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## Pure Storage FlashArray-Implementation-Specialist Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
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Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Installation:</b> This section of the exam measures the skills of Enterprise Infrastructure Technicians and focuses on executing a successful installation of FlashArray systems. It tests the ability to perform physical setup, cabling, configuration of network settings, and the application of initial system configurations necessary for full deployment.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Upgrades:</b> This section of the exam measures the skills of FlashArray Implementation Specialists and focuses on tasks involved in managing firmware and software upgrades. Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of upgrade planning, verification steps, and rollback procedures, ensuring that systems are updated with minimal disruption to service.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-Installation</b></li> <li>• <b>Upgrade:</b> This section of the exam measures the skills of FlashArray Implementation Specialists and evaluates how professionals confirm system functionality after installation or an upgrade. It involves validating connectivity, running health checks, confirming configurations, and ensuring that the deployment meets operational expectations.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-Installation</b></li> <li>• <b>Upgrade:</b> This section of the exam measures the skills of Enterprise Infrastructure Technicians and covers all preparation activities before deploying or upgrading a Pure Storage FlashArray. It includes understanding environmental requirements, verifying prerequisites, checking compatibility, and validating system readiness through appropriate tools and documentation.</li> </ul>

## Pure Storage Certified FlashArray Implementation Specialist Sample Questions (Q26-Q31):

### NEW QUESTION # 26

After performing a hardware upgrade from an //M20R2 to a //X20R3-EMZZ, a customer wants to add a Direct Flash Modules data pack to replace the existing SAS Chassis Data Packs (2x 20TB DPs). What extra hardware is required?

- A. 4-port ETH card
- B. DFM Swing shelf
- **C. SAS Swing shelf**

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

To perform this specific "SAS-to-NVMe" media refresh during an upgrade, a SAS Swing Shelf is required.

The scenario describes a transition from a FlashArray//M (SAS-based chassis) to a FlashArray//X (NVMe-based chassis). The customer intends to retire the old SAS SSDs (the "SAS Chassis Data Packs") and move to new DirectFlash Modules (DFMs).

The Constraint: The old SAS drives physically cannot be inserted into the new //X NVMe chassis.

The Workflow: To migrate the data, the old SAS drives must be temporarily attached to the new //X controller as external capacity. Since they were originally internal chassis drives, they have no enclosure. Therefore, the engineer needs an empty SAS expansion shelf (Swing Shelf) to house these legacy drives.

Process:

Install the new //X chassis with the new DFMs.

Install the SAS Swing Shelf and populate it with the old SAS drives from the //M chassis.

Connect the SAS shelf to the //X controller (requires SAS connectivity).

The system sees the old data (external) and the new capacity (internal).

The system evacuates the data from the SAS shelf to the internal DFMs.

Once empty, the SAS shelf is removed.

A "DFM Swing Shelf" (Option A) would not help read the old SAS drives.

### NEW QUESTION # 27

When adding a data pack into a FlashArray chassis or a DFS shelf, the drives show "unrecognized" status when running List. What is the cause of this status on the newly inserted drives?

- A. The Purity version of the FlashArray/DFS is incompatible with the new drives.
- B. There is a hardware fault that needs to be corrected.
- C. The drives exceed the max space supported for the controller model.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The status "unrecognized" on a drive module typically indicates that the physical hardware is detected by the chassis midplane, but the operating system (Purity) does not have the necessary driver definition or firmware logic to interact with it.

This most commonly occurs when newer generation DirectFlash Modules (e.g., larger capacity drives or newer NAND revisions) are inserted into an array running an older version of Purity. The hardware identifier of the new drive is unknown to the older software.

To resolve this, the Implementation Engineer must verify the Purity Compatibility Matrix for the specific drive part number. The array will likely need a Purity software upgrade to a version that supports the new media before the drives can be successfully admitted and used. It is rarely a hardware fault (which would show as "failed" or "missing") or a capacity limit (which would prevent admission but usually identify the drive correctly).

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### NEW QUESTION # 28

Which action should an Implementation Engineer take to confirm that all volumes connected to a host are automatically in a protection group?

- A. Add a host as a member of a protection group.
- B. Add a new volume each time it is attached to the host.
- C. Add the volumes as members of a protection group.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

To ensure that all volumes connected to a specific host are automatically protected, the Implementation Engineer should add the Host object as a member of the Protection Group (PGroup).

Purity's protection policy logic allows for membership at different granularities:

Volume Membership: You can add individual volumes to a PGroup. However, if a new volume is provisioned and attached to the host later, it will not be protected until an admin manually adds it to the PGroup (making Option A and B manual, error-prone processes).

Host/Host Group Membership: By adding the Host entity to the Protection Group, Purity applies a policy inheritance rule. Any volume currently connected to that host-and crucially, any volume attached in the future-automatically inherits the protection policy (snapshot schedule, replication target) of that group. This "set and forget" configuration is the best practice for ensuring compliance and data safety without requiring manual intervention for every provisioning task.

### NEW QUESTION # 29

An Implementation Engineer is performing a hardware NDU from a fully populated FlashArray//X90R3 to a FlashArray//XL that already contains 20 DFM-Ds. The drive transfer is complete, and the //XL is still in SPM (Shelf Mode). What is the next step the Implementation Engineer should take to continue the upgrade?

- A. Hot swap and move each DMM into any open //XL slot.
- B. Evacuate and remove each DMM one-by-one then set aside.
- C. Evacuate DMM's as a datapack then install into any slot in //XL.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

When upgrading from a FlashArray//X to a FlashArray//XL, the hardware migration often involves handling DirectMemory Modules (DMMs) differently than standard data drives. DMMs are high-performance cache modules that reside in the controller chassis.

In this specific scenario-migrating a fully populated //X90R3 to an //XL that already has its own set of DirectFlash Modules (DFM-Ds)-the DMMs from the old chassis need to be moved to the new chassis to preserve their cache function or be properly decommissioned.

The correct procedure is to Evacuate DMMs as a datapack then install into any slot in //XL.

DMMs cannot be simply "hot-swapped" randomly while the system is live in a way that disrupts the cache map.

They must be logically grouped and evacuated (conceptually "vacated" of active data) so they can be safely removed from the old chassis.

Once removed, they can be installed into the new //XL chassis. The //XL architecture supports DMMs in specific slots, and Purity will detect and re-incorporate them into the cache pool.

This ensures that the expensive SCM (Storage Class Memory) hardware is reused in the new system without causing data integrity issues during the transition.

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### NEW QUESTION # 30

A data pack has been installed and the `puredrive list` command shows the drives in "unadmitted" status. Which command should be used to complete the admission?

- A. `puredrive admit`
- B. `puredrive add`
- C. `purearray drive admit`

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The `puredrive admit` command is used to complete the admission process for drives showing as "unadmitted," integrating them fully into the FlashArray.

### NEW QUESTION # 31

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