS security best practices explicitly recommend enabling S3 Block Public Access at the account level as the primary mechanism for preventing unintended public data exposure with minimal management effort.

NEW QUESTION # 90

A healthcare company stores more than 1 million patient records in an Amazon S3 bucket. The patient records include personally identifiable information (PII). The S3 bucket contains hundreds of terabytes of data.

A security engineer receives an alert that was triggered by an Amazon GuardDuty Exfiltration:S3/AnomalousBehavior finding. The security engineer confirms that an attacker is using temporary credentials that were obtained from a compromised Amazon EC2 instance that has s3:GetObject permissions for the S3 bucket. The attacker has begun downloading the contents of the bucket. The security engineer contacts a development team. The development team will require 4 hours to implement and deploy a fix.

The security engineer must take immediate action to prevent the attacker from downloading more data from the S3 bucket. Which solution will meet this requirement?

- A. Quarantine the EC2 instance by replacing the existing security group with a new security group that has no rules applied.
- B. Apply an S3 bucket policy temporarily. Configure the policy to deny read access for all principals to block downloads while the development team address the vulnerability.
- C. Enable Amazon Macie on the S3 bucket. Configure the managed data identifiers for personally identifiable information (PII). Enable S3 Object Lock on objects that Macie flags.
- D. **Revoke the temporary session that is associated with the instance profile that is attached to the EC2 instance.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Amazon GuardDuty Exfiltration:S3/AnomalousBehavior findings indicate that S3 data access patterns are consistent with data exfiltration. In this scenario, the attacker is using temporary credentials obtained from an EC2 instance profile, which are issued by AWS Security Token Service (STS).

According to AWS Certified Security - Specialty documentation, the fastest and most targeted remediation is to revoke the temporary session credentials associated with the compromised instance profile. This can be accomplished by removing or modifying the IAM role permissions, detaching the instance profile, or stopping the instance, which immediately invalidates the temporary credentials and prevents further S3 access.

NEW QUESTION # 91

A company has an encrypted Amazon Aurora DB cluster in the us-east-1 Region. The DB cluster is encrypted with an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer managed key. To meet compliance requirements, the company needs to copy a DB snapshot to the us-west-1 Region. However, when the company tries to copy the snapshot to us-west-1, the company cannot access the key that was used to encrypt the original database. What should the company do to set up the snapshot in us-west-1 with proper encryption?

- A. Use AWS Secrets Manager to store the customer managed key in us-west-1 as a secret. Use this secret to encrypt the snapshot in us-west-1.
- B. Create an IAM policy that allows access to the customer managed key in us-east-1. Specify arn:aws:rds:us-west-1:* as the principal.
- C. Create an IAM policy that allows access to the customer managed key in us-east-1. Specify arn:aws:kms:us-west-1:* as the principal.
- D. **Create a new customer managed key in us-west-1. Use this new key to encrypt the snapshot in us-west-1.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

AWS Key Management Service (KMS) customer managed keys are regional resources.

According to the AWS Certified Security - Specialty Official Study Guide and KMS documentation, a KMS key created in one AWS Region cannot be used directly in another Region. When copying an encrypted Amazon Aurora DB snapshot across Regions, the destination Region must have access to a KMS key that exists in that Region.

Because the original KMS key resides in us-east-1, it cannot be accessed or referenced in us-west-1. The correct and supported approach is to create a new customer managed KMS key in us-west-1 and specify that key when performing the cross-Region

snapshot copy. Amazon RDS automatically decrypts the snapshot using the source Region key and re-encrypts it using the destination Region key during the copy process.

NEW QUESTION # 92

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