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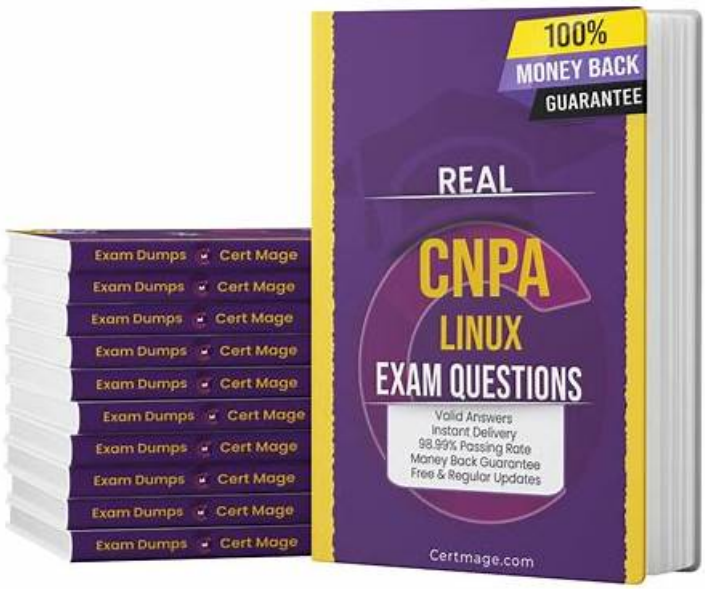

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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	• Continuous Delivery & Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI • CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.
Topic 2	• 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.
Topic 3	• 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 4	• 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.

Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q11-Q16):

NEW QUESTION # 11
During a CI/CD pipeline setup, at which stage should the Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) be generated to provide most valuable insights into dependencies?

- A. Before committing code.
- B. During testing.
- C. During the build process.
- D. After deployment.

Answer: C

Explanation:
The most effective stage to generate a Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) is during the build process.
Option C is correct because the build phase is when dependencies are resolved and artifacts (e.g., container images, binaries) are created. Generating an SBOM at this point provides a complete, accurate inventory of all included libraries and components, which is critical for vulnerability scanning, license compliance, and supply chain security.
Option A (testing) is too late to capture all dependencies reliably. Option B (before committing code) cannot provide a full SBOM because builds often introduce additional dependencies. Option D (after deployment) delays insights until production, missing the opportunity to detect and remediate issues early.
Integrating SBOM generation into CI/CD pipelines enables shift-left security, ensuring vulnerabilities are detected early and allowing remediation before artifacts reach production. This aligns with CNCF supply chain security practices and platform engineering goals.
References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 12
In designing a cloud native platform, which architectural feature is essential for allowing the integration of new capabilities like self-service delivery and observability without specialist intervention?

- A. Extensible architecture with modular components.
- B. Monolithic architecture with no APIs.
- C. Static architecture with rigid components.
- D. Centralized integration through specialist API gateways.

Answer: A

Explanation:
An extensible architecture with modular components is crucial for modern platform engineering. Option C is correct because modularity allows new capabilities (e.g., self-service delivery, observability, or security features) to be added or replaced without disrupting the whole system. This approach promotes agility, scalability, and maintainability.
Option A (monolithic architecture) restricts flexibility and slows innovation. Option B (centralized API gateways) may help integration but still creates bottlenecks if every addition requires specialist intervention.
Option D (static architecture) locks the platform into rigid patterns, preventing adaptation to evolving needs.
Extensible, modular design is a hallmark of cloud native platforms. It enables composability, where services (like service mesh, logging, monitoring, or provisioning APIs) can be plugged in as needed. This architecture supports golden paths and self-service abstractions, reducing developer friction while keeping governance intact.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 13
What is the main benefit of using minimal base container images and SBOM attestation practices in CI/CD pipelines?

- A. Giving developers the maximum flexibility in what to include.
- B. Reducing the size of container images and therefore storage costs.
- C. Reducing the number of security vulnerabilities within container images.
- D. Checking for duplicate libraries and that latest versions are being used.

Answer: C

Explanation:
The use of minimal base container images and Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) attestation is a best practice for strengthening software supply chain security. Option B is correct because smaller base images contain fewer components, which inherently reduces the attack surface and the number of potential vulnerabilities. SBOMs, meanwhile, provide a detailed inventory of included libraries and dependencies, enabling vulnerability scanning, license compliance, and traceability.
Option A is only a partial benefit, not the primary goal. Option C (maximum flexibility) contradicts the principle of minimal images, which deliberately restrict included software. Option D (reducing storage costs) may be a side effect but is not the core benefit in a security-focused context.
By combining minimal images with SBOM practices, platform teams ensure stronger compliance with supply chain security frameworks, enable early detection of vulnerabilities in CI/CD pipelines, and support fast remediation. This is emphasized in CNCF security and platform engineering guidance as a way to align with zero-trust principles.
References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 14
What is a key cultural aspect that drives successful platform adoption in an organization?

- A. Prioritizing platform security over usability.
- B. Keeping platform development separate from application teams.
- C. Encouraging platform feedback loops from developers to improve usability.
- D. Mandating that all teams must use the platform without exceptions

Answer: C

Explanation:
Successful platform adoption depends heavily on cultural practices that foster collaboration and continuous improvement. Option D is correct because feedback loops between developers and platform teams ensure that the platform evolves to meet developer needs while balancing security and governance. This aligns with the principle of treating the platform as a product, where developer experience is central.
Option A (mandates) often lead to resistance and shadow IT. Option B isolates platform teams, creating silos and reducing alignment with developer workflows. Option C is misleading-security is important, but overemphasizing it at the expense of usability hinders adoption.
Feedback-driven iteration creates trust, improves usability, and drives organic adoption. It transforms the platform into a valuable product that developers want to use, rather than one they are forced to adopt.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Team Topologies (Platform as a Product model)- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 15
What is the most effective approach to architecting a platform for extensibility in cloud native environments?

- A. Creating a platform with a flexible governance model that requires all capability changes to be reviewed by specialized teams before being approved, ensuring consistent implementation across all platform areas.
- B. Designing a platform with centralized configuration management that can quickly implement organization-wide changes through a single control plane operated by platform specialists.
- C. Implementing a modular architecture with well-defined APIs and interfaces that allows platform capabilities to be independently added, updated, or removed without disrupting the entire system.
- D. Building a monolithic platform with comprehensive documentation that provides complete instructions for users to modify internal components when new capabilities need to be added or removed.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Extensibility in cloud native platform engineering depends on modular design with well-defined APIs and interfaces. Option A is correct because modular, API-driven architecture allows new capabilities (e.g., observability, self-service provisioning, policy engines) to be added, updated, or replaced independently, without disrupting the entire system. This enables innovation, adaptability, and continuous improvement.
Option B emphasizes governance, but relying solely on specialist approvals slows agility and reduces scalability. Option C (monolithic architecture) restricts flexibility and increases cognitive load for developers.
Option D (centralized configuration) provides consistency but risks bottlenecks and does not inherently enable extensibility. Modularity and APIs are fundamental to platform engineering because they support composability, golden paths, and integration of open-source/cloud-native tools. This ensures that platforms evolve continuously while preserving developer experience and governance.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 16
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