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Linux Foundation CNPA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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.
Topic 2	• Continuous Delivery & Platform Engineering: This section measures the skills of Supplier Management Consultants and focuses on continuous integration pipelines, the fundamentals of the CI • CD relationship, and GitOps basics. It also includes knowledge of workflows, incident response in platform engineering, and applying GitOps for application environments.

Topic 3	• 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 4	• 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.

Linux Foundation Certified Cloud Native Platform Engineering Associate Sample Questions (Q42-Q47):

NEW QUESTION # 42
In a GitOps workflow, what is a secure and efficient method for managing secrets within a Git repository?

- A. Use a secrets management tool and store references in the repository.
- B. Encrypt secrets and store them directly in the repository.
- C. Use environment variables to manage secrets outside the repository.
- D. Store secrets in plain text within the repository.

Answer: A

Explanation:
The secure and efficient way to handle secrets in a GitOps workflow is to use a dedicated secrets management tool (e.g., HashiCorp Vault, Sealed Secrets, or External Secrets Operator) and store only references or encrypted placeholders in the Git repository.
Option B is correct because Git should remain the source of truth for configuration, but sensitive values should be abstracted or encrypted to maintain security.
Option A (environment variables) can supplement secret management but lacks versioning and auditability when used alone. Option C (encrypting secrets in Git) can work with tools like Mozilla SOPS, but it still requires external key management, making Option B a more complete and secure approach. Option D (plain text secrets) is highly insecure and should never be used.
By integrating secrets managers into GitOps workflows, teams achieve both security and automation, ensuring secrets are delivered securely during reconciliation without exposing sensitive data in Git.
References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- CNCF Supply Chain Security Whitepaper- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 43
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. After deployment.
- C. During the build process.
- D. Before committing code.

Answer: C

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

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NEW QUESTION # 44
As a Cloud Native Platform Associate, which of the following is the best example of a self-service use case that should be implemented within a cloud platform?

- A. An automated resource provisioning system to spin up environments on demand.
- B. A manual request process for acquiring additional storage resources.
- C. A centralized dashboard for monitoring application performance.
- D. An internal wiki for documenting best practices in cloud usage.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Self-service capabilities are a cornerstone of platform engineering, enabling developers to move quickly while reducing dependency on platform teams. Option C is correct because an automated resource provisioning system allows developers to spin up sandbox or test environments on demand, supporting experimentation and rapid iteration. This aligns with the principle of treating platforms as products, focusing on developer experience and productivity.
Option A (manual request process) creates bottlenecks and is the opposite of self-service. Option B (documentation) is helpful but does not enable automation or self-service. Option D (centralized monitoring) improves observability but is not a self-service capability by itself.
By implementing automated provisioning, developers gain autonomy while platform teams maintain governance through abstractions, golden paths, and policy enforcement. This fosters agility, consistency, and scalability, improving both developer experience and organizational efficiency.
References:- CNCF Platforms Whitepaper- CNCF Platform Engineering Maturity Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 45
In a Kubernetes environment, which component is responsible for watching the state of resources during the reconciliation process?

- A. Kubernetes Scheduler
- B. Kubernetes Dashboard
- C. Kubernetes API Server
- D. Kubernetes Controller

Answer: D

Explanation:
The Kubernetes reconciliation process ensures that the actual cluster state matches the desired state defined in manifests. The Kubernetes Controller (option D) is responsible for watching the state of resources through the API Server and taking action to reconcile differences. For example, the Deployment Controller ensures that the number of Pods matches the replica count specified, while the Node Controller monitors node health.
Option A (Scheduler) is incorrect because the Scheduler's role is to assign Pods to nodes based on constraints and availability, not ongoing reconciliation. Option B (Dashboard) is simply a UI for visualization and does not manage cluster state. Option C (API Server) exposes the Kubernetes API and serves as the communication hub, but it does not perform reconciliation logic itself.
Controllers embody the core Kubernetes design principle: continuous reconciliation between declared state and observed state. This makes them fundamental to declarative infrastructure and aligns with GitOps practices where controllers continuously enforce desired configurations from source control.
References:- CNCF Kubernetes Documentation- CNCF GitOps Principles- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 46
What is the primary advantage of using a declarative approach to Infrastructure as Code (IaC) over an imperative approach?

- A. Declarative IaC focuses on the "what" rather than the "how," simplifying the management of infrastructure.
- B. Declarative IaC requires more coding effort compared to imperative IaC.
- C. Declarative IaC allows for more granular control over resource provisioning.
- D. Declarative IaC is less suitable for dynamic environments compared to imperative IaC.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Declarative Infrastructure as Code (IaC) is a key principle in cloud native environments because it enables platform teams to define the desired state of infrastructure rather than step-by-step procedures. Option A is correct since declarative IaC focuses on describing the "what" (e.g., the infrastructure resources needed) rather than the "how" to create them. Tools such as Terraform, Pulumi (in declarative mode), and Kubernetes manifests embody this model.
Option B is incorrect; declarative IaC is particularly well-suited for dynamic environments due to reconciliation loops. Option C is misleading-imperative methods typically provide more granular control, but declarative abstracts it for simplicity. Option D is false; declarative IaC usually reduces coding effort by relying on higher-level abstractions.
This model allows for consistent, reproducible environments, simplifies management, and integrates naturally with GitOps workflows. It reduces human error and ensures the platform continuously enforces the desired infrastructure state.
References:- CNCF GitOps Principles- Kubernetes Declarative Management Model- Cloud Native Platform Engineering Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 47
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