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Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate (KCSA)

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QUESTION & ANSWERS

QUESTION: 1

Why is setting resource limits and requests for Kubernetes pods important to prevent internal Denial of Service scenarios?

- Option A : To optimize the network performance of the cluster
- Option B : To ensure even distribution of storage resources among pods
- Option C : To prevent a single pod from consuming excessive resources, impacting overall cluster stability
- Option D : To facilitate rapid scaling of applications in response to demand

Correct Answer: C

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Linux Foundation KCSA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 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"> • Kubernetes Threat Model: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cloud Security Architect and involves identifying and mitigating potential threats to a Kubernetes cluster. It requires understanding common attack vectors like privilege escalation, denial of service, malicious code execution, and network-based attacks, as well as strategies to protect sensitive data and prevent an attacker from gaining persistence within the environment.

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Linux Foundation Kubernetes and Cloud Native Security Associate Sample Questions (Q28-Q33):

NEW QUESTION # 28

How can a user enforce the Pod Security Standard without third-party tools?

- A. Use the PodSecurity admission controller.
- B. It is only possible to enforce the Pod Security Standard with additional tools within the cloud native ecosystem.
- C. No additional measures have to be taken to enforce the Pod Security Standard.
- D. Through implementing Kyverno or OPA Policies.

Answer: A

Explanation:

* The PodSecurity admission controller (built-in as of Kubernetes v1.23+) enforces the Pod Security Standards (Privileged, Baseline, Restricted).

* Enforcement is namespace-scoped and configured through namespace labels.

* Incorrect options:

* (A) Kyverno/OPA are external policy tools (useful but not required).

* (C) Not true, PodSecurity admission provides native enforcement.

* (D) Enforcement requires explicit configuration, not automatic.

References:

Kubernetes Documentation - Pod Security Admission

CNCF Security Whitepaper - Policy enforcement and admission control.

NEW QUESTION # 29

Which security knowledge-base focuses specifically on offensive tools, techniques, and procedures?

- A. CIS Controls
- B. MITRE ATT&CK
- C. NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- D. OWASP Top 10

Answer: B

Explanation:

* MITRE ATT&CK is a globally recognized knowledge base of adversary tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). It is focused on describing offensive behaviors attackers use.

* Incorrect options:

* (B) OWASP Top 10 highlights common application vulnerabilities, not attacker techniques.

* (C) CIS Controls are defensive best practices, not offensive tools.

* (D) NIST Cybersecurity Framework provides a risk-based defensive framework, not adversary TTPs.

References:

MITRE ATT&CK Framework

CNCF Security Whitepaper - Threat intelligence section: references MITRE ATT&CK for describing attacker behavior.

NEW QUESTION # 30

In a Kubernetes environment, what kind of Admission Controller can modify resource manifests when applied to the Kubernetes API to fix misconfigurations automatically?

- A. ResourceQuota
- **B. MutatingAdmissionController**
- C. ValidatingAdmissionController
- D. PodSecurityPolicy

Answer: B

Explanation:

* Kubernetes Admission Controllers can either validate or mutate incoming requests.

* MutatingAdmissionWebhook (Mutating Admission Controller):

* Can modify or mutate resource manifests before they are persisted in etcd.

* Used for automatic injection of sidecars (e.g., Istio Envoy proxy), setting default values, or fixing misconfigurations.

* ValidatingAdmissionWebhook (Validating Admission Controller): only allows/denies but does not change requests.

* PodSecurityPolicy: deprecated; cannot mutate requests.

* ResourceQuota: enforces resource usage, but does not mutate manifests.

Exact Extract:

* "Mutating admission webhooks are invoked first, and can modify objects to enforce defaults.

Validating admission webhooks are invoked second, and can reject requests to enforce invariants.

"

References:

Kubernetes Docs - Admission Controllers: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz/admission-controllers/>

Kubernetes Docs - Admission Webhooks: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz/extensible-admission-controllers/>

NEW QUESTION # 31

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

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

Answer: D

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 # 32

Which of the following statements correctly describes a container breakout?

- A. A container breakout is the process of escaping the container and gaining access to the Pod's network traffic.
- B. A container breakout is the process of escaping a container when it reaches its resource limits.
- C. A container breakout is the process of escaping the container and gaining access to the cloud provider's infrastructure.
- **D. A container breakout is the process of escaping the container and gaining access to the host operating system.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

- * Container breakout refers to an attacker escaping container isolation and reaching the host OS.
- * Once the host is compromised, the attacker can access other containers, Kubernetes nodes, or escalate further.
- * Exact extract (Kubernetes Security Docs):
- * "If an attacker gains access to a container, they may attempt a container breakout to gain access to the host system."
- * Other options clarified:
- * A: Network access inside a Pod is not a breakout.
- * B: Resource exhaustion is a DoS, not a breakout.
- * C: Cloud infrastructure compromise is possible after host compromise, but not the definition of breakout.

References:

Kubernetes Security Concepts: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/security/> CNCF Security Whitepaper (Threats section): <https://github.com/cncf/tag-security>

NEW QUESTION # 33

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