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YOUR GUIDE TO GLOBAL CERTIFIATION

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Question: 1

Which of the following are the main FlexPod components?

A. Cisco UCS, NetApp ONTAP, Cisco Nexus, VMware vSphere
B. Cisco UCS, NetApp ONTAP, Cisco ACI, Oracle RAC
C. Cisco UCS, NetApp ONTAP, Cisco Catalyst, Microsoft SQL Server
D. Cisco UCS, NetApp SANtricity, Cisco Nexus, Citrix XenServer

Answer: A
Explanation:

FlexPod is a converged infrastructure solution jointly developed by Cisco and NetApp. Its standard components include Cisco UCS (compute), Cisco Nexus (networking), and NetApp ONTAP storage. VMware vSphere is the most commonly validated hypervisor. While ACI and other platforms can be integrated, the baseline FlexPod design uses UCS, Nexus, and ONTAP with vSphere.

Question: 2

During information gathering for a FlexPod deployment, which detail is most critical for sizing storage?

A. Usernames and passwords
B. Required IOPS and workload profiles
C. VLAN IDs and subnet masks
D. DNS and NTP server information

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod design requires accurate sizing of NetApp ONTAP storage arrays. IOPS, latency, throughput, and workload profile (random/sequential, read/write mix) define which ONTAP controller and disk type (SSD, SAS, NVMe) are suitable. VLANs and NTP are important but do not determine sizing. Workload characterization is essential for avoiding under- or over-provisioning.

Question: 3

Which of the following tools is most commonly used for gathering FlexPod configuration and validation details?

A. NetApp Active IQ Config Advisor

B. Cisco UCS Manager CLI
C. VMware vCenter Server
D. NetApp SnapMirror

Answer: A
Explanation:

NetApp Active IQ Config Advisor is used to validate ONTAP and FlexPod configurations, checking compliance with best practices. Cisco UCS Manager and vCenter provide operational details but are not compliance validators. SnapMirror is a replication technology, not a validation tool. Config Advisor ensures that networking, storage, and compute are correctly configured for FlexPod.

Question: 4

Which two vendors jointly certify FlexPod validated designs?

A. Cisco and VMware
B. Cisco and NetApp
C. NetApp and Microsoft
D. Cisco and Red Hat

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod is a collaborative solution between Cisco and NetApp. They jointly publish Cisco Validated Designs (CVDs) and NetApp Verified Architectures (NVAs). While VMware and Microsoft are frequently part of the solution, the certification and reference architectures are published only by Cisco and NetApp.

Question: 5

Which storage platform is the foundation of FlexPod solutions?

A. NetApp E-Series
B. NetApp ONTAP (AFF/FAS)
C. Dell EMC PowerStore
D. NetApp StorageGRID

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod is built on NetApp ONTAP systems, which can be AFF (all-flash) or FAS (hybrid). E-Series is block-only and used in HPC/media but not FlexPod. StorageGRID is object-based and typically complements FlexPod. ONTAP provides multiprotocol support, SnapMirror replication, and integration with Cisco UCS, making it central to FlexPod solutions.

Question: 6

In FlexPod, which protocol is most often used for VMware datastore connectivity?

A. FC and iSCSI
B. NFS and FC
C. FCoE and CIFS
D. iSCSI and CIFS

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod commonly uses NFS for VMware datastores due to its simplicity, efficiency, and direct ONTAP integration. Fibre Channel (FC) is also widely used for block-based datastores. CIFS (SMB) is for file shares, not VM datastores. iSCSI is possible but less common than NFS/FC in FlexPod reference architectures.

Question: 7

Which NetApp feature enables FlexPod to provide efficient cloning for VMs and databases?

A. SnapMirror
B. FlexClone
C. FabricPool
D. SnapVault

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexClone technology allows creation of space-efficient writable clones instantly. This is widely used in FlexPod environments for VM provisioning, database testing, and DevOps. SnapMirror replicates data, SnapVault is for backups, and FabricPool offloads cold data to object storage. FlexClone is the key for agility and efficient storage use.

Domain 2: FlexPod Design – Networking

Question: 8

Which Cisco networking family is standard in FlexPod designs?

A. Cisco Catalyst
B. Cisco Nexus
C. Cisco Meraki

D. Cisco ISR

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco Nexus switches are core to FlexPod networking. They support advanced datacenter features like vPC, VXLAN, and FCoE, making them ideal for high-throughput, low-latency connectivity between UCS and ONTAP. Catalyst and Meraki are more enterprise/LAN focused, while ISR is WAN-focused. Nexus provides the scalability needed for converged infrastructure.

Question: 9

What Cisco Nexus feature ensures dual-switch redundancy in FlexPod designs?

A. HSRP
B. vPC (Virtual Port Channel)
C. VRRP
D. STP (Spanning Tree Protocol)

Answer: B
Explanation:

vPC (Virtual Port Channel) is a core feature in FlexPod designs, allowing a device to connect to two switches while appearing as a single logical port channel. This eliminates the need for Spanning Tree and provides redundancy plus load balancing. HSRP/VRRP provide gateway redundancy but not server/storage link aggregation.

Question: 10

Which protocol allows FlexPod to converge LAN and SAN traffic over a single fabric?

A. FCoE
B. VXLAN
C. iSCSI
D. OSPF

Answer: A
Explanation:

Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) enables converging storage and Ethernet traffic on the same physical network, reducing cabling and switch complexity. VXLAN is for network overlays, iSCSI is storage but not converged, and OSPF is a routing protocol. FlexPod CVDs often use FCoE with Cisco Nexus and UCS.

Question: 11

Which Nexus model series is typically found in FlexPod designs?

A. Nexus 1000V
B. Nexus 2000/5000/9000
C. Nexus 7000 only
D. Catalyst 9300

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod designs typically include Nexus 5000/7000/9000 depending on scale. Nexus 2000 fabric extenders are often paired with 5000/9000. Catalyst switches are not part of FlexPod validated designs. The Nexus 1000V is a virtual switch, now deprecated. Nexus 9000 is common in modern FlexPod deployments for scalability.

Domain 2: FlexPod Design – Compute

Question: 12

Which Cisco compute platform is a core component of FlexPod?

A. Cisco HyperFlex
B. Cisco UCS
C. Cisco ASR Routers
D. Cisco Catalyst Edge Compute

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) is the compute foundation of FlexPod. It includes blade and rack servers with unified fabric interconnects. HyperFlex is Cisco's hyperconverged solution, separate from FlexPod. ASR routers and Catalyst edge are not part of FlexPod. UCS integrates tightly with NetApp ONTAP and Nexus.

Question: 13

What is the role of Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnects in FlexPod?

A. Provide hypervisor licensing
B. Centralized management and I/O aggregation
C. VM migration across clusters
D. Backup and replication services

Answer: B
Explanation:

Fabric Interconnects serve as the management and I/O aggregation layer in Cisco UCS. They manage server profiles, firmware, and connectivity to Nexus and ONTAP. They are not hypervisor or backup systems. VM migration is handled by VMware vSphere. Fabric Interconnects centralize compute

management in FlexPod.

Question: 14

Which UCS feature allows stateless compute provisioning in FlexPod?

A. vMotion
B. Service Profiles
C. FabricPath
D. SnapVault

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco UCS Service Profiles abstract server identity (MACs, WWNs, BIOS, firmware) and allow stateless provisioning. This enables rapid workload mobility and replacement of hardware without reconfiguration. vMotion is VMware, FabricPath is network, SnapVault is NetApp backup. Service Profiles are critical for FlexPod scalability and automation.

Question: 15

Which Cisco UCS Manager management model is typically used in FlexPod?

A. Standalone mode
B. Centralized with Fabric Interconnects
C. HyperFlex-only mode
D. Catalyst StackWise integration

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexPod always uses UCS with Fabric Interconnects for centralized management. Standalone mode (C-Series without FIs) is not part of validated FlexPod. HyperFlex is a separate solution. Catalyst switches do not integrate with UCS Manager. FIs ensure unified compute-networking integration.

Mixed Scenario Questions

Question: 16

Which two protocols are most validated in FlexPod CVDs for VM storage?

A. FC and NFS
B. CIFS and iSCSI
C. VXLAN and OSPF
D. MPLS and GRE

Answer: A
Explanation:

FlexPod CVDs most frequently validate FC (block) and NFS (file) for VMware datastores. CIFS is SMB-based and not for VM datastores. VXLAN/OSPF/MPLS/GRE are networking, not storage protocols. FC and NFS dominate due to reliability, performance, and mature ONTAP integration.

Question: 17

Which NetApp feature ensures space-efficient backup and replication in FlexPod?

A. FabricPath
B. SnapMirror
C. VRRP
D. vMotion

Answer: B
Explanation:

SnapMirror provides efficient block-level replication for disaster recovery in FlexPod. FabricPath is network, VRRP is gateway redundancy, and vMotion is VMware migration. SnapMirror is central to FlexPod business continuity and DR designs.

Question: 18

When designing FlexPod networking, which redundancy feature applies at UCS Fabric Interconnects?

A. Active/standby failover
B. Clustered Fabric Interconnects (high availability)
C. VRF-lite segmentation
D. HSRP-only redundancy

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnects are deployed in clustered pairs for high availability. They provide unified control for compute I/O. This differs from HSRP (gateway redundancy). VRF-lite is for segmentation, not FI redundancy. Clustering ensures no single point of failure in compute networking.

Question: 19

Which hypervisors are officially supported in FlexPod designs?

A. VMware ESXi, Microsoft Hyper-V, Red Hat Virtualization
B. VMware Workstation, Citrix XenServer
C. KVM only

D. VMware ESXi only

Answer: A
Explanation:

FlexPod supports multiple hypervisors including VMware ESXi, Microsoft Hyper-V, and Red Hat Virtualization (RHV). Workstation and XenServer are not part of validated designs. While VMware dominates, FlexPod is hypervisor-agnostic in its official support.

Question: 20

Which two Cisco technologies integrate with FlexPod for automation and orchestration?

A. Cisco UCS Director and Cisco Intersight
B. Cisco WebEx and Catalyst DNA Center
C. Cisco Tetration and Cisco Prime
D. Cisco ISR and Catalyst SD-WAN

Answer: A
Explanation:

Cisco UCS Director and Intersight integrate with FlexPod to enable automation, orchestration, and cloud-based lifecycle management. DNA Center and WebEx are enterprise IT tools, not FlexPod-specific. Tetration is analytics, Prime is legacy network management. UCS Director and Intersight are key for FlexPod automation.

Question: 21

Which two tasks must be performed during the initial installation of a FlexPod solution?

A. Rack and cable UCS servers to Fabric Interconnects
B. Configure vPC between UCS Fabric Interconnects and Nexus switches
C. Enable NetApp SnapMirror on the storage system by default
D. Configure VMware vCenter licenses before UCS installation

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

Initial FlexPod installation requires physical cabling of UCS servers to Fabric Interconnects and logical connectivity via vPCs between Nexus switches and Fabric Interconnects. SnapMirror and vCenter licensing are operational tasks, not installation prerequisites. Proper physical and network configuration ensures redundancy and validated architecture compliance.

Question: 22

Which UCS tool is primarily used for FlexPod component configuration?

A. UCS Manager
B. Cisco DCNM
C. NetApp ONTAP System Manager
D. Cisco Intersight Assist

Answer: A
Explanation:

Cisco UCS Manager is the primary tool for configuring UCS components within FlexPod. It handles Fabric Interconnect configuration, service profiles, and server identity management. DCNM manages Nexus SAN/LAN fabrics, ONTAP System Manager handles NetApp, and Intersight is cloud-based management. UCS Manager is foundational for UCS setup.

Question: 23

Which step is required when configuring UCS blades in a FlexPod design?

A. Assign service profiles to each blade server
B. Configure SnapVault for each VM
C. Enable MPLS routing on UCS Fabric Interconnects
D. Configure CIFS shares on UCS Manager

Answer: A
Explanation:

In FlexPod, UCS blades must be configured with service profiles that define server identity, network, and storage policies. SnapVault and CIFS are storage-side features, not UCS configurations. MPLS is not relevant in UCS. Service profiles make UCS compute stateless and highly flexible.

Question: 24

Which firmware update practice is recommended when installing FlexPod components?

A. Update all UCS servers simultaneously
B. Update components following Cisco Validated Design (CVD) guidelines
C. Disable UCS Manager before firmware upgrade
D. Update only Nexus switches and skip storage firmware

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco Validated Design (CVD) provides tested firmware and software versions for FlexPod interoperability. Simultaneous upgrades may cause downtime. UCS Manager must remain online to orchestrate updates. Skipping storage firmware breaks compliance. CVD ensures cross-vendor version stability across compute, network, and storage.

Question: 25

In UCS, which two networking objects must be created to support FlexPod VLANs?

A. vNIC templates
B. VSANs on Nexus switches only
C. VLANs and uplink port channels
D. NTP and DNS policies

Answer: A, C
Explanation:

FlexPod UCS networking requires VLAN configuration on Fabric Interconnects and their mapping to uplink port channels. vNIC templates define server connections to those VLANs. VSANs are storage-specific, and NTP/DNS are system services, not networking objects. This ensures proper LAN connectivity in UCS.

Question: 26

When configuring VLANs in UCS for FlexPod, which best practice should be followed?

A. Create separate VLANs for management, vMotion, and storage traffic
B. Use the same VLAN for management and vMotion to simplify
C. Avoid enabling jumbo frames
D. Configure VLANs only on Nexus, not UCS

Answer: A
Explanation:

FlexPod designs isolate traffic types with separate VLANs: management, vMotion, storage (NFS/iSCSI), and production. Using a single VLAN risks performance and security issues. Jumbo frames are recommended for storage traffic. VLANs must be consistently created on both Nexus and UCS for end-to-end functionality.

Question: 27

What UCS feature allows redundant uplinks from each Fabric Interconnect to Nexus switches in FlexPod?

A. Port channel with vPC
B. FEX single-homing
C. HSRP on UCS Manager
D. FabricPath

Answer: A
Explanation:

In FlexPod, uplinks from Fabric Interconnects to Nexus switches use port channels configured with vPC. This provides active/active connectivity and eliminates Spanning Tree blocking. FEX singlehoming lacks redundancy. HSRP provides gateway redundancy but not link aggregation. FabricPath is for Layer 2 multipathing.

Question: 28

Which two items must be configured to support SAN boot in FlexPod UCS blades?

A. vHBAs mapped to VSANs
B. Boot-from-SAN policy in the UCS service profile
C. iSCSI boot LUNs on ONTAP
D. CIFS shares on ONTAP

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

SAN boot in UCS requires vHBAs that connect to defined VSANs and a boot-from-SAN policy embedded in service profiles. iSCSI boot can be used, but CIFS shares are irrelevant. ONTAP presents LUNs via FC/iSCSI, which are mapped to UCS service profiles.

Question: 29

Which protocol is most commonly used for SAN boot in FlexPod?

A. FC
B. iSCSI
C. NFS
D. SMB

Answer: A

Explanation:

Fibre Channel (FC) is the most validated and common SAN boot protocol in FlexPod solutions. iSCSI can be used but is less common in enterprise-class FlexPod designs. NFS and SMB are file-based, not block protocols, and thus not used for SAN boot.

Question: 30

Where is the SAN boot target defined in UCS configuration?

A. In UCS Manager boot policy
B. In NetApp ONTAP DNS entries
C. In VMware vCenter storage policies
D. In Cisco Nexus port profiles

Answer: A
Explanation:

SAN boot targets are defined in a UCS boot policy, specifying the LUN, protocol, and vHBA to use. ONTAP presents the LUN, but the mapping is UCS-side. vCenter storage policies operate at VM level, not hardware boot. Nexus port profiles are network configs, not boot configs.

Question: 31

Which two attributes are abstracted by UCS service profiles in FlexPod?

A. MAC addresses and WWNs
B. BIOS and firmware policies
C. VMFS datastore definitions
D. RAID controller cache settings

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

Service profiles in UCS abstract server identity (MACs, WWNs) and server behavior (BIOS, firmware). VMFS datastores and RAID cache settings are not UCS functions. This abstraction allows stateless computing in FlexPod, enabling rapid hardware replacement and workload mobility.

Question: 32

What UCS feature enables consistent deployment of multiple servers using service profiles?

A. Service profile templates
B. vPC port channels
C. NetApp SnapMirror
D. VMware DRS

Answer: A
Explanation:

Service profile templates allow administrators to create a single definition and deploy it consistently across multiple UCS servers. vPC is for networking, SnapMirror for replication, and DRS for VMware load balancing. Templates accelerate provisioning and reduce configuration errors in FlexPod.

Question: 33

When configuring a service profile for SAN boot, which two items must be specified?

A. Boot policy with LUN target
B. vHBA assignment to VSAN

C. NTP and DNS settings
D. NetApp CIFS shares

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

SAN boot requires a boot policy pointing to the storage LUN and proper vHBA-to-VSAN mapping. NTP/DNS are system services but not SAN-boot critical. CIFS shares are irrelevant. This ensures blades can boot directly from ONTAP without local disks.

Question: 34

In FlexPod, which two storage protocols are most validated for VMware datastores?

A. NFS and FC
B. CIFS and NVMe/TCP
C. iSCSI and FTP
D. FCoE and HTTP

Answer: A

Explanation:

FlexPod validated designs most often use NFS (file) and Fibre Channel (block) for VMware datastores. CIFS is SMB-based and not for VM storage. FTP/HTTP are irrelevant. While NVMe/TCP is emerging, it is less common in validated FlexPod guides compared to NFS/FC.

Question: 35

Which NetApp feature enables cloning of VMs and databases in FlexPod?

A. SnapMirror
B. FlexClone
C. SnapVault
D. FabricPool

Answer: B
Explanation:

FlexClone provides instant, space-efficient writable clones for VMs, databases, and test environments. SnapMirror is replication, SnapVault is backup, and FabricPool is tiering. FlexClone accelerates deployment and reduces storage consumption in FlexPod.

Question: 36

Which ONTAP feature enables efficient disaster recovery in FlexPod?

A. SnapVault
B. SnapMirror
C. FabricPool
D. QoS

Answer: B
Explanation:

SnapMirror provides asynchronous or synchronous replication between NetApp ONTAP systems, ensuring FlexPod environments meet DR requirements. SnapVault is backup, FabricPool tiers data, and QoS controls workloads. SnapMirror is the DR cornerstone in FlexPod architectures.

Question: 37

Which Nexus feature is mandatory for FlexPod designs to provide active-active uplinks?

A. vPC
B. STP
C. HSRP
D. OSPF

Answer: A
Explanation:

Virtual Port Channel (vPC) is mandatory in FlexPod designs, enabling devices to connect to two Nexus switches simultaneously without blocking ports via STP. HSRP provides gateway redundancy, OSPF is routing, and STP is largely avoided in FlexPod due to vPC.

Question: 38

Which two tasks are required when configuring Nexus switches for FlexPod?

A. Configure vPC peer-keepalive
B. Enable jumbo frames on storage VLANs
C. Configure MPLS labels for UCS connectivity
D. Disable all unused ports

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

FlexPod Nexus configuration requires vPC peer-keepalive to maintain switch redundancy and jumbo frames for storage traffic. MPLS is irrelevant for FlexPod. Disabling unused ports is good practice but not mandatory in validated designs. Peer-keepalive and jumbo frames are essential.

Question: 39

Which Nexus switch feature reduces the need for spanning tree in FlexPod?

A. vPC
B. VRF-lite
C. FabricPath
D. LACP

Answer: A
Explanation:

vPC allows links to be active simultaneously without blocking, reducing reliance on Spanning Tree Protocol (STP). VRF-lite is segmentation, FabricPath is another Layer 2 multipathing option but less common than vPC, and LACP is part of port-channeling. FlexPod best practices recommend vPC.

Question: 40

In FlexPod Nexus design, which layer is typically implemented using a pair of Nexus switches?

A. Core layer
B. Access layer
C. Distribution/aggregation layer
D. WAN edge layer

Answer: C
Explanation:

FlexPod Nexus switches serve as the aggregation/distribution layer, interconnecting UCS Fabric Interconnects and NetApp storage. They are not WAN edge or core routing devices in most designs. This

role ensures high availability and converged networking for LAN and SAN traffic.

Question: 41

Which two actions align with FlexPod administration best practices?

A. Follow Cisco Validated Design (CVD) firmware guidelines
B. Mix unsupported software versions across components for flexibility
C. Regularly validate configurations with NetApp Active IQ Config Advisor
D. Enable spanning tree across all server ports

Answer: A, C
Explanation:

FlexPod administration emphasizes lifecycle management consistency and compliance with Cisco Validated Designs. Administrators should validate storage, compute, and network against best practices with Active IQ Config Advisor. Mixing unsupported versions breaks stability. Spanning tree on UCS server ports is unnecessary since vPC removes the need.

Question: 42

Which application provides centralized management for the FlexPod environment?

A. Cisco UCS Manager
B. Cisco UCS Director (Intersight Workload Optimizer)
C. NetApp SnapMirror
D. VMware vCenter Converter

Answer: B
Explanation:

Cisco UCS Director (and now Intersight Workload Optimizer) provides centralized management and orchestration for FlexPod. UCS Manager handles compute, but Director/Intersight integrates compute, storage, and networking. SnapMirror is storage replication only. vCenter Converter is unrelated to FlexPod orchestration.

Question: 43

Which two NetApp management tools are commonly used in FlexPod administration?

A. NetApp ONTAP System Manager
B. NetApp Active IQ Unified Manager
C. Cisco DNA Center

D. UCS Intersight Cloud Orchestrator

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

ONTAP System Manager provides direct ONTAP administration, while Active IQ Unified Manager gives monitoring, performance, and health insights. DNA Center is for enterprise networking, not FlexPod. Intersight orchestrates UCS but is not a primary NetApp management application.

Question: 44

Which two FlexPod management tasks can Cisco Intersight perform?

A. Firmware upgrades of UCS infrastructure
B. Proactive failure prediction for servers
C. Automated MetroCluster switchover
D. VMware datastore expansion

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

Cisco Intersight integrates with UCS for firmware lifecycle management and analytics-driven proactive monitoring. MetroCluster is NetApp-specific, and datastore expansion is handled via ONTAP. Intersight improves operational visibility, automation, and predictive analytics for FlexPod compute and networking.

Question: 45

Which NetApp tool validates FlexPod storage configuration against best practices?

A. SnapCenter
B. Config Advisor
C. SnapVault
D. OnCommand Insight

Answer: B

Explanation:

NetApp Active IQ Config Advisor validates ONTAP and FlexPod storage against recommended configurations. SnapCenter provides application-consistent backup. SnapVault is backup/archival. OnCommand Insight is broader storage resource management. Config Advisor ensures FlexPod stays in compliance with NetApp best practices.

Question: 46

Which two applications are used to monitor the performance of a FlexPod solution?

A. Cisco UCS Manager performance monitoring

B. NetApp Active IQ Unified Manager
C. VMware Workstation Performance Monitor
D. Cisco WebEx Control Hub

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

UCS Manager provides compute performance metrics (CPU, memory, I/O). Active IQ Unified Manager monitors ONTAP storage health, performance, and capacity. VMware Workstation and WebEx Control Hub are unrelated. Together, UCSM and Unified Manager form the monitoring foundation of FlexPod.

Question: 47

When planning a FlexPod upgrade, which two practices are recommended?

A. Upgrade components one by one following validated version matrix
B. Upgrade all storage controllers and FIs simultaneously to save time
C. Follow Cisco and NetApp interoperability matrix (IMT)
D. Ignore Nexus firmware unless errors appear

Answer: A, C
Explanation:

FlexPod upgrades must follow the Cisco/NetApp Interoperability Matrix to ensure tested versions are used. Components are upgraded sequentially to minimize downtime. Simultaneous upgrades increase risk. Ignoring switch firmware can lead to stability/security issues. Planned, matrix-aligned upgrades are best practice.

Question: 48

Which two upgrade methods are supported in a FlexPod solution?

A. Rolling ONTAP upgrades (NDO)
B. In-service software upgrade (ISSU) on Nexus switches
C. UCS Manager full reboot mode upgrade only
D. Hypervisor "shutdown all VMs" upgrades only

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

FlexPod supports nondisruptive ONTAP upgrades (NDO) and ISSU on Nexus switches to minimize downtime. UCS upgrades can be done non-disruptively when managed properly. Hypervisor shutdown-only upgrades are not required. These methods ensure high availability during lifecycle management.

Question: 49

Which FlexPod management layer ensures lifecycle consistency across all components?

A. Cisco Validated Designs (CVDs)
B. VMware DRS cluster
C. NetApp SnapMirror schedules
D. Cisco WebEx

Answer: A
Explanation:

CVDs provide the reference architecture and validated versions for FlexPod. They align compute, storage, and networking firmware/software for lifecycle consistency. VMware DRS handles VM balancing, SnapMirror handles replication, and WebEx is collaboration. CVD compliance is mandatory in administration.

Question: 50

Which UCS Director function is most relevant to FlexPod administration?

A. Automated service provisioning across compute, storage, and networking
B. Load balancing UCS Fabric Interconnects
C. WAN optimization between UCS and ONTAP
D. Running VMware VM snapshots

Answer: A
Explanation:

UCS Director enables administrators to automate and orchestrate service provisioning across FlexPod domains. It does not perform load balancing or WAN optimization. Snapshots are handled by ONTAP or hypervisors. Automation of provisioning is a key FlexPod benefit delivered by UCS Director.

Question: 51

Which two tools are used to troubleshoot UCS compute issues in FlexPod?

A. UCS Manager logs
B. Cisco Intersight analytics
C. SnapMirror replication status
D. Cisco Catalyst IOS CLI

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

UCS Manager logs and Cisco Intersight analytics are essential for troubleshooting compute issues.

SnapMirror is for storage replication, not compute, while Catalyst IOS CLI is not used in FlexPod. UCS logs and Intersight help identify hardware, service profile, and firmware issues.

Question: 52

Which two steps are recommended when troubleshooting Nexus vPC issues in FlexPod?

A. Check vPC consistency parameters on both peers
B. Validate peer-keepalive link status
C. Enable Spanning Tree on all vPC links
D. Replace all UCS uplink cables immediately

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

Troubleshooting vPC involves checking consistency (VLANs, MTU, port-channel configs) and verifying the peer-keepalive link. Spanning Tree is not required for vPC, and cable replacement is only necessary if a fault is identified. Correct vPC configuration is critical for FlexPod resiliency.

Question: 53

Which two NetApp tools assist in troubleshooting FlexPod storage performance issues?

A. NetApp Active IQ Unified Manager
B. NetApp ONTAP System Manager performance counters
C. VMware Workstation
D. Cisco Call Manager

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

Active IQ Unified Manager and ONTAP System Manager both provide performance metrics (IOPS, latency, throughput). VMware Workstation and Call Manager are irrelevant to FlexPod. These NetApp tools are indispensable in diagnosing storage bottlenecks in FlexPod environments.

Question: 54

What is the first step in troubleshooting UCS blade SAN boot issues?

A. Validate service profile boot policy configuration

B. Check Nexus OSPF adjacency C. Restart ONTAP CIFS services D. Disable vMotion on all hosts

Answer: A

Explanation:

The first step is verifying that the UCS service profile boot policy points to the correct LUN via vHBA/VSAN. Nexus routing or CIFS services are unrelated to SAN boot. vMotion disabling is unnecessary. Correct boot policy configuration is central to SAN boot troubleshooting.

Question: 55

Which two troubleshooting methods apply to FlexPod network packet loss?

A. Validate MTU size consistency (jumbo frames)
B. Check vPC member port health
C. Reset all UCS service profiles
D. Disable SnapMirror replication

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

Packet loss in FlexPod is commonly caused by MTU mismatch or failing vPC member ports. Resetting service profiles disrupts workloads unnecessarily. SnapMirror replication does not affect packet forwarding. Proper MTU/vPC validation is critical for troubleshooting.

Question: 56

When troubleshooting ONTAP LUN mapping issues in FlexPod, which two checks are required?

A. Verify LUN masking/igroup assignments
B. Check UCS boot policy references
C. Validate Nexus OSPF timers
D. Reset ONTAP licenses

Answer: A, B

Explanation:

LUN mapping requires correct igroup assignments and proper UCS boot policy mapping. OSPF timers are unrelated to storage. Resetting ONTAP licenses is extreme and not relevant. These two checks resolve most FlexPod SAN boot LUN mapping issues.

Question: 57

Which Nexus command is used to verify vPC peer status in FlexPod?

A. show vpc
B. show spanning-tree
C. show vlan brief
D. show boot policy

Answer: A
Explanation:

The show vpc command validates peer status, consistency, and active interfaces in Nexus switches. Spanning-tree and VLAN commands give partial information but not vPC health. Boot policy checks are UCS-side. This command is core in FlexPod troubleshooting.

Question: 58

Which two logs are vital when troubleshooting FlexPod storage replication issues?

A. ONTAP EMS logs
B. SnapMirror logs
C. UCS syslog
D. VMware vMotion logs

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

ONTAP EMS (Event Management System) logs and SnapMirror-specific logs are essential when replication between FlexPod systems fails. UCS syslog relates to compute, and vMotion logs are hypervisor-specific. Storage replication troubleshooting always starts with ONTAP logs.

Question: 59

Which two practices help prevent common FlexPod issues?

A. Regular health checks with Config Advisor
B. Monitoring Nexus switch fabric utilization
C. Ignoring minor UCS faults until outages occur
D. Running upgrades outside of IMT recommendations

Answer: A, B
Explanation:

Preventative administration involves running Config Advisor for compliance checks and monitoring Nexus fabric for congestion or errors. Ignoring faults or running unsupported upgrades introduces instability. Proactive monitoring prevents many FlexPod outages.