In the context of Kubernetes, **open standards** refer to publicly available, community-driven specifications and APIs that promote **interoperability, portability, and vendor neutrality** across cloud-native tools and platforms. Kubernetes itself is built on open standards like the **Container Runtime Interface (CRI)** and **Container Storage Interface (CSI)**, allowing it to work seamlessly with different container runtimes (like containerd or CRI-O) and storage solutions. By following open standards, Kubernetes enables developers to **avoid vendor lock-in**, easily integrate third-party tools, and build portable applications that can run consistently across any compliant environment.