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## **Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q72-Q77):**

**NEW QUESTION # 72**

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 as plain-text environment variables managed through config files.
- C. Storing secrets in configuration files with restricted access.
- D. **Storing secrets and encrypting them in a secrets manager.**

**Answer: D**

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 # 73

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

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

**Answer: C**

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.

References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies (Cognitive Load Principle)- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 74

In a GitOps workflow, how should application environments be managed when promoting an application from staging to production?

- A. Manually update the production environment configuration files.
- B. Create a new environment for production each time an application is updated.
- C. Use a tool to package the application and deploy it directly to production.
- D. **Merge changes and let a tool handle the deployment**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In GitOps workflows, the source of truth for environments is stored in Git. Promotion from staging to production is managed by merging changes into the production branch or repository. Option A is correct because once changes are merged, the GitOps operator (e.g., Argo CD, Flux) automatically detects the updated desired state in Git and reconciles it with the production

environment.

Option B (creating new environments each time) is inefficient and unnecessary. Option C (manual updates) violates GitOps principles of automation and auditability. Option D (direct deployments) reverts to a push-based CI/CD model rather than GitOps' pull-based reconciliation.

By relying on Git as the single source of truth, GitOps ensures version control, auditability, and rollback capabilities. This allows consistent, reproducible promotion between environments while reducing human error.

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

## NEW QUESTION # 75

Which Kubernetes feature allows you to control how Pods communicate with each other and external services?

- A. Role-based access control (RBAC)
- B. **Network Policies**
- C. Security Context
- D. Pod Security Standards

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Kubernetes Network Policies are the feature that controls how Pods communicate with each other and external services. Option B is correct because Network Policies define rules for ingress (incoming) and egress (outgoing) traffic at the Pod level, ensuring fine-grained control over communication pathways within the cluster.

Option A (Pod Security Standards) defines policies around Pod security contexts (e.g., privilege escalation, root access) but does not control network traffic. Option C (Security Context) is specific to Pod or container-level permissions, not networking. Option D (RBAC) governs access to Kubernetes API resources, not Pod-to-Pod traffic.

Network Policies are essential for implementing a zero-trust model in Kubernetes, ensuring that only authorized services communicate. This enhances both security and compliance, especially in multi-tenant clusters.

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

## NEW QUESTION # 76

A software development team is struggling to adopt a new cloud native platform efficiently. How can a centralized developer portal, such as Backstage, help improve their adoption process?

- A. Provides tutorials on unrelated programming languages.
- B. **Provides a single access point for all platform services and documentation.**
- C. Offers a place for developers to share their personal projects and code snippets.
- D. Limits access to platform tools to only senior developers.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Developer portals like Backstage act as the single entry point for platform services, APIs, golden paths, and documentation. Option A is correct because centralizing access greatly reduces the friction developers face when trying to adopt a new platform. Instead of searching across fragmented systems or learning low-level Kubernetes details, developers can find everything in one place, including templates, service catalogs, automated workflows, and governance policies.

Option B is irrelevant to platform adoption. Option C may foster community sharing but does not directly address adoption challenges. Option D contradicts platform engineering principles, which emphasize democratizing access and self-service rather than restricting tools to senior developers.

By providing a unified experience, portals improve discoverability, consistency, and self-service. They reduce cognitive load and support the platform engineering principle of improving developer experience, making adoption of new platforms smoother and more efficient.

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

## NEW QUESTION # 77

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