

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Operator Uninspected Passenger Vessels
Q170 Deck General - Deck Safety
(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions.

1. An inflatable liferaft can be launched by _____.
- (A) the float-free method ONLY
 - (B) throwing the entire container overboard and then pulling on the operating cord to inflate the raft
 - (C) breaking the weak link on the painter
 - (D) removing the securing straps

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

2. You are the first vessel to arrive at the scene of a distress. Due to the volume of traffic on the radio, you are unable to communicate with the vessel in distress. Which action should you take?
- (A) Broadcast "Charlie Quebec-Mayday-Quiet".
 - (B) Switch to flag hoists.
 - (C) Key the microphone three times in quick succession.
 - (D) Broadcast "Seelonce Distress".

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

3. Recharging a previously used cartridge-operated dry-chemical extinguisher is accomplished by _____.
- (A) recharging the cartridge and refilling it with powder
 - (B) authorized fire equipment servicing personnel only
 - (C) replacing the propellant cartridge and refilling with powder
 - (D) puncturing the cartridge seal after installation

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

4. You are docking a vessel. If possible, you should _____.
- (A) go in against the current
 - (B) approach the dock at a 90° angle and swing to
 - (C) pass a mooring line to the dock with a heaving line and let the crew pull the vessel in
 - (D) go in with the current

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

5. After casting off moorings at a mooring buoy in calm weather, you should _____.
- (A) go half ahead on the engines and put the rudder hard right
 - (B) back away a few lengths to clear the buoy and then go ahead on the engines
 - (C) go full ahead on the engine(s)
 - (D) go half ahead on the engines and pass upstream of the buoy

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

6. In weighing CO2 cylinders, they must be recharged if weight loss exceeds _____.

- (A) 15% of weight of full bottle
- (B) 10% of weight of charge
- (C) 10% of weight of full bottle
- (D) 20% of weight of charge

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

7. In order to reduce your wake in a narrow channel you should _____.

- (A) apply enough rudder to counter the effect of the current
- (B) reduce your speed
- (C) shift the weight to the stern
- (D) change your course to a zigzag course

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

8. You are approaching a ship that is broken down and are preparing to take her in tow. BEFORE positioning your vessel to pass the towline, you must _____.

- (A) compare the rate of drift between the ships
- (B) install chafing gear on the towline
- (C) secure the bitter end of the towing hawser to prevent loss if the tow is slipped
- (D) have traveling lizards rigged to guide the towline while it is paid-out

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

9. What is a grapnel?

- (A) device for securing a chain topping lift
- (B) type of clam bucket used for discharging bulk cargo
- (C) hook to prevent the anchor cable from slipping
- (D) device used to drag for a submerged cable or line

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

10. You are the Master of a single-screw vessel. You are docking at a port which has no tugs available. You decide to drop the offshore anchor to help in docking. The amount of chain you should pay out is _____.

- (A) equal to the depth of the water
- (B) 1 1/2 to 2 times the depth of the water
- (C) 5 to 7 times the depth of the water
- (D) you should NEVER use the anchor to help in docking

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

11. A smooth, tapered pin, usually of wood, used to open up the strands of a rope for splicing is called a(n) _____.

- (A) fid
- (B) awl
- (C) batten
- (D) bench hook

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

12. Which statement concerning a short splice is TRUE?

- (A) A short splice is stronger than two lines joined by a knot.
- (B) A short splice decreases the diameter of the line.
- (C) It is used to temporarily join two lines together.
- (D) None of the above

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

13. Manila lines in which the strands are right-hand laid _____.

- (A) should never be coiled
- (B) may be coiled either clockwise or counterclockwise
- (C) should be coiled in a clockwise direction
- (D) should be coiled in a counterclockwise direction

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

14. "Herringbone" is a term associated with _____.

- (A) anchoring
- (B) splicing
- (C) mooring
- (D) sewing

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

15. What is the minimum size required before a vessel can be documented?

- (A) 5 net tons
- (B) 26 feet between perpendiculars
- (C) 100 gross tons
- (D) 26 feet; end-to-end over the deck excluding sheer

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

16. Which type of line would have the LEAST resistance to mildew and rot?

- (A) Polypropylene
- (B) Dacron
- (C) Manila
- (D) Nylon

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

17. When talking about wire rope, the lay of the wire is the _____.

- (A) direction wires and strands are twisted together
- (B) number of strands in the wire
- (C) direction the core is twisted
- (D) material used in the core

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

18. You are a watchstanding mate and have come to the bridge to relieve the watch. After reviewing the chart and having been briefed by the off-going mate, you are now ready to effect the relief. The watch is officially transferred to you after _____.

- (A) the mate being relieved says, "You have the conn" and you state the ship's course
- (B) you say, "I relieve you" and you state the course per gyro and magnetic compasses
- (C) the mate being relieved tells you the vessel's course and speed and states that you have the watch
- (D) you state the vessel's charted position, present course and port of destination

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

19. Which will most likely occur when entering shallow water?

- (A) The vessel's trim will change.
- (B) An increase in speed will occur.
- (C) The vessel's list will change.
- (D) Rudder action will become more effective.

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

20. You are anchoring in a river where the current is from one direction only. The best way to lay out two anchors is to have them _____.

- (A) so that their lines form an angle
- (B) directly in line with the bow
- (C) on top of one another
- (D) side by side, with their lines on the port and starboard side

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

21. A sufficient amount of chain must be veered when anchoring a vessel to ensure _____.

- (A) there is more chain out than there is in the chain locker
- (B) the vessel has enough room to swing while at anchor
- (C) there is a sufficient scope of chain to keep the anchor on the bottom
- (D) the anchor flukes bite into the ocean bottom

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

22. Ventilation systems connected to a compartment in which a fire is burning are normally closed to prevent the rapid spread of the fire by _____.

- (A) spontaneous combustion
- (B) conduction
- (C) radiation
- (D) convection

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

23. Your vessel is broken down and rolling in heavy seas. You can reduce the danger of capsizing by _____.

- (A) moving all passengers to the stern
- (B) moving all passengers to one side of the boat
- (C) rigging a sea anchor
- (D) constantly shifting the rudder

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

24. When approaching a fire from leeward you should shield fire fighters from the fire by using _____.

- (A) low-velocity fog
- (B) foam spray
- (C) a straight stream of water
- (D) high-velocity fog

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

25. To find the cause of a gasoline engine's failure to start, you should _____.

- (A) break the joint in the fuel line at the engine and let the gas run in the bilges
- (B) ventilate the space, then check the battery, spark plugs, carburetor, and fuel line
- (C) prime the engine with ether through spark plug openings
- (D) disconnect the wires at the spark plugs and make the spark jump the gap

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

26. Leeway is the _____.

- (A) difference between the true course and the compass course
- (B) lateral movement of a vessel downwind of her intended course
- (C) displacement of a vessel multiplied by her speed
- (D) momentum of a vessel after her engines have been stopped

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

27. Which statement is FALSE concerning precautions during small craft fueling operations?

- (A) All windows, doors, hatches, etc. should be closed.
- (B) All engines, motors, fans, etc. should be shut down when fueling.
- (C) Fuel tanks should be topped off with no room for expansion.
- (D) A fire extinguisher should be kept nearby.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

28. Before starting any diesel or gasoline engine, which of the following must be checked?

- (A) Exhaust discharge
- (B) Flow of cooling water
- (C) Oil level
- (D) All of the above

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

29. A fire in a pile of canvas is classified as class _____.

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

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

30. What is the MOST important consideration when determining how to fight an electrical fire?

- (A) Whether the fire is in machinery or passenger spaces
- (B) Maintaining electrical power
- (C) The amount of toxic fumes created by the extinguisher
- (D) Danger of shock to personnel

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

31. Fire in an engine compartment is best extinguished with carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) and by _____.

- (A) closing the compartment except for the ventilators
- (B) leaving the compartment open to the air
- (C) increasing the air flow to the compartment by blowers
- (D) completely closing the compartment

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

32. Carbon dioxide as a fire fighting agent has which advantage over other agents?

- (A) It is cheaper.
- (B) It is safer for personnel.
- (C) It is most effective on a per unit basis.
- (D) It causes minimal damage.

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

33. You have abandoned ship and are in charge of a liferaft. How much water per day should you permit each occupant to drink after the first 24 hours?

- (A) 1 pint
- (B) 1 can
- (C) 1 quart
- (D) 1 gallon

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

34. If you are forced to abandon ship in a rescue boat, you should _____.

- (A) head for the nearest land
- (B) head for the closest sea-lanes
- (C) remain in the immediate vicinity
- (D) vote on what to do, so all hands will have a part in the decision

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

35. If help has not arrived in 10-12 hours after abandoning a vessel in a rescue boat, you should _____.

- (A) go in one direction until the fuel runs out
- (B) shut down the engines if installed and put out the sea anchor
- (C) steer a course for the nearest land
- (D) steer a course for the nearest sea lane

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

36. A situation has occurred in which your vessel must be towed. When the towing vessel passes the towing line to you, you should secure the line _____.

- (A) to the forward part of the deckhouse
- (B) to the forward-most bitts
- (C) to the base of the foremast
- (D) at the stern

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

37. While you are on watch, you learn that a crewman has not been seen on board for the past three hours. Which type of turn is best in this man-overboard situation?

- (A) Scharnow
- (B) Racetrack
- (C) Round
- (D) Single turn of 180°

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

38. You are on watch and see a man fall overboard. Which man overboard turn should NOT be used in this situation?

- (A) Racetrack
- (B) Scharnow
- (C) Single turn
- (D) Williamson

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

39. You are on a 30,000 DWT tankship engaged in trade to another country signatory to MARPOL 73/78. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The Certificate of Inspection is prima facie evidence of compliance with MARPOL 73/78.
- (B) AN IOPP Certificate is renewed at each inspection for certification.
- (C) The IOPP Certificate is valid for 5 years.
- (D) An IOPP Certificate is invalid if the ship carries cargoes outside the classes authorized thereon.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

40. Which space(s) is(are) exempt when measuring gross tonnage?

- (A) Part of the wheelhouse used to control vessel
- (B) Steering gear room
- (C) Auxiliary machinery spaces above the uppermost continuous deck
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

41. What is the minimum number of B-II hand portable fire extinguishers required on board a 105 GT uninspected towboat with a 7500 B.H.P. plant (including the machinery space)?

- (A) 6
- (B) 8
- (C) 9
- (D) 11

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

42. On uninspected vessels which statement is TRUE concerning work vests?

- (A) They need not be of an approved type.
- (B) They must be stowed separately from approved life preservers.
- (C) They may be worn during drills.
- (D) They may be substituted for up to 10% of the required lifesaving gear aboard.

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

43. You are at sea and not in a special area as defined in ANNEX V of MARPOL. How many nautical miles from land must you be to discharge ground garbage that will pass through a one-inch (25 mm) screen into the sea?

- (A) 3 nm
- (B) 25 nm
- (C) 6 nm
- (D) 12 nm

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

44. Providing you are not sailing in the Red Sea or another special area as listed in ANNEX V of MARPOL, how many miles from land must you be to throw garbage including bottles, rags, and glass that has not been ground up into the sea?

- (A) 3 nm
- (B) 6 nm
- (C) 12 nm
- (D) 25 nm

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

45. How many months after its expiration date may a Coast Guard credential be renewed without retaking the complete exam?

- (A) 1 month
- (B) 6 months
- (C) 12 months
- (D) 24 months

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

46. Normally It is desirable to have screens on the vents of potable water tanks to _____.

- (A) prevent backups
- (B) prevent explosions
- (C) filter the incoming air
- (D) stop insects from entering

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

47. You see an iceberg that has not been reported. What kind of radio message do you transmit to warn others?

- (A) Routine message
- (B) Safety message
- (C) Distress message
- (D) Urgency message

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

48. The color of rockets, shells, or rocket parachute flares used to indicate that the vessel is in distress and requires immediate assistance is _____.

- (A) white
- (B) green
- (C) yellow
- (D) red

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

49. To launch a liferaft by hand, you should _____.

- (A) throw the liferaft over the side and pull the operating cord
- (B) cut the casing bands, throw the raft over the side and it will inflate by itself
- (C) cut the casing bands, throw the raft over the side and pull the operating cord
- (D) detach the operating cord, throw the liferaft over the side and it will then inflate

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

50. Life jackets should be marked with the _____.

- (A) stowage space assigned
- (B) vessel's name
- (C) maximum weight allowed
- (D) vessel's home port

If choice B is selected set score to 1.