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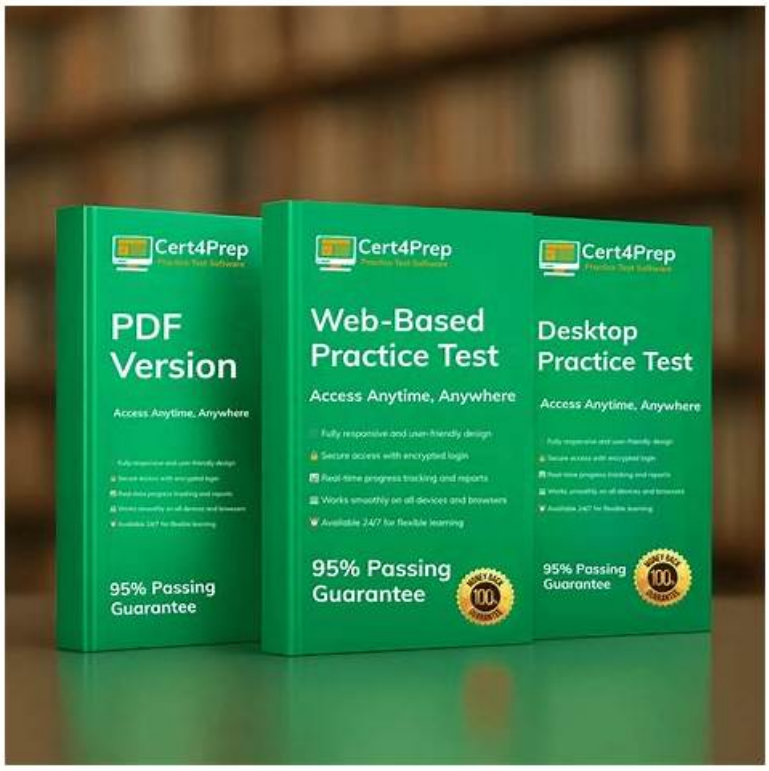

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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Platform Observability, Security, and Conformance: This part of the exam evaluates Procurement Specialists on key aspects of observability and security. It includes working with traces, metrics, logs, and events while ensuring secure service communication. Policy engines, Kubernetes security essentials, and protection in CI • CD pipelines are also assessed here.
Topic 2	• Platform Engineering Core Fundamentals: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and covers essential foundations such as declarative resource management, DevOps practices, application environments, platform architecture, and the core goals of platform engineering. It also includes continuous integration fundamentals, delivery approaches, and GitOps principles.

Topic 3	• 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 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.

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21
What is the primary purpose of Kubernetes runtime security?

- A. Protects workloads against threats during execution.
- B. Scans container images before deployment.
- C. Manages the access control to the Kubernetes API.
- D. Encrypts the sensitive data stored in etcd.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The main purpose of Kubernetes runtime security is to protect workloads during execution. Option B is correct because runtime security focuses on monitoring active Pods, containers, and processes to detect and prevent malicious activity such as privilege escalation, anomalous network connections, or unauthorized file access.
Option A (etcd encryption) addresses data at rest, not runtime. Option C (image scanning) occurs pre- deployment, not during execution. Option D (API access control) is enforced through RBAC and IAM, not runtime security.
Runtime security solutions (e.g., Falco, Cilium, or Kyverno) continuously observe system calls, network traffic, and workload behaviors to enforce policies and detect threats in real time. This ensures compliance, strengthens defenses in zero-trust environments, and provides critical protection for cloud native workloads in production.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Guidance- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 22
What is the fundamental difference between a CI/CD and a GitOps deployment model for Kubernetes application deployments?

- A. GitOps is predominantly a pull model, with a controller reconciling desired state.
- B. CI/CD is predominantly a push model, with the user providing the desired state.
- C. CI/CD is predominantly a pull model, with the container image providing the desired state.
- D. GitOps is predominantly a push model, with an operator reflecting the desired state.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The fundamental difference between a traditional CI/CD model and a GitOps model lies in how changes are applied to the

Kubernetes cluster-whether they are "pushed" to the cluster by an external system or "pulled" by an agent running inside the cluster.
CI/CD (Push Model)In a typical CI/CD pipeline for Kubernetes, the CI/CD server (like Jenkins, GitLab CI, or GitHub Actions) is granted credentials to access the cluster. When a pipeline runs, it executes commands like kubectl apply or helm upgrade to push the new application configuration and image versions directly to the Kubernetes API server.
* Actor: The CI/CD pipeline is the active agent initiating the change.
* Direction: Changes flow from the CI/CD system to the cluster.
* Security: Requires giving cluster credentials to an external system.
In a GitOps model, a Git repository is the single source of truth for the desired state of the application. An agent or controller (like Argo CD or Flux) runs inside the Kubernetes cluster. This controller continuously monitors the Git repository.
When it detects a difference between the desired state defined in Git and the actual state of the cluster, it pulls the changes from the repository and applies them to the cluster to bring it into the desired state. This process is called reconciliation.
* Actor: The in-cluster controller is the active agent initiating the change.
* Direction: The cluster pulls its desired state from the Git repository.
* Security: The cluster's credentials never leave its boundary. The controller only needs read-access to the Git repository.

NEW QUESTION # 23
What is a key consideration during the setup of a Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment (CI/CD) pipeline to ensure efficient and reliable software delivery?

- A. Using a single development environment for all stages of the pipeline.
- B. Skip the packaging step to save time and reduce complexity.
- C. Implement automated testing at multiple points in the pipeline.
- D. Manually approve each build before deployment to maintain control over quality.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Automated testing throughout the pipeline is a key enabler of efficient and reliable delivery. Option B is correct because incorporating unit tests, integration tests, and security scans at different pipeline stages ensures that errors are caught early, reducing the risk of faulty code reaching production. This also accelerates delivery by providing fast, consistent feedback to developers.
Option A (single environment) undermines isolation and does not reflect real-world deployment conditions.
Option C (skipping packaging) prevents reproducibility and traceability of builds. Option D (manual approvals) adds delays and reintroduces human bottlenecks, which goes against DevOps and GitOps automation principles.
Automated testing, combined with immutable artifacts and GitOps-driven deployments, aligns with platform engineering's focus on automation, reliability, and developer experience. It reduces cognitive load for teams and enforces quality consistently.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Continuous Delivery Foundation Best Practices- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 24
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. Offers a place for developers to share their personal projects and code snippets.
- C. Limits access to platform tools to only senior developers.
- D. Provides a single access point for all platform services and documentation.

Answer: D

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 # 25
In a cloud native environment, what is one of the security benefits of implementing a service mesh?

- A. Using a centralized logging system to monitor service interactions.
- B. Limiting network access to services based on IP allowlisting.
- C. Enabling encryption of communication between services using mTLS.
- D. Automatically scaling services to handle increased traffic.

Answer: C

Explanation:
A key advantage of using a service mesh is its ability to secure service-to-service communication transparently, without requiring application code changes. Option A is correct because service meshes (e.g., Istio, Linkerd) provide mutual TLS (mTLS) by default, ensuring both encryption in transit and authentication between services. This establishes a zero-trust networking model inside the cluster.
Option B (scaling) is managed by Kubernetes (Horizontal Pod Autoscaler), not service mesh. Option C (logging) may be supported as an observability feature, but it is not the primary security benefit. Option D (IP allowlisting) is an outdated, less flexible mechanism compared to identity-based policies that meshes provide.
Service meshes enforce security consistently across all services, support fine-grained policies, and ensure compliance without burdening developers with complex configurations. This makes mTLS a foundational benefit in cloud native platform security.
References:- CNCF Service Mesh Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 26
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