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## Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|-------|---------|
|       |         |

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic 1 | <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 2 | <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 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>CD pipelines are also assessed here.</li> </ul>                                |
| Topic 4 | <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 5 | <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 (Q49-Q54):

### NEW QUESTION # 49

Which provisioning strategy ensures efficient resource scaling for an application on Kubernetes?

- A. Manual provisioning of resources based on predicted traffic.
- B. Using a declarative approach with Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tools to define resource requirements.
- C. Using an imperative approach to script resource changes in response to traffic spikes.
- D. Implementing a fixed resource allocation that does not change regardless of demand.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The most efficient and scalable strategy is to use a declarative approach with Infrastructure as Code (IaC)

. Option B is correct because declarative definitions specify the desired state (e.g., resource requests, limits, autoscaling policies) in code, allowing Kubernetes controllers and autoscalers to reconcile and enforce them dynamically. This ensures that applications can scale efficiently based on actual demand.

Option A (fixed allocation) is inefficient, leading to wasted resources during low usage or insufficient capacity during high demand.

Option C (manual provisioning) introduces delays, risk of error, and operational overhead. Option D (imperative scripting) is not sustainable for large-scale or dynamic workloads, as it requires constant manual intervention.

Declarative IaC aligns with GitOps workflows, enabling automated, version-controlled scaling decisions.

Combined with Kubernetes' Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) and Cluster Autoscaler, this approach allows platforms to balance cost efficiency with application reliability.

References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- Kubernetes Autoscaling Documentation- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

### NEW QUESTION # 50

To simplify service consumption for development teams on a Kubernetes platform, which approach combines service discovery with an abstraction of underlying infrastructure details?

- A. Service catalog with abstracted APIs and automated service registration.

- B. Direct Kubernetes API access with detailed documentation.
- C. Manual service dependencies configuration within application code.
- D. Shared service connection strings and network configurations document.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Simplifying developer access to platform services is a central goal of internal developer platforms (IDPs).

Option D is correct because a service catalog with abstracted APIs and automated registration provides a unified interface for developers to consume services without dealing with low-level infrastructure details. This approach combines service discovery with abstraction, offering golden paths and self-service capabilities.

Option A burdens developers with hardcoded dependencies, reducing flexibility and portability. Option B relies on manual documentation, which is error-prone and not dynamic. Option C increases cognitive load by requiring developers to interact directly with Kubernetes APIs, which goes against platform engineering's goal of reducing complexity.

A service catalog enables developers to provision databases, messaging queues, or APIs with minimal input, while the platform automates backend provisioning and wiring. It also improves consistency, compliance, and observability by embedding platform-wide policies into the service provisioning workflows. This results in a seamless developer experience that accelerates delivery while maintaining governance.

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

### NEW QUESTION # 51

During a CI/CD pipeline setup, at which stage should the Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) be generated to provide most valuable insights into dependencies?

- A. During testing.
- **B. During the build process.**
- C. After deployment.
- D. Before committing code.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The most effective stage to generate a Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) is during the build process.

Option C is correct because the build phase is when dependencies are resolved and artifacts (e.g., container images, binaries) are created. Generating an SBOM at this point provides a complete, accurate inventory of all included libraries and components, which is critical for vulnerability scanning, license compliance, and supply chain security.

Option A (testing) is too late to capture all dependencies reliably. Option B (before committing code) cannot provide a full SBOM because builds often introduce additional dependencies. Option D (after deployment) delays insights until production, missing the opportunity to detect and remediate issues early.

Integrating SBOM generation into CI/CD pipelines enables shift-left security, ensuring vulnerabilities are detected early and allowing remediation before artifacts reach production. This aligns with CNCF supply chain security practices and platform engineering goals.

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

### NEW QUESTION # 52

In the context of platform engineering and the effective delivery of platform software, which of the following statements describes the role of CI/CD pipelines in relation to Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) and security scanning?

- A. CI/CD pipelines are designed to accelerate the delivery of platform software, and adding SBOM generation and security scanning would slow down the process, so these activities are better suited for periodic audits conducted outside of the pipeline.
- **B. CI/CD pipelines should integrate SBOM generation and security scanning as automated steps within the build and test phases to ensure early detection of vulnerabilities and maintain a clear inventory of components.**
- C. SBOM generation and security scanning are particularly valuable for application software. While platform software may have different security considerations, these practices are highly beneficial within CI/CD pipelines for applications.
- D. CI/CD pipelines are primarily for automating deployments; SBOM generation and security scanning are separate, manual processes performed after deployment.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Modern platform engineering requires security and compliance to be integral parts of the delivery process, not afterthoughts. CI/CD pipelines are the foundation for delivering platform software rapidly and reliably, and integrating SBOM generation and automated vulnerability scanning directly within pipelines ensures that risks are identified early in the lifecycle.

Option B is correct because it reflects recommended practices from cloud native platform engineering standards: SBOMs provide a transparent inventory of all software components, including dependencies, which is crucial for vulnerability management, license compliance, and supply chain security. By automating these steps in CI/CD, teams can maintain both velocity and security without manual overhead.

Option A downplays the relevance of SBOMs for platform software, which is inaccurate because platform components (like Kubernetes operators, ingress controllers, or logging agents) are equally susceptible to vulnerabilities. Option C dismisses automation in favor of periodic audits, which contradicts the shift-left security principle. Option D misunderstands CI/CD's purpose: security must be integrated, not separated.

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

### NEW QUESTION # 53

In a GitOps setup, which of the following correctly describes the interaction between components when using a pull-based approach?

- A. The syncer continuously checks the git repository for changes and applies them to the target cluster.
- B. The git repository pushes configuration changes directly to the syncer without any checks.
- C. The syncer uses webhooks to notify the target cluster of changes in the git repository.
- D. The target cluster sends updates to the git repository whenever a change is made.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

GitOps uses a pull-based approach, where controllers inside the cluster continuously reconcile the desired state stored in Git with the actual cluster state. Option A is correct because GitOps sync agents (e.g., Argo CD, Flux) poll or watch Git repositories for changes and automatically apply updates to the cluster.

Option B reverses the model-clusters do not send updates to Git; Git is the source of truth. Option C is partially misleading: webhooks can trigger faster syncs but reconciliation is still pull-based. Option D misrepresents GitOps-Git never pushes directly to clusters.

This pull-based approach ensures greater security (clusters pull changes rather than exposing themselves to pushes), consistency (Git as source of truth), and continuous reconciliation (drift correction).

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

### NEW QUESTION # 54

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