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Linux Foundation KCSA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kubernetes Security Fundamentals: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Kubernetes Administrator and covers the primary security mechanisms within Kubernetes. This includes implementing pod security standards and admissions, configuring robust authentication and authorization systems like RBAC, managing secrets properly, and using network policies and audit logging to enforce isolation and monitor cluster activity.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Cloud Native Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and covers the foundational security principles of cloud-native environments. It includes an understanding of the 4Cs security model, the shared responsibility model for cloud infrastructure, common security controls and compliance frameworks, and techniques for isolating resources and securing artifacts like container images and application code.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance and Security Frameworks: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Compliance Officer and focuses on applying formal structures to ensure security and meet regulatory demands. It covers working with industry-standard compliance and threat modeling frameworks, understanding supply chain security requirements, and utilizing automation tools to maintain and prove an organization's security posture.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and encompasses broader platform-wide security concerns. This includes securing the software supply chain from image development to deployment, implementing observability and service meshes, managing Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), controlling network connectivity, and using admission controllers to enforce security policies.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kubernetes Cluster Component Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Kubernetes Administrator and focuses on securing the core components that make up a Kubernetes cluster. It encompasses the security configuration and potential vulnerabilities of essential parts such as the API server, etcd, kubelet, container runtime, and networking elements, ensuring each component is hardened against attacks.

Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate Sample Questions (Q11-Q16):

NEW QUESTION # 11

How do Kubernetes namespaces impact the application of policies when using Pod Security Admission?

- A. Each namespace can have only one active policy.
- **B. Different policies can be applied to specific namespaces.**
- C. Namespaces are ignored; Pod Security Admission policies apply cluster-wide only.
- D. The default namespace enforces the strictest security policies by default.

Answer: B

Explanation:

* Pod Security Admission (PSA) enforces policies by applying labels on namespaces, not globally across the cluster.

* Exact extract (Kubernetes Docs - Pod Security Admission):

* "You can apply Pod Security Standards to namespaces by adding labels such as pod-security.kubernetes.io/enforce. Different namespaces can enforce different policies."

* Clarifications:

* A: Incorrect, namespaces are the unit of enforcement.

* C: Misleading - a namespace can have multiple enforcement modes (enforce, audit, warn).

* D: Default namespace does not enforce strict policies unless labeled.

References:

Kubernetes Docs - Pod Security Admission: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/security/pod-security-admission/>

NEW QUESTION # 12

Is it possible to restrict permissions so that a controller can only change the image of a deployment (without changing anything else about it, e.g., environment variables, commands, replicas, secrets)?

- A. No, because granting access to the spec.containers.image field always grants access to the rest of the spec object.
- B. Yes, by granting permission to the /image subresource.
- **C. Not with RBAC, but it is possible with an admission webhook.**
- D. Yes, with a 'managed fields' annotation.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- * RBAC in Kubernetes is coarse-grained: it controls verbs (get, update, patch, delete) on resources (e.g., deployments), but not individual fields within a resource.
- * There is no /image subresource for deployments (there is one for pods but only for ephemeral containers).
- * Therefore, RBAC cannot restrict changes only to the image field.
- * Admission Webhooks (mutating/validating) can enforce fine-grained policies (e.g., deny updates that change anything other than spec.containers[*].image).
- * Exact extract (Kubernetes Docs - Admission Webhooks):
- * "Admission webhooks can be used to enforce custom policies on objects being admitted." References: Kubernetes Docs - RBAC: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz/rbac/> Kubernetes Docs - Admission Webhooks: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz/extensible-admission-controllers/>

NEW QUESTION # 13

You want to minimize security issues in running Kubernetes Pods. Which of the following actions can help achieve this goal?

- A. Sharing sensitive data among Pods in the same cluster to improve collaboration.
- **B. Implement Pod Security standards in the Pod's YAML configuration.**
- C. Deploying Pods with randomly generated names to obfuscate their identities.
- D. Running Pods with elevated privileges to maximize their capabilities.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- * Pod Security Standards (PSS):
 - * Kubernetes provides Pod Security Admission (PSA) to enforce security controls based on policies.
 - * Official extract: "Pod Security Standards define different isolation levels for Pods. The standards focus on restricting what Pods can do and what they can access."
 - * The three standard profiles are:
 - * Privileged: unrestricted (not recommended).
 - * Baseline: minimal restrictions.
 - * Restricted: highly restricted, enforcing least privilege.
 - * Why option C is correct:
 - * Applying Pod Security Standards in YAML ensures Pods adhere to best practices like:
 - * No root user.
 - * Restricted host access.
 - * No privilege escalation.
 - * Seccomp/AppArmor profiles.
 - * This directly minimizes security risks.
 - * Why others are wrong:
 - * A: Sharing sensitive data increases risk of exposure.
 - * B: Running with elevated privileges contradicts least privilege principle.
 - * D: Random Pod names do not contribute to security.
- References:
Kubernetes Docs - Pod Security Standards: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/security/pod-security-standards/> Kubernetes Docs - Pod Security Admission: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/security/pod-security-admission/>

NEW QUESTION # 14

On a client machine, what directory (by default) contains sensitive credential information?

- A. /etc/kubernetes/
- B. \$HOME/.config/kubernetes/
- **C. \$HOME/.kube**
- D. /opt/kubernetes/secrets/

Answer: C

Explanation:

- * The kubectl client uses configuration from \$HOME/.kube/config by default.
- * This file contains: cluster API server endpoint, user certificates, tokens, or kubeconfigs #sensitive credentials.
- * Exact extract (Kubernetes Docs - Configure Access to Clusters):
- * "By default, kubectl looks for a file named config in the \$HOME/.kube directory. This file contains configuration information including user credentials."
- * Other options clarified:
- * A: /etc/kubernetes/ exists on nodes (control plane) not client machines.
- * C: /opt/kubernetes/secrets/ is not a standard path.
- * D: \$HOME/.config/kubernetes/ is not where kubeconfig is stored by default.

References:

Kubernetes Docs - Configure Access to Clusters: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/configuration/organize-cluster-access-kubeconfig/>

NEW QUESTION # 15

In which order are the validating and mutating admission controllers run while the Kubernetes API server processes a request?

- A. Validating and mutating admission controllers run simultaneously.
- B. Validating admission controllers run before mutating admission controllers.
- **C. Mutating admission controllers run before validating admission controllers.**
- D. The order of execution varies and is determined by the cluster configuration.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- * The admission control flow in Kubernetes:
- * Mutating admission controllers run first and can modify incoming requests.
- * Validating admission controllers run after mutations to ensure the final object complies with policies.
- * This ensures policies validate the final, mutated object.

References:

Kubernetes Documentation - Admission Controllers
CNCF Security Whitepaper - Admission control workflow.

NEW QUESTION # 16

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