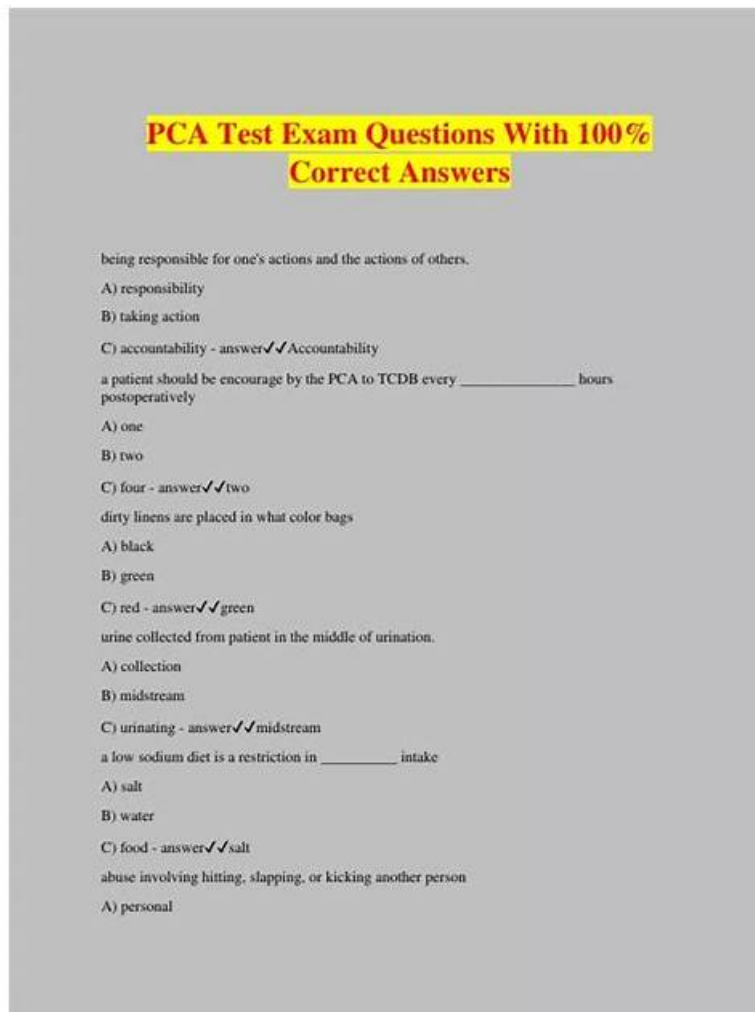


# PCA Valid Mock Test | PCA Valid Test Topics



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## Linux Foundation PCA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observability Concepts: This section of the exam measures the skills of Site Reliability Engineers and covers the essential principles of observability used in modern systems. It focuses on understanding metrics, logs, and tracing mechanisms such as spans, as well as the difference between push and pull data collection methods. Candidates also learn about service discovery processes and the fundamentals of defining and maintaining SLOs, SLAs, and SLIs to monitor performance and reliability.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prometheus Fundamentals: This domain evaluates the knowledge of DevOps Engineers and emphasizes the core architecture and components of Prometheus. It includes topics such as configuration and scraping techniques, limitations of the Prometheus system, data models and labels, and the exposition format used for data collection. The section ensures a solid grasp of how Prometheus functions as a monitoring and alerting toolkit within distributed environments.</li> </ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PromQL: This section of the exam measures the skills of Monitoring Specialists and focuses on Prometheus Query Language (PromQL) concepts. It covers data selection, calculating rates and derivatives, and performing aggregations across time and dimensions. Candidates also study the use of binary operators, histograms, and timestamp metrics to analyze monitoring data effectively, ensuring accurate interpretation of system performance and trends.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alerting and Dashboarding: This section of the exam assesses the competencies of Cloud Operations Engineers and focuses on monitoring visualization and alert management. It covers dashboarding basics, alerting rules configuration, and the use of Alertmanager to handle notifications. Candidates also learn the core principles of when, what, and why to trigger alerts, ensuring they can create reliable monitoring dashboards and proactive alerting systems to maintain system stability.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrumentation and Exporters: This domain evaluates the abilities of Software Engineers and addresses the methods for integrating Prometheus into applications. It includes the use of client libraries, the process of instrumenting code, and the proper structuring and naming of metrics. The section also introduces exporters that allow Prometheus to collect metrics from various systems, ensuring efficient and standardized monitoring implementation.</li> </ul>

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## Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q30-Q35):

### NEW QUESTION # 30

Which PromQL expression computes the rate of API Server requests across the different cloud providers from the following metrics?

```
apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver", instance="192.168.1.220:6443", cloud="aws"} 1
apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver", instance="192.168.1.121:6443", cloud="gcloud"} 5
```

- A. `rate(apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m]) by (cloud)`
- B. `sum by (cloud)(apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver"})`
- C. `rate(sum by (cloud)(apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver"}))[5m]`
- **D. `sum by (cloud)(rate(apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m]))`**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The `rate()` function computes the per-second increase of a counter metric over a specified range, while `sum by (label)` aggregates those rates across dimensions - in this case, the cloud label.

The correct query is:

```
sum by (cloud)(rate(apiserver_request_total{job="kube-apiserver"}[5m]))
```

This expression:

Calculates the rate of increase in API requests per second for each instance.

Groups and sums those rates by cloud, giving the total request rate per cloud provider.

Option A incorrectly places `by (cloud)` after `rate()`, which is not valid syntax.

Option B returns raw counter totals (not rates).

Option D incorrectly applies `rate()` after aggregation, which distorts the calculation since `rate()` must operate on individual time series before aggregation.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - `rate()` Function, Aggregation Operators, and Querying Counters Across Labels sections.

### NEW QUESTION # 31

How would you correctly name a metric that provides metadata information about the binary?

- A. app\_metadata
- B. app\_build\_info
- C. app\_build\_desc
- D. app\_build

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The Prometheus naming convention for metrics that expose build or version information about an application binary uses the `_info` suffix. The standard pattern is:

`<application>_build_info`

This metric typically includes constant labels such as version, revision, branch, and goversion to describe the build environment.

For example:

`app_build_info{version="1.2.3", revision="abc123", goversion="go1.22"} 1` This approach follows the official Prometheus instrumentation guidelines, where metrics ending in `_info` convey metadata or constant characteristics about the running process.

The other options do not conform to the Prometheus best practice of suffix-based semantic naming.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric Naming Conventions, Exposing Build Information, and Standard `_info` Metrics sections.

### NEW QUESTION # 32

Where does Prometheus store its time series data by default?

- A. In-memory only.
- B. In an embedded TSDB on local disk.
- C. In etcd.
- D. In an external database such as InfluxDB.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

By default, Prometheus stores its time series data in a local, embedded Time Series Database (TSDB) on disk. The data is organized in block files under the `data/` directory inside Prometheus's storage path.

Each block typically covers two hours of data, containing chunks, index, and metadata files. Older blocks are compacted and deleted based on retention settings.

### NEW QUESTION # 33

How can you use Prometheus Node Exporter?

- A. You can use it to instrument applications with metrics.
- B. You can use it to collect resource metrics from the application HTTP server.
- C. You can use it to probe endpoints over HTTP, HTTPS.
- D. You can use it to collect metrics for hardware and OS metrics.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The Prometheus Node Exporter is a core system-level exporter that exposes hardware and operating system metrics from \*nix-based hosts. It collects metrics such as CPU usage, memory, disk I/O, filesystem space, network statistics, and load averages.

It runs as a lightweight daemon on each host and exposes metrics via an HTTP endpoint (default: `:9100/metrics`), which Prometheus scrapes periodically.

Key clarification:

It does not instrument applications (A).

It does not collect metrics directly from application HTTP endpoints (B).

It is unrelated to HTTP probing tasks - those are handled by the Blackbox Exporter (D).

Thus, the correct use of the Node Exporter is to collect and expose hardware and OS-level metrics for Prometheus monitoring.  
Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Node Exporter Overview, Host-Level Monitoring, and Exporter Usage Best Practices sections.

### NEW QUESTION # 34

Which field in alerting rules files indicates the time an alert needs to go from pending to firing state?

- A. timeout
- B. interval
- C. duration
- D. for

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In Prometheus alerting rules, the `for` field specifies how long a condition must remain true continuously before the alert transitions from the pending to the firing state. This feature prevents transient spikes or brief metric fluctuations from triggering false alerts.

Example:

```
alert: HighRequestLatency
expr: http_request_duration_seconds_avg > 1
for: 5m
labels:
severity: warning
annotations:
description: "Request latency is above 1s for more than 5 minutes."
```

In this configuration, Prometheus evaluates the expression every rule evaluation cycle. The alert only fires if the condition (`http_request_duration_seconds_avg > 1`) remains true for 5 consecutive minutes. If it returns to normal before that duration, the alert resets and never fires.

This mechanism adds stability and noise reduction to alerting systems by ensuring only sustained issues generate notifications.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Alerting Rules Configuration Syntax, Pending vs. Firing States, and Best Practices for Alert Timing and Thresholds sections.

### NEW QUESTION # 35

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