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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	• 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.

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CNPA Certification Practice | Latest CNPA: Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate

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Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q74-Q79):

NEW QUESTION # 74
In a CI/CD pipeline, why is a build artifact (e.g., a Docker image) pushed to an OCI-compliant registry?

- A. To enable the registry service to execute automated tests on the uploaded container image.
- B. To publish versioned artifacts that can be tracked and used to inform users of new releases.
- C. To allow the container image to be analyzed and transformed back into source code.
- D. To store the image in a central registry so deployment environments can pull it for release.

Answer: D

Explanation:
In cloud native CI/CD workflows, build artifacts such as Docker/OCI images are pushed to a central container registry to ensure consistent, reproducible deployments. Option A is correct because registries serve as a single source of truth where immutable artifacts are stored, versioned, and distributed across environments.
Deployment systems like Kubernetes pull images from these registries, ensuring that the same tested artifact is deployed in staging and production.
Option B is incorrect because images cannot be directly transformed back into source code. Option C partially describes benefits (version tracking) but misses the primary function of deployment consistency. Option D is misleading-registries typically don't run automated tests; CI/CD pipelines do that before pushing the image.
By using OCI-compliant registries, organizations gain portability, interoperability, and compliance with supply chain security practices such as image signing and SBOM attestation. This ensures traceability, reliability, and secure distribution of artifacts across the platform.
References:- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 75
A platform engineering team is building an Internal Developer Platform (IDP). Which of the following enables application teams to manage infrastructure resources independently, without requiring direct platform team support?

- A. Self-service resource provisioning APIs.
- B. Manual infrastructure deployment services.
- C. A comprehensive platform knowledge center.
- D. Centralized logging and monitoring interfaces.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The defining capability of an IDP is enabling self-service so developers can independently access infrastructure and platform resources. Option D is correct because self-service resource provisioning APIs allow developers to provision resources such as namespaces, databases, or environments without relying on manual intervention from the platform team. These APIs embed governance, compliance, and organizational guardrails while giving autonomy to development teams.
Option A (manual deployment services) defeats the purpose of self-service. Option B (knowledge centers) improve documentation but do not provide automation. Option C (logging/monitoring interfaces) are observability tools, not resource provisioning mechanisms.
Self-service APIs empower developers, reduce cognitive load, and minimize bottlenecks. They also align with the platform engineering principle of "treating the platform as a product," where developers are customers, and the platform offers curated golden paths to simplify consumption of infrastructure and services.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 76
In a cloud native environment, how do policy engines facilitate a unified approach for teams to consume platform services?

- A. Integrates with CI/CD pipelines to streamline service provisioning.
- B. Enforces service-level agreements (SLAs) across all teams.
- C. Enforces strict compliance policies with security standards.
- D. Provides centralized reusable policies to ensure security and compliance.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Policy engines (such as Open Policy Agent - OPA or Kyverno) play a critical role in enforcing governance, security, and compliance consistently across cloud native platforms. Option D is correct because policy engines provide centralized, reusable policies that can be applied across clusters, services, and environments. This ensures that developers consume platform services in a compliant and secure manner, without needing to manage these controls manually.
Option A is partially correct but too narrow, as policies extend beyond compliance to include operational, security, and cost-control measures. Option B is not the primary function of policy engines, though integration with CI/CD is possible. Option C is incorrect because SLAs are business agreements, not enforced by policy engines directly.
Policy engines enforce guardrails like image signing, RBAC rules, resource quotas, and network policies automatically, reducing cognitive load for developers while giving platform teams confidence in compliance.
This supports the platform engineering principle of combining self-service with governance.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Security TAG (OPA, Kyverno)- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 77
For a cloud native platform handling sensitive customer data, which approach ensures compliance with data privacy regulations like GDPR and PCI DSS within a Kubernetes environment?

- A. Relying on default cloud provider IAM policies with minimal Kubernetes customizations.
- B. Deploying a policy engine like Open Policy Agent (OPA) with real-time data masking and audit logging.
- C. Implementing Kubernetes Role-based access control (RBAC) with basic network policies and periodic manual audits.
- D. Utilizing standard Kubernetes Secrets with encrypted storage and manual access reviews.

Answer: B

Explanation:
Compliance with regulations like GDPR and PCI DSS requires fine-grained control, auditing, and data protection. Option C is correct because deploying a policy engine like Open Policy Agent (OPA) enables dynamic enforcement of policies, real-time data masking, and comprehensive audit logging. This ensures sensitive data is protected while providing traceability and compliance reporting.
Option A is insufficient, as default IAM policies without Kubernetes-level governance do not provide the granularity required for compliance. Option B (Kubernetes Secrets) adds encryption but lacks auditability and runtime enforcement. Option D (RBAC and network policies) improves security posture but does not provide comprehensive compliance coverage or data privacy features like masking and logging.
OPA and similar tools integrate with Kubernetes admission control to enforce compliance policies consistently, providing the flexibility and auditability needed in regulated industries.
References:- CNCF Security TAG Best Practices- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 78
What is the primary goal of platform engineering?

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

Answer: C

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 # 79
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