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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continuous Delivery & Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CICD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Platform Observability, Security, and Conformance: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on key aspects of observability and security. It includes working with traces, metrics, logs, and events while ensuring secure service communication. Policy engines, Kubernetes security essentials, and protection in CICD pipelines are also assessed here.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • ML in platform automation.
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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

NEW QUESTION # 16

Which platform component enables one-click provisioning of sandbox environments, including both infrastructure and application code?

- A. Service bus
- B. Observability pipeline
- **C. CI/CD pipeline**
- D. Service mesh

Answer: C

Explanation:

A CI/CD pipeline is the platform component that enables automated provisioning of sandbox environments with both infrastructure and application code. Option A is correct because modern pipelines integrate Infrastructure as Code (IaC) with application deployment, enabling "one-click" or self-service provisioning of complete environments. This capability is central to platform engineering because it empowers developers to spin up temporary or permanent sandbox environments quickly for testing, experimentation, or demos.

Option B (service mesh) focuses on secure, observable service-to-service communication but does not provision environments. Option C (service bus) is used for asynchronous communication between services, not environment provisioning. Option D (observability pipeline) deals with collecting telemetry data, not provisioning.

By leveraging CI/CD pipelines integrated with GitOps and IaC tools (such as Terraform, Crossplane, or Kubernetes manifests), platform teams ensure consistency, compliance, and automation. Developers benefit from reduced friction, faster feedback cycles, and a better overall developer experience.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF GitOps Principles- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 17

During a CI/CD pipeline review, the team discusses methods to prevent insecure code from being introduced into production. Which practice is most effective for this purpose?

- A. Conducting A/B testing to validate secure code changes.
- B. Performing load balancing controls to manage traffic during deployments.
- **C. Implementing security gates at key stages of the pipeline.**
- D. Using caching strategies to control secure content delivery.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The most effective way to prevent insecure code from reaching production is to integrate security gates directly into the CI/CD

pipeline. Option A is correct because security gates involve automated scanning of dependencies, SBOM generation, code analysis, and policy enforcement during build and test phases. This ensures that vulnerabilities or policy violations are caught early in the development lifecycle.

Option B (load balancing) improves availability but is unrelated to code security. Option C (A/B testing) validates functionality, not security. Option D (caching strategies) affects performance, not code safety.

By embedding automated checks into CI/CD pipelines, teams adopt a shift-left security approach, ensuring compliance and minimizing risks of supply chain attacks. This practice directly supports platform engineering goals of combining security with speed and reducing developer friction through automation.

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

NEW QUESTION # 18

What is a key consideration during the setup of a Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment (CI/CD) pipeline to ensure efficient and reliable software delivery?

- A. Skip the packaging step to save time and reduce complexity.
- B. **Implement automated testing at multiple points in the pipeline.**
- C. Manually approve each build before deployment to maintain control over quality.
- D. Using a single development environment for all stages of the pipeline.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Automated testing throughout the pipeline is a key enabler of efficient and reliable delivery. Option B is correct because incorporating unit tests, integration tests, and security scans at different pipeline stages ensures that errors are caught early, reducing the risk of faulty code reaching production. This also accelerates delivery by providing fast, consistent feedback to developers.

Option A (single environment) undermines isolation and does not reflect real-world deployment conditions.

Option C (skipping packaging) prevents reproducibility and traceability of builds. Option D (manual approvals) adds delays and reintroduces human bottlenecks, which goes against DevOps and GitOps automation principles.

Automated testing, combined with immutable artifacts and GitOps-driven deployments, aligns with platform engineering's focus on automation, reliability, and developer experience. It reduces cognitive load for teams and enforces quality consistently.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Continuous Delivery Foundation Best Practices- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 19

As a platform engineer, how do you automate application deployments across multiple Kubernetes clusters using GitOps, Helm, and Crossplane, ensuring a consistent application state?

- A. Use Helm and Crossplane, with manual GUI-based configuration updates.
- B. **Employ a GitOps controller to synchronize Git-stored Helm and Crossplane configurations.**
- C. Integrate Helm and Crossplane into a GitOps-enabled CI/CD pipeline.
- D. Leverage Git for configuration storage, with manual application of Helm and Crossplane.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The most effective way to achieve consistent, automated deployments across multiple Kubernetes clusters is to combine GitOps controllers (e.g., Argo CD, Flux) with declarative configurations managed by Helm and Crossplane. Option A is correct because the GitOps controller continuously reconciles the desired state stored in Git-Helm charts for applications and Crossplane manifests for infrastructure-ensuring consistency across clusters.

Option B and D rely on manual updates, which are error-prone and not scalable. Option C mischaracterizes GitOps by suggesting push-based pipelines rather than the core GitOps model of pull-based reconciliation.

This combination leverages Helm for application packaging, Crossplane for cloud infrastructure provisioning, and GitOps for declarative, version-controlled delivery. It ensures applications remain in sync with Git, providing auditability, automation, and resilience in multi-cluster environments.

References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 20

In the context of platform engineering and the effective delivery of platform software, which of the following statements describes the role of CI/CD pipelines in relation to Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) and security scanning?

- A. SBOM generation and security scanning are particularly valuable for application software. While platform software may have different security considerations, these practices are highly beneficial within CI/CD pipelines for applications.
- B. CI/CD pipelines are primarily for automating deployments; SBOM generation and security scanning are separate, manual processes performed after deployment.
- C. **CI/CD pipelines should integrate SBOM generation and security scanning as automated steps within the build and test phases to ensure early detection of vulnerabilities and maintain a clear inventory of components.**
- D. CI/CD pipelines are designed to accelerate the delivery of platform software, and adding SBOM generation and security scanning would slow down the process, so these activities are better suited for periodic audits conducted outside of the pipeline.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Modern platform engineering requires security and compliance to be integral parts of the delivery process, not afterthoughts. CI/CD pipelines are the foundation for delivering platform software rapidly and reliably, and integrating SBOM generation and automated vulnerability scanning directly within pipelines ensures that risks are identified early in the lifecycle.

Option B is correct because it reflects recommended practices from cloud native platform engineering standards: SBOMs provide a transparent inventory of all software components, including dependencies, which is crucial for vulnerability management, license compliance, and supply chain security. By automating these steps in CI/CD, teams can maintain both velocity and security without manual overhead.

Option A downplays the relevance of SBOMs for platform software, which is inaccurate because platform components (like Kubernetes operators, ingress controllers, or logging agents) are equally susceptible to vulnerabilities. Option C dismisses automation in favor of periodic audits, which contradicts the shift-left security principle. Option D misunderstands CI/CD's purpose: security must be integrated, not separated.

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

NEW QUESTION # 21

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