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Linux Foundation

KCSA

**Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate
(KCSA)**

QUESTION & ANSWERS

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Linux Foundation KCSA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kubernetes Cluster Component Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Kubernetes Administrator and focuses on securing the core components that make up a Kubernetes cluster. It encompasses the security configuration and potential vulnerabilities of essential parts such as the API server, etcd, kubelet, container runtime, and networking elements, ensuring each component is hardened against attacks.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance and Security Frameworks: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Compliance Officer and focuses on applying formal structures to ensure security and meet regulatory demands. It covers working with industry-standard compliance and threat modeling frameworks, understanding supply chain security requirements, and utilizing automation tools to maintain and prove an organization's security posture.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Cloud Native Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and covers the foundational security principles of cloud-native environments. It includes an understanding of the 4Cs security model, the shared responsibility model for cloud infrastructure, common security controls and compliance frameworks, and techniques for isolating resources and securing artifacts like container images and application code.

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Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate Sample Questions (Q58-Q63):

NEW QUESTION # 58

What was the name of the precursor to Pod Security Standards?

- A. Pod Security Policy
- B. Container Security Standards
- C. Kubernetes Security Context
- D. Container Runtime Security

Answer: A

Explanation:

- * Kubernetes originally had a feature called PodSecurityPolicy (PSP), which provided controls to restrict pod behavior.
- * Official docs:
- * "PodSecurityPolicy was deprecated in Kubernetes v1.21 and removed in v1.25."
- * "Pod Security Standards (PSS) replace PodSecurityPolicy (PSP) with a simpler, policy- driven approach."
- * PSP was often complex and hard to manage, so it was replaced by Pod Security Admission (PSA) which enforces Pod Security Standards.

References:

Kubernetes Docs - PodSecurityPolicy (deprecated): <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/security/pod-security-policy/>
 Kubernetes Blog - PodSecurityPolicy Deprecation: <https://kubernetes.io/blog/2021/04/06/podsecuritypolicy-deprecation-past-present-and-future/>

NEW QUESTION # 59

A Kubernetes cluster tenant can launch privileged Pods in contravention of the restricted Pod Security Standard mandated for cluster tenants and enforced by the built-in PodSecurity admission controller.

The tenant has full CRUD permissions on the namespace object and the namespaced resources. How did the tenant achieve this?

- A. By deleting the PodSecurity admission controller deployment running in their namespace.
- B. By using higher-level access credentials obtained reading secrets from another namespace.
- C. By tampering with the namespace labels.
- D. The scope of the tenant role means privilege escalation is impossible.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- * The PodSecurity admission controller enforces Pod Security Standards (Baseline, Restricted, Privileged) based on namespace labels.
- * If a tenant has full CRUD on the namespace object, they can modify the namespace labels to remove or weaken the restriction (e.g., setting pod-security.kubernetes.io/enforce=privileged).
- * This allows privileged Pods to be admitted despite the security policy.
- * Incorrect options:
 - * (A) is false - namespace-level access allows tampering.
 - * (C) is invalid - PodSecurity admission is not namespace-deployed, it's a cluster-wide admission controller.
 - * (D) is unrelated - Secrets from other namespaces wouldn't directly bypass PodSecurity enforcement.

References:

Kubernetes Documentation - Pod Security Admission

CNCF Security Whitepaper - Admission control and namespace-level policy enforcement weaknesses.

NEW QUESTION # 60

What is Grafana?

- A. A cloud-native security tool for scanning and detecting vulnerabilities in Kubernetes clusters.
- B. A container orchestration platform for managing and scaling applications.
- C. A cloud-native distributed tracing system for monitoring microservices architectures.
- **D. A platform for monitoring and visualizing time-series data.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

- * Grafana: An open-source analytics and visualization platform widely used with Prometheus, Loki, etc.
- * Exact extract (Grafana Docs): "Grafana is the open-source analytics and monitoring solution for every database. It allows you to query, visualize, alert on, and understand your metrics no matter where they are stored."
- * A is wrong: That describes Jaeger (distributed tracing).
- * B is wrong: That's Kubernetes itself.
- * D is wrong: That's Trivy/Aqua/Prisma type tools.

References:

Grafana Docs: <https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/>

NEW QUESTION # 61

On a client machine, what directory (by default) contains sensitive credential information?

- A. /etc/kubernetes/
- **B. \$HOME/.kube**
- C. /opt/kubernetes/secrets/
- D. \$HOME/.config/kubernetes/

Answer: B

Explanation:

- * The kubectl client uses configuration from \$HOME/.kube/config by default.
- * This file contains: cluster API server endpoint, user certificates, tokens, or kubeconfigs # sensitive credentials.
- * Exact extract (Kubernetes Docs - Configure Access to Clusters):
 - * "By default, kubectl looks for a file named config in the \$HOME/.kube directory. This file contains configuration information including user credentials."
- * Other options clarified:
 - * A: /etc/kubernetes/ exists on nodes (control plane) not client machines.
 - * C: /opt/kubernetes/secrets/ is not a standard path.
 - * D: \$HOME/.config/kubernetes/ is not where kubeconfig is stored by default.

References:

Kubernetes Docs - Configure Access to Clusters: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/configuration/organize-cluster-access-kubeconfig/>

NEW QUESTION # 62

Why does the defaultbase64 encoding that Kubernetes applies to the contents of Secret resources provide inadequate protection?

- A. Base64 encoding is vulnerable to brute-force attacks.
- B. Base64 encoding relies on a shared key which can be easily compromised.
- C. Base64 encoding does not encrypt the contents of the Secret, only obfuscates it.
- D. Base64 encoding is not supported by all Secret Stores.

Answer: C

Explanation:

* Kubernetes stores Secret data as base64-encoded strings in etcd by default.

* Base64 is not encryption- it is a simple encoding scheme that merely obfuscates data for transport and storage. Anyone with read access to etcd or the Secret manifest can easily decode the value back to plaintext.

* For actual protection, Kubernetes supports encryption at rest (via encryption providers) and external Secret management (Vault, KMS, etc.).

References:

Kubernetes Documentation - Secrets

CNCF Security Whitepaper - Data protection section: highlights that base64 encoding does not protect data and encryption at rest is recommended.

NEW QUESTION # 63

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