What is DCA?

DCA stands for Docker Certified Associate exam that emphasizes the essential tasks a Docker Certified Associate operates in day-to-day activities.

So, clearing the exam certifies that a Docker Certified Associate has the knowledge and a level of where a certified Docker Associate can:

- Run containerized apps from the previously-stored images in a centralized registry
- Deploy images across the cluster
- Prioritize and resolve issue reports from stakeholders and resolve
- Migrate traditional applications to containers
- Configure and troubleshoot Docker engine
- Perform general maintenance and configuration

K21Academy
Learn Cloud from Experts

What is KCNA?

Stands for Kubernetes and Cloud Native Associate (KCNA) exam & focuses on conceptual understanding of the entire cloud native ecosystem, with Kubernetes. The KCNA certification is intended to prepare candidates to work with cloud native technologies and pursue further CNCF certifications like CKA, CKAD & CKS.

The KCNA is a pre-professional certification aimed for applicants who want to advance to the professional level by demonstrating an understanding of the core knowledge and abilities of Kubernetes.

K21Academy
Learn Cloud from Experts

What is CKA?

As mentioned earlier, CKA is the 'Certified Kubernetes Administrator' exam which focuses on testing the knowledge and skills of a candidate in the field of all aspects of Kubernetes cluster concepts. CKA is both for admins & developers.

The CKA exam focuses on managing and operating the Kubernetes cluster, including the troubleshooting part. So, on a higher note, we can say that it involves everything from creating, managing, and troubleshooting a cluster.

What is CKAD?

CKAD is the ‘Certified Kubernetes Application Developer’ exam which tests the skills of a candidate in the application development in the field of Kubernetes. Thus, the focus of CKAD is on managing and deploying applications to the Kubernetes cluster.

It emphasizes only the topics required for application development, deployment, and management.

What is CKS?

CKS is the ‘Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist’ program that will consist of a performance-based certification exam and assures that a CKS has the skills, knowledge, and competence on a broad range of best practices for securing container-based applications and Kubernetes platforms during build, deployment, and runtime.

CKA vs CKAD vs CKS

Similarities

- The Kubernetes Core Concepts which is present in all these exams is a must, as this is the foundation of everything else that is there to come.
- The most important aspect of Kubernetes certification is Cluster creation & Configuration, hence all these exams relay on this topic the most.
- As Storage is concerned, CKA & CKAD exams State Persistence topics which are also quite important.
- Both CKA and CKS have Cluster monitoring in common.

Differences

- Since a CKA's role demands one to be familiar with all the administrative skills, it also focuses on Kubernetes internals such as etcd, tls bootstrap, and kubelet.
- No prerequisites required for CKA and CKAD but to take the CKS exam, you must hold a current CKA certification.
- CKAD is exclusively related to Deployment, DaemonSets, Pods, and other API primitives, we can consider it as a lightweight version of a CKA exam.
- The CKA exams also shed some light on Workloading & Scheduling, which is not a part of the CKAD exam

K21Academy
Learn Cloud from Experts