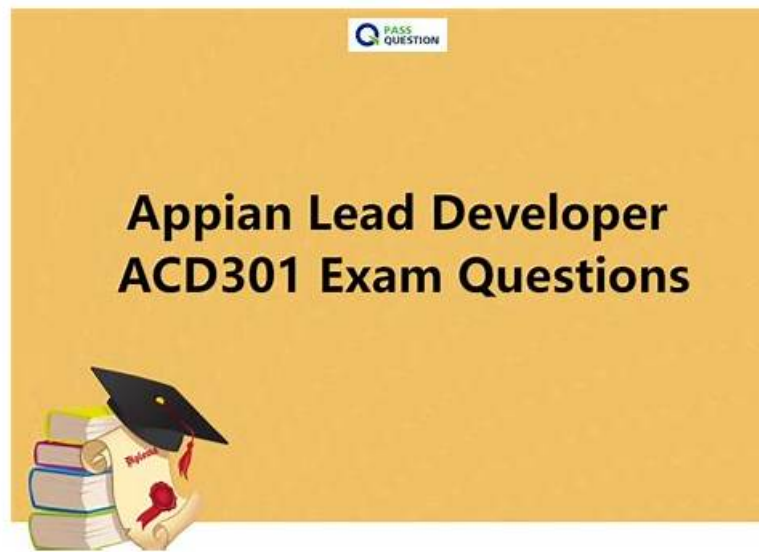


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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	Proactively Design for Scalability and Performance: This section of the exam measures skills of Application Performance Engineers and covers building scalable applications and optimizing Appian components for performance. It includes planning load testing, diagnosing performance issues at the application level, and designing systems that can grow efficiently without sacrificing reliability.
Topic 2	Data Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Data Architects and covers analyzing, designing, and securing data models. Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of how to use Appian's data fabric and manage data migrations. The focus is on ensuring performance in high-volume data environments, solving data-related issues, and implementing advanced database features effectively.
Topic 3	Platform Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Appian System Administrators and covers the ability to manage platform operations such as deploying applications across environments, troubleshooting platform-level issues, configuring environment settings, and understanding platform architecture. Candidates are also expected to know when to involve Appian Support and how to adjust admin console configurations to maintain stability and performance.
Topic 4	Application Design and Development: This section of the exam measures skills of Lead Appian Developers and covers the design and development of applications that meet user needs using Appian functionality. It includes designing for consistency, reusability, and collaboration across teams. Emphasis is placed on applying best practices for building multiple, scalable applications in complex environments.

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Appian ACD301 Exam Questions - Updated Frequently

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q25-Q30):

NEW QUESTION # 25

A customer wants to integrate a CSV file once a day into their Appian application, sent every night at 1:00 AM. The file contains hundreds of thousands of items to be used daily by users as soon as their workday starts at 8:00 AM. Considering the high volume of data to manipulate and the nature of the operation, what is the best technical option to process the requirement?

- A. Build a complex and optimized view (relevant indices, efficient joins, etc.), and use it every time a user needs to use the data.
- B. Use an Appian Process Model, initiated after every integration, to loop on each item and update it to the business requirements.
- **C. Create a set of stored procedures to handle the volume and the complexity of the expectations, and call it after each integration.**
- D. Process what can be completed easily in a process model after each integration, and complete the most complex tasks using a set of stored procedures.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, handling a daily CSV integration with hundreds of thousands of items requires a solution that balances performance, scalability, and Appian's architectural strengths. The timing (1:00 AM integration, 8:00 AM availability) and data volume necessitate efficient processing and minimal runtime overhead. Let's evaluate each option based on Appian's official documentation and best practices:

A . Use an Appian Process Model, initiated after every integration, to loop on each item and update it to the business requirements: This approach involves parsing the CSV in a process model and using a looping mechanism (e.g., a subprocess or script task with `forEach`) to process each item. While Appian process models are excellent for orchestrating workflows, they are not optimized for high-volume data processing. Looping over hundreds of thousands of records would strain the process engine, leading to timeouts, memory issues, or slow execution-potentially missing the 8:00 AM deadline. Appian's documentation warns against using process models for bulk data operations, recommending database-level processing instead. This is not a viable solution.

B . Build a complex and optimized view (relevant indices, efficient joins, etc.), and use it every time a user needs to use the data: This suggests loading the CSV into a table and creating an optimized database view (e.g., with indices and joins) for user queries via `queryEntity`. While this improves read performance for users at 8:00 AM, it doesn't address the integration process itself. The question focuses on processing the CSV ("manipulate" and "operation"), not just querying. Building a view assumes the data is already loaded and transformed, leaving the heavy lifting of integration unaddressed. This option is incomplete and misaligned with the requirement's focus on processing efficiency.

C . Create a set of stored procedures to handle the volume and the complexity of the expectations, and call it after each integration: This is the best choice. Stored procedures, executed in the database, are designed for high-volume data manipulation (e.g., parsing CSV, transforming data, and applying business logic). In this scenario, you can configure an Appian process model to trigger at 1:00 AM (using a timer event) after the CSV is received (e.g., via FTP or Appian's File System utilities), then call a stored procedure via the "Execute Stored Procedure" smart service. The stored procedure can efficiently bulk-load the CSV (e.g., using SQL's `BULK INSERT` or equivalent), process the data, and update tables-all within the database's optimized environment. This ensures completion by 8:00 AM and aligns with Appian's recommendation to offload complex, large-scale data operations to the database layer, maintaining Appian as the orchestration layer.

D . Process what can be completed easily in a process model after each integration, and complete the most complex tasks using a set of stored procedures:

This hybrid approach splits the workload: simple tasks (e.g., validation) in a process model, and complex tasks (e.g., transformations) in stored procedures. While this leverages Appian's strengths (orchestration) and database efficiency, it adds unnecessary complexity. Managing two layers of processing increases maintenance overhead and risks partial failures (e.g., process model timeouts before stored procedures run). Appian's best practices favor a single, cohesive approach for bulk data integration, making this less efficient than a pure stored procedure solution (C).

Conclusion: Creating a set of stored procedures (C) is the best option. It leverages the database's native capabilities to handle the high volume and complexity of the CSV integration, ensuring fast, reliable processing between 1:00 AM and 8:00 AM. Appian

orchestrates the trigger and integration (e.g., via a process model), while the stored procedure performs the heavy lifting-aligning with Appian's performance guidelines for large-scale data operations.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Execute Stored Procedure Smart Service" (Process Modeling > Smart Services).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Data Integration Module (Handling Large Data Volumes).

Appian Best Practices: "Performance Considerations for Data Integration" (Database vs. Process Model Processing).

NEW QUESTION # 26

You are running an inspection as part of the first deployment process from TEST to PROD. You receive a notice that one of your objects will not deploy because it is dependent on an object from an application owned by a separate team.

What should be your next step?

- **A. Halt the production deployment and contact the other team for guidance on promoting the object to PROD.**
- B. Create your own object with the same code base, replace the dependent object in the application, and deploy to PROD.
- C. Push a functionally viable package to PROD without the dependencies, and plan the rest of the deployment accordingly with the other team's constraints.
- D. Check the dependencies of the necessary object. Deploy to PROD if there are few dependencies and it is low risk.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, managing a deployment from TEST to PROD requires careful handling of dependencies, especially when objects from another team's application are involved. The scenario describes a dependency issue during deployment, signaling a need for collaboration and governance. Let's evaluate each option:

* A. Create your own object with the same code base, replace the dependent object in the application, and deploy to PROD: This approach involves duplicating the object, which introduces redundancy, maintenance risks, and potential version control issues. It violates Appian's governance principles, as objects should be owned and managed by their respective teams to ensure consistency and avoid conflicts. Appian's deployment best practices discourage duplicating objects unless absolutely necessary, making this an unsustainable and risky solution.

* B. Halt the production deployment and contact the other team for guidance on promoting the object to PROD: This is the correct step. When an object from another application (owned by a separate team) is a dependency, Appian's deployment process requires coordination to ensure both applications' objects are deployed in sync. Halting the deployment prevents partial deployments that could break functionality, and contacting the other team aligns with Appian's collaboration and governance guidelines. The other team can provide the necessary object version, adjust their deployment timeline, or resolve the dependency, ensuring a stable PROD environment.

* C. Check the dependencies of the necessary object. Deploy to PROD if there are few dependencies and it is low risk: This approach risks deploying an incomplete or unstable application if the dependency isn't fully resolved. Even with "few dependencies" and "low risk," deploying without the other team's object could lead to runtime errors or broken functionality in PROD. Appian's documentation emphasizes thorough dependency management during deployment, requiring all objects (including those from other applications) to be promoted together, making this risky and not recommended.

* D. Push a functionally viable package to PROD without the dependencies, and plan the rest of the deployment accordingly with the other team's constraints: Deploying without dependencies creates an incomplete solution, potentially leaving the application non-functional or unstable in PROD. Appian's deployment process ensures all dependencies are included to maintain application integrity, and partial deployments are discouraged unless explicitly planned (e.g., phased rollouts). This option delays resolution and increases risk, contradicting Appian's best practices for Production stability.

Conclusion: Halting the production deployment and contacting the other team for guidance (B) is the next step. It ensures proper collaboration, aligns with Appian's governance model, and prevents deployment errors, providing a safe and effective resolution.

References:

* Appian Documentation: "Deployment Best Practices" (Managing Dependencies Across Applications).

* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Management Module (Cross-Team Collaboration).

* Appian Best Practices: "Handling Production Deployments" (Dependency Resolution).

NEW QUESTION # 27

You are the lead developer for an Appian project, in a backlog refinement meeting. You are presented with the following user story: "As a restaurant customer, I need to be able to place my food order online to avoid waiting in line for takeout." Which two functional acceptance criteria would you consider 'good'?

- **A. The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history.**

- B. The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields.
- C. The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed.
- D. The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day.

Answer: A,B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, defining "good" functional acceptance criteria for a user story requires ensuring they are specific, testable, and directly tied to the user's need (placing an online food order to avoid waiting in line). Good criteria focus on functionality, usability, and reliability, aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices. Let's evaluate each option:

A . The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history:

This is a "good" criterion. It directly validates the core functionality of the user story-placing an order online. Saving order data in the ORDER table (likely via a process model or Data Store Entity) ensures persistence, and audit history (e.g., using Appian's audit logs or database triggers) tracks changes, supporting traceability and compliance. This is specific, testable (e.g., verify data in the table and logs), and essential for the user's goal, aligning with Appian's data management and user experience guidelines.

B . The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed:

While useful, this is a "nice-to-have" enhancement, not a core requirement of the user story. The story focuses on placing an order online to avoid waiting, not on completion notifications. Email notifications add value but aren't essential for validating the primary functionality. Appian's user story best practices prioritize criteria tied to the main user need, making this secondary and not "good" in this context.

C . The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day:

This is a non-functional requirement (performance/scalability), not a functional acceptance criterion. It describes system capacity, not specific user behavior or functionality. While important for design, it's not directly testable for the user story's outcome (placing an order) and isn't tied to the user's experience. Appian's Agile methodologies separate functional and non-functional requirements, making this less relevant as a "good" criterion here.

D . The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields:

This is a "good" criterion. It ensures data integrity and usability by preventing incomplete orders, directly supporting the user's ability to place a valid online order. In Appian, this can be implemented using form validation (e.g., required attributes in SAIL interfaces or process model validations), making it specific, testable (e.g., verify form submission fails with missing fields), and critical for a reliable user experience. This aligns with Appian's UI design and user story validation standards.

Conclusion: The two "good" functional acceptance criteria are A (order saved with audit history) and D (required fields enforced). These directly validate the user story's functionality (placing a valid order online), are testable, and ensure a reliable, user-friendly experience-aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices for user stories.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Writing Effective User Stories and Acceptance Criteria" (Functional Requirements).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Agile Development Module (Acceptance Criteria Best Practices).

Appian Best Practices: "Designing User Interfaces in Appian" (Form Validation and Data Persistence).

NEW QUESTION # 28

You are reviewing the Engine Performance Logs in Production for a single application that has been live for six months. This application experiences concurrent user activity and has a fairly sustained load during business hours. The client has reported performance issues with the application during business hours.

During your investigation, you notice a high Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size value in the logs. You also notice unattended process activities, including timer events and sending notification emails, are taking far longer to execute than normal.

The client increased the number of CPU cores prior to the application going live.

What is the next recommendation?

- A. Add more application servers.
- B. Add more engine replicas.
- C. Optimize slow-performing user interfaces.
- D. Add execution and analytics shards

Answer: B

Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, analyzing Engine Performance Logs to address performance issues in a Production application requires understanding Appian's architecture and the specific metrics described. The scenario indicates a high "Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size," which reflects a backlog of tasks in the Java Work Queue (managed by Appian engines), and delays in unattended process activities (e.g., timer events, email notifications). These symptoms suggest the Appian engines are overloaded,

despite the client increasing CPU cores. Let's evaluate each option:

* A. Add more engine replicas: This is the correct recommendation. In Appian, engine replicas (part of the Appian Engine cluster) handle process execution, including unattended tasks like timers and notifications. A high Java Work Queue Size indicates the engines are overwhelmed by concurrent activity during business hours, causing delays. Adding more engine replicas distributes the workload, reducing queue size and improving performance for both user-driven and unattended tasks. Appian's documentation recommends scaling engine replicas to handle sustained loads, especially in Production with high concurrency. Since CPU cores were already increased (likely on application servers), the bottleneck is likely the engine capacity, not the servers.

* B. Optimize slow-performing user interfaces: While optimizing user interfaces (e.g., SAIL forms, reports) can improve user experience, the scenario highlights delays in unattended activities (timers, emails), not UI performance. The Java Work Queue Size issue points to engine-level processing, not UI rendering, so this doesn't address the root cause. Appian's performance tuning guidelines prioritize engine scaling for queue-related issues, making this a secondary concern.

* C. Add more application servers: Application servers handle web traffic (e.g., SAIL interfaces, API calls), not process execution or unattended tasks managed by engines. Increasing application servers would help with UI concurrency but wouldn't reduce the Java Work Queue Size or speed up timer

/email processing, as these are engine responsibilities. Since the client already increased CPU cores (likely on application servers), this is redundant and unrelated to the issue.

* D. Add execution and analytics shards: Execution shards (for process data) and analytics shards (for reporting) are part of Appian's data fabric for scalability, but they don't directly address engine workload or Java Work Queue Size. Shards optimize data storage and query performance, not real-time process execution. The logs indicate an engine bottleneck, not a data storage issue, so this isn't relevant.

Appian's documentation confirms shards are for long-term scaling, not immediate performance fixes.

Conclusion: Adding more engine replicas (A) is the next recommendation. It directly resolves the high Java Work Queue Size and delays in unattended tasks, aligning with Appian's architecture for handling concurrent loads in Production. This requires collaboration with system administrators to configure additional replicas in the Appian cluster.

References:

* Appian Documentation: "Engine Performance Monitoring" (Java Work Queue and Scaling Replicas).

* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Performance Optimization Module (Engine Scaling Strategies).

* Appian Best Practices: "Managing Production Performance" (Work Queue Analysis).

NEW QUESTION # 29

An Appian application contains an integration used to send a JSON, called at the end of a form submission, returning the created code of the user request as the response. To be able to efficiently follow their case, the user needs to be informed of that code at the end of the process. The JSON contains case fields (such as text, dates, and numeric fields) to a customer's API. What should be your two primary considerations when building this integration?

- A. A dictionary that matches the expected request body must be manually constructed.
- B. A process must be built to retrieve the API response afterwards so that the user experience is not impacted.
- C. The size limit of the body needs to be carefully followed to avoid an error.
- D. The request must be a multi-part POST.

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: As an Appian Lead Developer, building an integration to send JSON to a customer's API and return a code to the user involves balancing usability, performance, and reliability. The integration is triggered at form submission, and the user must see the response (case code) efficiently. The JSON includes standard fields (text, dates, numbers), and the focus is on primary considerations for the integration itself. Let's evaluate each option based on Appian's official documentation and best practices:

* A. A process must be built to retrieve the API response afterwards so that the user experience is not impacted: This suggests making the integration asynchronous by calling it in a process model (e.g., via a Start Process smart service) and retrieving the response later, avoiding delays in the UI. While this improves user experience for slow APIs (e.g., by showing a "Processing" message), it contradicts the requirement that the user is "informed of that code at the end of the process." Asynchronous processing would delay the code display, requiring additional steps (e.g., a follow-up task), which isn't efficient for this use case. Appian's default integration pattern (synchronous call in an Integration object) is suitable unless latency is a known issue, making this a secondary-not primary-consideration.

* B. The request must be a multi-part POST: A multi-part POST (e.g., multipart/form-data) is used for sending mixed content, like files and text, in a single request. Here, the payload is a JSON containing case fields (text, dates, numbers)-no files are mentioned. Appian's HTTP Connected System and Integration objects default to application/json for JSON payloads via a standard POST, which aligns with REST API norms. Forcing a multi-part POST adds unnecessary complexity and is incompatible with most APIs expecting JSON. Appian documentation confirms this isn't required for JSON-only data, ruling it out as a primary consideration.

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