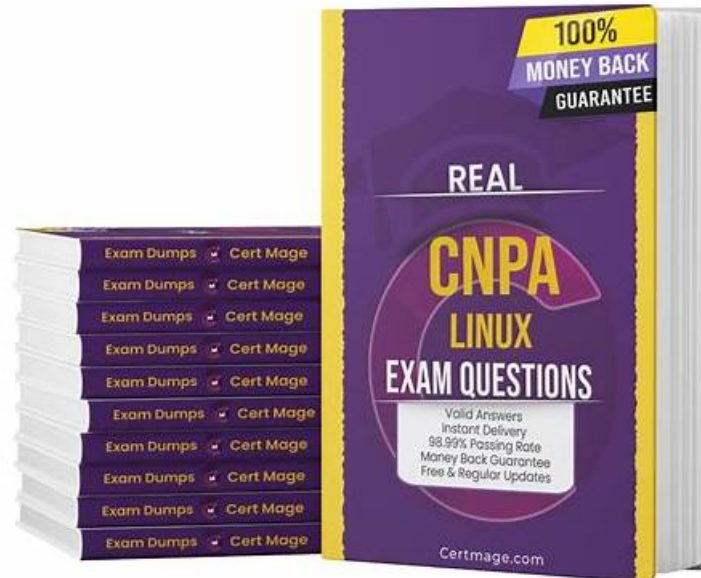


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## Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>ML in platform automation.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous Delivery &amp; Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI</li> <li>CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.</li> </ul>

## Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q19-Q24):

### NEW QUESTION # 19

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. Enabling encryption of communication between services using mTLS.
- C. Limiting network access to services based on IP allowlisting.
- D. Automatically scaling services to handle increased traffic.

**Answer: B**

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 # 20

In the context of Agile methodology, which principle aligns best with DevOps practices in platform engineering?

- A. Teams should strictly adhere to initial project plans without making adjustments during development.
- B. Development and operations teams should remain separate to maintain clear responsibilities.
- C. Customer involvement should be limited during the development process to avoid disruptions.
- D. Teams should continuously gather feedback and iterate on their work to improve outcomes.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Agile and DevOps share the principle of continuous improvement through rapid feedback and iteration.

Option B is correct because gathering feedback continuously and iterating aligns directly with DevOps practices such as CI/CD, observability-driven development, and platform engineering's focus on developer experience. This ensures platforms and applications evolve quickly in response to real-world conditions.

Option A contradicts Agile, which emphasizes active customer collaboration. Option C reflects rigid waterfall methodologies, not Agile or DevOps. Option D enforces silos, which is the opposite of DevOps principles of cross-functional collaboration.

By embracing continuous feedback loops, both Agile and platform engineering accelerate delivery, improve resilience, and ensure that platforms deliver real value to developers and end users. This cultural alignment ensures both speed and quality in cloud native environments.

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

### NEW QUESTION # 21

During a CI/CD pipeline review, the team discusses methods to prevent insecure code from being introduced into production. Which practice is most effective for this purpose?

- A. Using caching strategies to control secure content delivery.
- B. Conducting A/B testing to validate secure code changes.
- C. Performing load balancing controls to manage traffic during deployments.
- **D. Implementing security gates at key stages of the pipeline.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The most effective way to prevent insecure code from reaching production is to integrate security gates directly into the CI/CD pipeline. Option A is correct because security gates involve automated scanning of dependencies, SBOM generation, code analysis, and policy enforcement during build and test phases. This ensures that vulnerabilities or policy violations are caught early in the development lifecycle.

Option B (load balancing) improves availability but is unrelated to code security. Option C (A/B testing) validates functionality, not security. Option D (caching strategies) affects performance, not code safety.

By embedding automated checks into CI/CD pipelines, teams adopt a shift-left security approach, ensuring compliance and minimizing risks of supply chain attacks. This practice directly supports platform engineering goals of combining security with speed and reducing developer friction through automation.

References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 22

What is a key cultural aspect that drives successful platform adoption in an organization?

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

**Answer: B**

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 # 23

What is the primary goal of platform engineering?

- A. To focus exclusively on infrastructure automation without considering developer needs
- **B. To create reusable, scalable platforms that improve developer productivity and experience.**
- C. To replace all DevOps practices with automated tools and well-defined processes.
- D. To limit developer access to infrastructure to enhance security and compliance.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The primary goal of platform engineering is to create reusable, scalable platforms that improve both developer productivity and developer experience. Option D is correct because platform engineering treats the platform as a product, providing self-service capabilities, abstractions, and golden paths that reduce cognitive load for developers while embedding organizational guardrails. Option A is too narrow-platform engineering is not limited to infrastructure automation but extends to developer usability, observability, and governance. Option B is incorrect because limiting access contradicts the principle of empowering developers through self-service. Option C is misleading; platform engineering complements DevOps practices but does not replace them. By enabling developers to consume infrastructure and platform services through self-service APIs and portals, platform teams accelerate delivery cycles while maintaining compliance and security. This approach results in improved efficiency, reduced toil, and better alignment between business and engineering outcomes.

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

### NEW QUESTION # 24

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