

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Able Seaman Unlimited, Limited, Special,
Special OSV, Sail, Fishing Industry

Q450 Navigation General and Rules of the Road

(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions.

1. While steaming on course 280°T, you sight a buoy showing a very quick-flashing (VQ) white light well to port. Maintaining course, you sight another buoy showing a quick-flashing (Q) white light. You should pass _____.
- (A) south of the buoy
 - (B) east of the buoy
 - (C) north of the buoy
 - (D) west of the buoy

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

2. Port side daymarks may be _____.
- (A) black and white
 - (B) numbered
 - (C) of any shape
 - (D) octagonal

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

3. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND One of the signals, other than a distress signal, that can be used by a vessel to attract attention is a(n) _____.
- (A) burning barrel
 - (B) searchlight
 - (C) red star shell
 - (D) orange smoke signal

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

4. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel is being propelled both by sail and by engines. Under the Rules, the vessel is _____.
- (A) not covered under any category
 - (B) a power-driven vessel
 - (C) a "special circumstance" vessel
 - (D) a sail vessel

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

5. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A proper look-out shall be maintained _____.

- (A) only at night
- (B) only during restricted visibility
- (C) at all times
- (D) at night and during restricted visibility

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

6. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which of the following indicates that your vessel is in distress?

- (A) displaying a large red flag
- (B) sounding four or more short rapid blasts on the whistle
- (C) continuously sounding the fog whistle
- (D) displaying three black balls in a vertical line

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

7. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel displaying the day-shape shown in illustration D010RR below is which of the following?

- (A) has a tow that exceeds 200 meters in length
- (B) has a tow that is carrying dangerous cargo
- (C) is not under command
- (D) is at anchor

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

8. A white buoy with an open-faced orange diamond on it indicates _____.

- (A) the buoy is a mooring buoy
- (B) operating restrictions are in effect
- (C) danger
- (D) vessels are excluded from the area

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

9. When is a lookout permitted to leave his station?

- (A) only when properly relieved
- (B) 15 minutes before the end of the watch
- (C) at the end of the watch
- (D) at any time

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

10. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel is "in sight" of another vessel when _____.

- (A) she can be plotted on radar well enough to determine her heading
- (B) her fog signal can be heard
- (C) she can be observed visually from the other vessel
- (D) she can be observed by radar

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

11. What does the helm command "shift the rudder" mean?

- (A) Stop the swing of the ship.
- (B) Put the rudder over to the opposite side, the same number of degrees it is now.
- (C) Shift the rudder control to the alternate steering method.
- (D) Put the rudder amidships and hold the heading steady as she goes.

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

12. What is the "iron mike"?

- (A) automatic pilot
- (B) standby wheel
- (C) pilot
- (D) speaker

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

13. The lookout sights a vessel dead ahead. This should be reported on the bell with _____.

- (A) one bell
- (B) two bells
- (C) three bells
- (D) four bells

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

14. What is an advantage of the magnetic compass aboard vessels?

- (A) Compass error is negligible at or near the earth's magnetic poles.
- (B) It is reliable due to its essential simplicity.
- (C) It does not have to be checked as often.
- (D) All points on the compass rose are readily visible.

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

15. When entering a channel from seaward, the numbers on buoys _____.

- (A) are marked in 6 inch figures with retroreflective material
- (B) are the same as their Light List number
- (C) increase with the even numbers to starboard
- (D) decrease with the odd numbers to starboard

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

16. What should look-outs report?

- (A) Floating objects
- (B) Shoals
- (C) Discolored water
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

17. What is the basic principle of the magnetic compass?

- (A) The compass needle(s) will, when properly compensated, lie parallel to the isogonic lines of the Earth.
- (B) The Earth's magnetic lines of force are parallel to the surface of the Earth.
- (C) Magnetic materials of the same polarity repel each other and those of opposite polarity attract.
- (D) Magnetic meridians connect points of equal magnetic variation.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

18. A vessel heading ENE is on a course of _____.

- (A) 022.5°
- (B) 045.0°
- (C) 067.5°
- (D) 090.0°

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

19. A vessel heading NE is on a course of _____.

- (A) 022.5°
- (B) 045.0°
- (C) 067.5°
- (D) 090.0°

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

20. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The rule regarding look-outs applies _____.

- (A) in heavy traffic
- (B) in restricted visibility
- (C) between dusk and dawn
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

21. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Two vessels are approaching each other near head on. What action should be taken to avoid collision?

- (A) The first vessel to sight the other should give way.
- (B) Both vessels should alter course to port.
- (C) The vessel making the slower speed should give way.
- (D) Both vessels should alter course to starboard.

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

22. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which of the following describes a vessel exhibiting the lights shown in illustration D084RR below?

- (A) showing improper lights
- (B) not under command
- (C) towing
- (D) dredging

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

23. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When shall the stand-on vessel in a crossing situation take action to avoid the other vessel?

- (A) When the vessels become less than 1/2 mile apart
- (B) When action by the give-way vessel alone will not prevent a collision
- (C) When a risk of collision exists
- (D) When the bearing to give-way vessel becomes steady

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

24. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Concerning the identification signal for a pilot vessel, in fog, which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The identification signal must be sounded any time the pilot vessel is underway.
- (B) The pilot vessel may only sound the identity signal when making way.
- (C) When at anchor, the pilot vessel is only required to sound anchor signals.
- (D) All of the above

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway at night and you sight the lights shown in illustration D047RR below. You know these lights indicate which of the following?

- (A) dredge at work
- (B) fishing vessel engaged in fishing
- (C) trawler dragging nets
- (D) sailing vessel

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

26. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are under sail making 5 knots. The apparent wind is broad on the port beam at 10 knots. You see another sailing vessel dead ahead on a meeting course. What action is correct?

- (A) Only the other vessel must maneuver to avoid collision.
- (B) You are only required to maneuver if collision cannot be avoided by maneuver of the other vessel.
- (C) Both vessels must maneuver to avoid collision.
- (D) You must keep out of the way of the other vessel.

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

27. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed, where the length of tow is 100 meters, shall show _____.

- (A) two red lights in a vertical line
- (B) a diamond shape
- (C) a black ball
- (D) yellow lights at each end

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

28. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In illustration D023RR below item "D" represents the arc of visibility of which of the following lights?

- (A) green sidelight
- (B) white masthead light
- (C) stern light
- (D) None of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

29. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel nearing a bend where other vessels may be obscured shall sound _____.

- (A) one prolonged blast
- (B) one short blast
- (C) two short blasts
- (D) one long blast

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

30. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND While underway and pushing a barge ahead, your vessel enters a heavy rain storm. You should sound _____.

- (A) a prolonged blast every two minutes
- (B) two prolonged blasts every two minutes
- (C) one prolonged and two short blasts every two minutes
- (D) one prolonged and three short blasts every two minutes

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which signal, other than a distress signal, can be used by a vessel to attract attention?

- (A) Orange smoke signal
- (B) Searchlight beam
- (C) Burning barrel
- (D) Continuous sounding of a fog signal apparatus

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

32. INLAND ONLY Which is CORRECT regarding a "special flashing light"?

- (A) It must not show through an arc of more than 225°.
- (B) It must be placed as far forward as possible.
- (C) It must be yellow in color.
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

33. INLAND ONLY Which is a characteristic of a "special flashing light"?

- (A) It must be of the same character and construction as the masthead light.
- (B) It must show through an arc of not less than 180° nor more than 225°.
- (C) It is required for all vessels being pushed ahead as part of a composite unit.
- (D) All of the above

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

34. INLAND ONLY Two power-driven vessels are meeting in the situation as shown in illustration D037RR below and will pass within 1/2 mile of each other. What does two short blasts from either vessel mean?

- (A) "I am altering my course to port."
- (B) "I am altering my course to starboard."
- (C) "I intend to leave you on my starboard side."
- (D) "I intend to leave you on my port side."

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

35. INLAND ONLY Which statement is TRUE concerning the fog signal of a canal boat 25 meters in length, anchored in a "special anchorage area" approved by the Secretary?

- (A) The vessel is not required to sound a fog signal.
- (B) The vessel shall sound three blasts on the whistle every 2 minutes.
- (C) The vessel shall sound one blast of the whistle every 2 minutes.
- (D) The vessel shall ring a bell for 5 seconds every minute.

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

36. INLAND ONLY Yellow lights are NOT used to identify _____.

- (A) U.S. submarines
- (B) dredge pipelines on trestles
- (C) vessels pushing ahead
- (D) law enforcement vessels

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

37. Which topmark shown in illustration D023NG below identifies an isolated danger?

- (A) A
- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

38. A buoy marking a wreck will show a(n) _____.

- (A) white light FL (2) and a topmark of 2 black spheres
- (B) yellow light and will be numbered
- (C) continuous quick white light and may be numbered
- (D) occulting green light and may be lettered

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

39. As you enter a U.S. channel from seaward the numbers on the buoys _____.

- (A) increase with the can buoys being even numbered
- (B) decrease with the can buoys being even numbered
- (C) increase in channels going to the north or west, and decrease in channels going to the south or east
- (D) increase with the can buoys being odd numbered

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

40. Which buoy may be odd numbered?

- (A) A red buoy
- (B) An unlighted can buoy
- (C) A spherical buoy
- (D) A yellow buoy

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

41. When entering from seaward, a buoy displaying a single-flashing red light indicates _____.

- (A) a junction with the preferred channel to the left
- (B) a wreck to be left on the vessel's port side
- (C) a sharp turn in the channel to the right
- (D) the starboard side of the channel

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

42. When outbound from a U.S. port, a buoy displaying a flashing red light indicates _____.

- (A) a sharp turn in the channel to the right
- (B) a wreck to be left on the vessel's starboard side
- (C) a junction with the preferred channel to the left
- (D) the port side of the channel

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

43. A vertically-striped buoy may be _____.

- (A) striped black and green
- (B) striped black and yellow
- (C) lighted with a white light
- (D) lighted with a red light

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

44. Under the IALA Buoyage System, which topmark shown in illustration D023NG below will be displayed on a safe water mark?

- (A) A
- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

45. A special mark (yellow buoy), if lighted, may exhibit which light rhythm?

- (A) Morse "A"
- (B) Equal interval
- (C) Flashing
- (D) Occulting

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

46. Which type of daymark is used to mark the starboard side of the channel when entering from sea?

- (A) Red and white octagon
- (B) Green square
- (C) Black and white diamond
- (D) Red triangle

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

47. When a dual purpose marking is used, the mariner following the Intracoastal Waterway should be guided by the _____.

- (A) color of the top band
- (B) shape of the aid
- (C) color of the aid
- (D) shape of the yellow mark

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

48. Geographic range is the maximum distance at which a light may be seen under _____.

- (A) perfect visibility conditions, limited only by interference from background lighting
- (B) perfect visibility conditions, limited only by the curvature of the Earth
- (C) existing visibility conditions, limited only by the intensity of the light
- (D) existing visibility conditions, limited only by the curvature of the Earth

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

49. An occulting light is one in which _____.

- (A) the periods of light and darkness are equal
- (B) the period of light exceeds the period of darkness
- (C) the period of darkness exceeds the period of light
- (D) there is only a partial eclipse of the light

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

50. Under the IALA cardinal system, a mark with quick white light showing 3 flashes every 10 seconds indicates that the safest water in the area is on the _____.

- (A) north side of the mark
- (B) east side of the mark
- (C) south side of the mark
- (D) west side of the mark

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

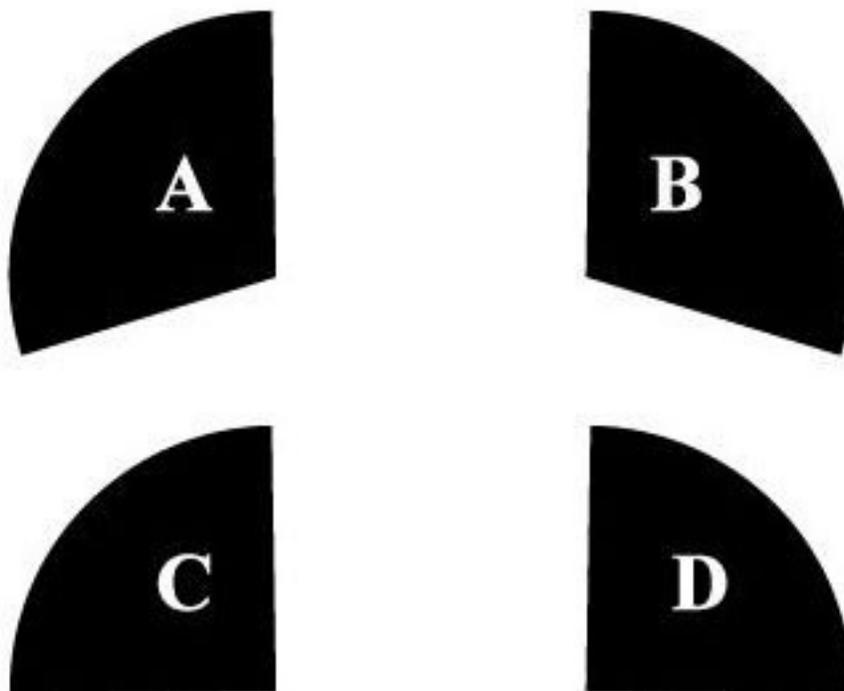
D010RR



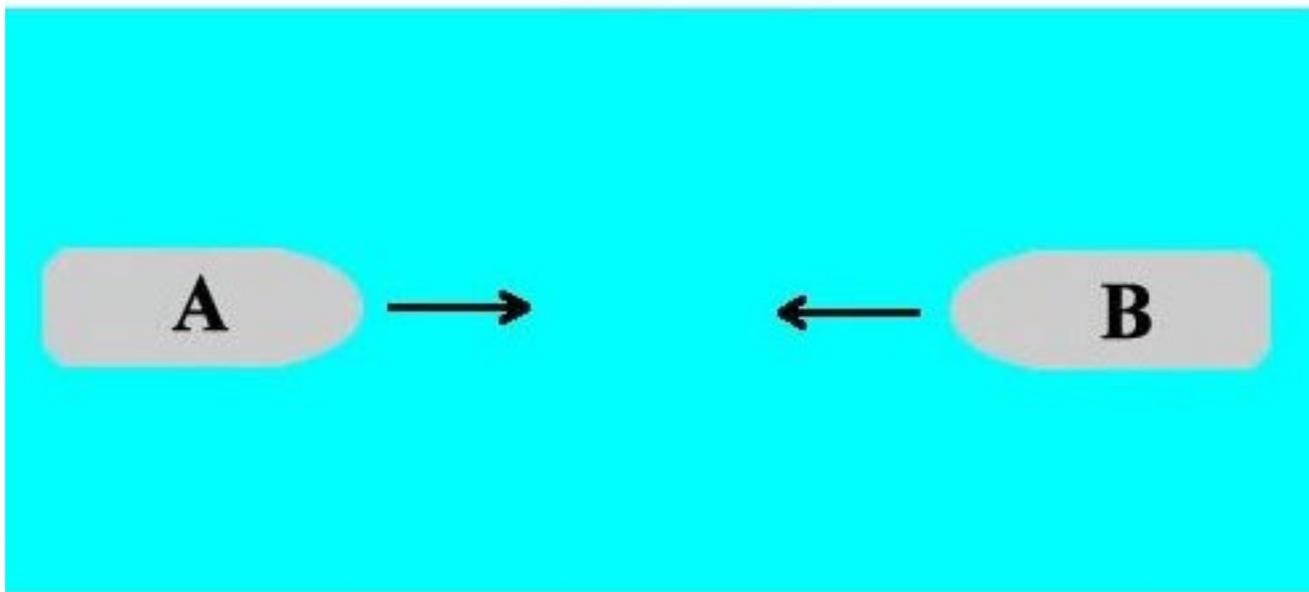
D023NG



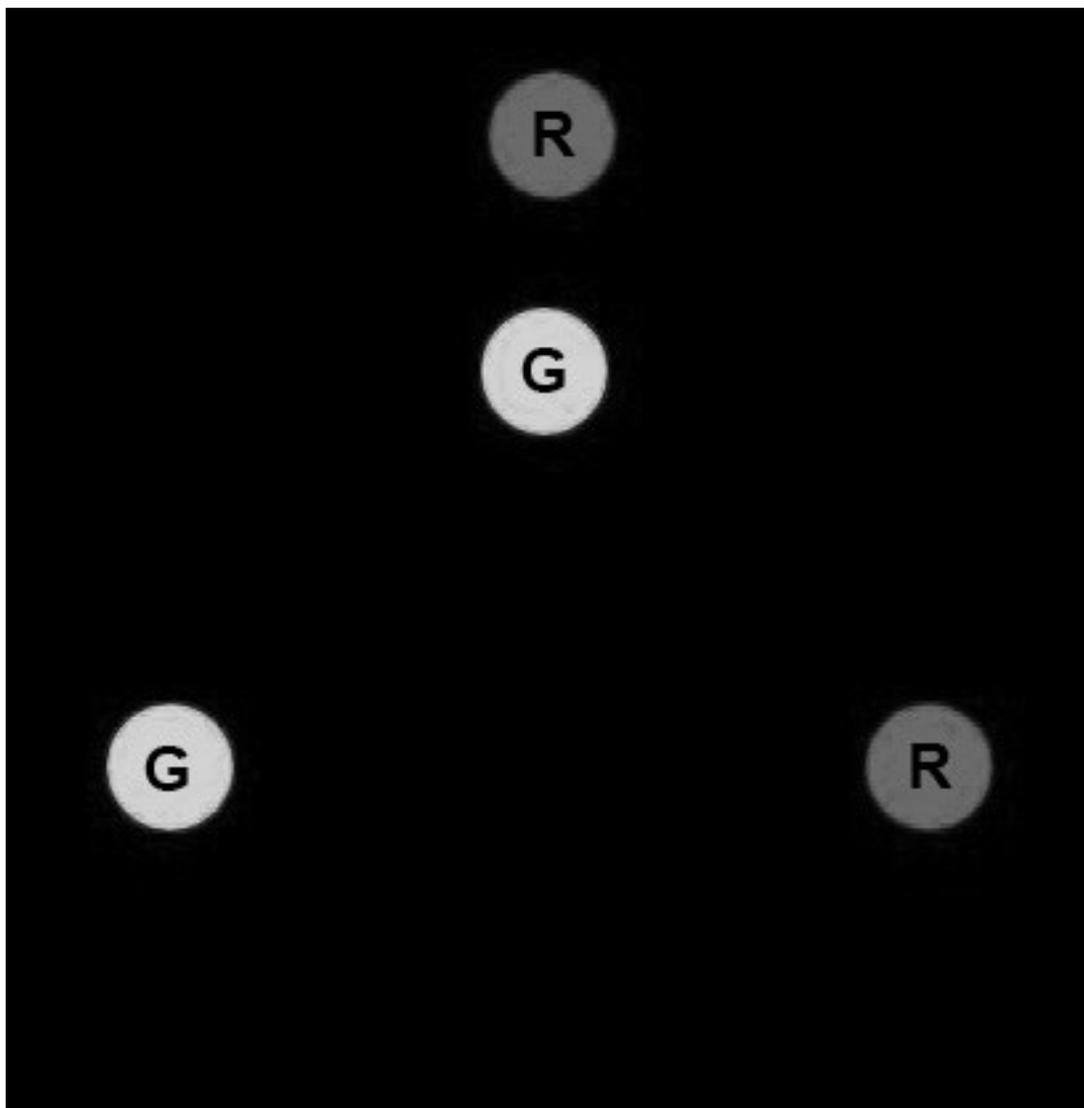
D023RR



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