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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q70-Q75):

NEW QUESTION # 70

Which approach is an effective method for securing secrets in CI/CD pipelines?

- A. Encoding secrets in the source code using base64.
- B. Storing secrets in configuration files with restricted access.
- **C. Storing secrets and encrypting them in a secrets manager.**
- D. Storing secrets as plain-text environment variables managed through config files.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The most secure and scalable method for handling secrets in CI/CD pipelines is to use a secrets manager with encryption. Option B is correct because solutions like HashiCorp Vault, AWS Secrets Manager, or Kubernetes Secrets (backed by KMS) securely store, encrypt, and control access to sensitive values such as API keys, tokens, or credentials.

Option A (restricted config files) may protect secrets but lacks auditability and rotation capabilities. Option C (plain-text environment variables) exposes secrets to accidental leaks through logs or misconfigurations.

Option D (base64 encoding) is insecure because base64 is an encoding, not encryption, and secrets can be trivially decoded.

Using a secrets manager ensures secure retrieval, audit trails, access policies, and secret rotation. This aligns with supply chain security and zero-trust practices, reducing risks of credential leakage in CI/CD pipelines.

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

NEW QUESTION # 71

A platform engineering team needs to provide comprehensive cost visibility for Kubernetes workloads to optimize infrastructure utilization. Which tool is recommended to achieve this goal?

- A. Application performance monitoring tools with limited resource cost tracking.
- **B. OpenCost for real-time, granular Kubernetes cost allocation and analysis.**
- C. Kubernetes resource usage metrics paired with cloud provider billing data.
- D. Cloud provider cost estimation tools with basic Kubernetes integration.

Answer: B

Explanation:

OpenCost is the CNCF-supported open-source project designed specifically for Kubernetes cost visibility and optimization. Option B is correct because OpenCost provides granular, real-time allocation of Kubernetes costs across namespaces, workloads, and teams. This allows organizations to understand true cost drivers and optimize resource utilization effectively.

Option A (APM tools) may track performance but usually lack deep integration with Kubernetes cost allocation. Option C provides partial visibility but requires complex manual correlation of resource usage with billing data. Option D (cloud provider estimators) typically offer limited or high-level insights and do not map costs down to Kubernetes workloads.

By adopting OpenCost, platform teams can align financial accountability with engineering usage, a practice known as FinOps. This supports sustainable scaling, cost efficiency, and transparency-critical aspects of measuring platform success.

References:- CNCF OpenCost Project- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 72

Which IaC approach ensures Kubernetes infrastructure maintains its desired state automatically?

- A. Hybrid
- B. Imperative
- C. Manual
- **D. Declarative**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The declarative approach to Infrastructure as Code (IaC) is the foundation of Kubernetes and GitOps practices. Option A is correct because declarative IaC defines the desired state of the infrastructure (e.g., Kubernetes YAML manifests) and relies on controllers or reconciliation loops to ensure the actual state matches the declared one. This allows for automation, consistency, and drift correction without manual intervention.

Option B (imperative) requires explicit step-by-step instructions, which are not automatically enforced after execution. Option C (hybrid) can combine both methods but does not guarantee reconciliation. Option D (manual) is error-prone and eliminates the benefits of IaC entirely.

Declarative IaC reduces cognitive load, improves reproducibility, and ensures compliance through automated drift detection and reconciliation, which are essential in platform engineering for multi-cluster and multi-team environments.

References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- Kubernetes Declarative Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 73

As a Cloud Native Platform Associate, which of the following is the best example of a self-service use case that should be implemented within a cloud platform?

- A. An internal wiki for documenting best practices in cloud usage.
- B. A centralized dashboard for monitoring application performance.
- **C. An automated resource provisioning system to spin up environments on demand.**
- D. A manual request process for acquiring additional storage resources.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Self-service capabilities are a cornerstone of platform engineering, enabling developers to move quickly while reducing dependency on platform teams. Option C is correct because an automated resource provisioning system allows developers to spin up sandbox or test environments on demand, supporting experimentation and rapid iteration. This aligns with the principle of treating platforms as products, focusing on developer experience and productivity.

Option A (manual request process) creates bottlenecks and is the opposite of self-service. Option B (documentation) is helpful but does not enable automation or self-service. Option D (centralized monitoring) improves observability but is not a self-service capability by itself.

By implementing automated provisioning, developers gain autonomy while platform teams maintain governance through abstractions, golden paths, and policy enforcement. This fosters agility, consistency, and scalability, improving both developer experience and organizational efficiency.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 74

In what way does an internal platform impact developers' cognitive load?

- A. It shifts all operational complexity onto developers, making them fully responsible for managing the process.
- B. It increases cognitive load by requiring knowledge of all the underlying tools involved.
- C. It has no impact on the mental effort required from developers, ensuring their cognitive load remains unchanged.
- **D. It reduces cognitive load by hiding complex infrastructure details and providing simple interfaces.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The primary role of an Internal Developer Platform (IDP) is to reduce cognitive load for developers by abstracting away infrastructure complexity and providing simple, self-service interfaces. Option B is correct because platforms deliver curated golden paths, service catalogs, and APIs that allow developers to focus on application logic instead of learning every underlying infrastructure tool.

Option A is incorrect-platforms are specifically designed to reduce mental overhead. Option C contradicts the platform engineering principle of shifting complexity away from developers. Option D also misrepresents the intent of platforms, which aim to unify and simplify rather than complicate.

By lowering cognitive load, platforms improve productivity, enable faster onboarding, and reduce the likelihood of errors. This aligns with the "platform as a product" model, where developers are treated as customers and the platform is designed to optimize their experience.

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