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## Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Platform APIs and Provisioning Infrastructure: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on the use of Kubernetes reconciliation loops, APIs for self-service platforms, and infrastructure provisioning with Kubernetes. It also assesses knowledge of the Kubernetes operator pattern for integration and platform scalability.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Measuring your Platform: This part of the exam assesses Procurement Specialists on how to measure platform efficiency and team productivity. It includes knowledge of applying DORA metrics for platform initiatives and monitoring outcomes to align with organizational goals.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IDPs and Developer Experience: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on improving developer experience. It covers simplified access to platform capabilities, API-driven service catalogs, developer portals for platform adoption, and the role of AI</li><li>ML in platform automation.</li></ul>

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## Best exercises of Linux Foundation certification CNPA exam and answers

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## Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q51-Q56):

### NEW QUESTION # 51

What is the primary purpose of Kubernetes runtime security?

- A. Scans container images before deployment.
- **B. Protects workloads against threats during execution.**
- C. Encrypts the sensitive data stored in etcd.
- D. Manages the access control to the Kubernetes API.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The main purpose of Kubernetes runtime security is to protect workloads during execution. Option B is correct because runtime security focuses on monitoring active Pods, containers, and processes to detect and prevent malicious activity such as privilege escalation, anomalous network connections, or unauthorized file access.

Option A (etcd encryption) addresses data at rest, not runtime. Option C (image scanning) occurs pre- deployment, not during execution. Option D (API access control) is enforced through RBAC and IAM, not runtime security.

Runtime security solutions (e.g., Falco, Cilium, or Kyverno) continuously observe system calls, network traffic, and workload behaviors to enforce policies and detect threats in real time. This ensures compliance, strengthens defenses in zero-trust environments, and provides critical protection for cloud native workloads in production.

References:- CNCF Security TAG Guidance- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

**NEW QUESTION # 52**

In the context of Istio, what is the purpose of PeerAuthentication?

- **A. Securing service-to-service communication**
- B. Defining how traffic is routed between services
- C. Monitoring and logging service communication
- D. Managing network policies for ingress traffic

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In Istio, PeerAuthentication is used to configure how workloads authenticate traffic coming from other services in the mesh. Option C is correct because PeerAuthentication primarily secures service-to-service communication using mutual TLS (mTLS), ensuring encryption in transit and verifying the identity of both communicating parties.

Option A (network policies for ingress traffic) relates to Kubernetes NetworkPolicy, not Istio PeerAuthentication. Option B (traffic routing) is handled by Istio's VirtualService and DestinationRule resources. Option D (monitoring/logging) is part of Istio's telemetry features, not PeerAuthentication.

PeerAuthentication policies define whether mTLS is disabled, permissive, or strict, giving platform teams fine-grained control over how services communicate securely. This aligns with zero-trust security models and ensures compliance with organizational policies without requiring application code changes.

References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- Istio Security Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

**NEW QUESTION # 53**

Which tool is commonly used to automate environment provisioning?

- A. Prometheus
- **B. OpenTofu**
- C. Kubernetes
- D. Docker

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

OpenTofu (the open-source fork of Terraform) is one of the most widely used tools for automating environment provisioning. Option D is correct because OpenTofu allows teams to define infrastructure as code, supporting multiple cloud providers and services. It enables declarative, reusable, and version- controlled provisioning workflows, ensuring consistency across environments.

Option A (Kubernetes) orchestrates containers and workloads but does not provision infrastructure outside its cluster scope. Option B (Prometheus) is an observability tool, not an IaC tool. Option C (Docker) manages containers but does not provision full environments or infrastructure.

By using tools like OpenTofu/Terraform, platform engineers ensure scalable, repeatable environment provisioning integrated into CI/CD or GitOps workflows. This aligns with platform engineering's goals of reducing toil and enabling self-service with compliance.

#### NEW QUESTION # 54

In the context of OpenTelemetry, which of the following is considered one of the supported signals of observability?

- A. User Interface
- B. Databases
- C. Networking
- D. Traces

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

OpenTelemetry is a CNCF project providing standardized APIs and SDKs for collecting observability data.

Among its supported telemetry signals are metrics, logs, and traces. Option C is correct because traces are a core OpenTelemetry signal type that captures the journey of requests across distributed systems, making them vital for detecting latency, dependencies, and bottlenecks.

Option A (user interface), Option B (networking), and Option D (databases) represent system components or domains, not observability signals. While OpenTelemetry can instrument applications in these areas, it expresses data through its standard telemetry signals.

By supporting consistent collection of logs, metrics, and traces, OpenTelemetry enables observability pipelines to integrate seamlessly with different backends while avoiding vendor lock-in. Traces specifically provide visibility into distributed microservices, which is critical in cloud native environments.

References:- CNCF Observability Whitepaper- OpenTelemetry CNCF Project Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

#### NEW QUESTION # 55

What is the main benefit of using minimal base container images and SBOM attestation practices in CI/CD pipelines?

- A. Checking for duplicate libraries and that latest versions are being used.
- B. Reducing the size of container images and therefore storage costs.
- C. Reducing the number of security vulnerabilities within container images.
- D. Giving developers the maximum flexibility in what to include.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The use of minimal base container images and Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) attestation is a best practice for strengthening software supply chain security. Option B is correct because smaller base images contain fewer components, which inherently reduces the attack surface and the number of potential vulnerabilities. SBOMs, meanwhile, provide a detailed inventory of included libraries and dependencies, enabling vulnerability scanning, license compliance, and traceability.

Option A is only a partial benefit, not the primary goal. Option C (maximum flexibility) contradicts the principle of minimal images, which deliberately restrict included software. Option D (reducing storage costs) may be a side effect but is not the core benefit in a security-focused context.

By combining minimal images with SBOM practices, platform teams ensure stronger compliance with supply chain security frameworks, enable early detection of vulnerabilities in CI/CD pipelines, and support fast remediation. This is emphasized in CNCF security and platform engineering guidance as a way to align with zero-trust principles.

References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

#### NEW QUESTION # 56

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