

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Master or Mate Less than 200 Gross Registered Tons

Q461 Assistance Towing Endorsement

(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions.

1. When making way in heavy seas you notice that your vessel's screw is being lifted clear of the water and racing. One way to correct this would be to _____.
- (A) move more weight forward
 - (B) increase speed
 - (C) shift the rudder back and forth several times
 - (D) decrease speed

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

2. The standing part of a tackle is _____.
- (A) the hook that engages the weight to be moved
 - (B) that part to which power is applied
 - (C) all the fall except the hauling part
 - (D) that part of the falls made fast to one of the blocks

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

3. What is the effect of releasing the towline in a tripping situation?
- (A) There is no effect other than relief.
 - (B) It disconnects the capsizing force and allows the tug to recover from its list.
 - (C) Yawing
 - (D) It frees the tug from its towing responsibilities.

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

4. Which factor(s) might indicate that a towline should be removed from service?
- (A) A surface condition of corrosion and discoloration.
 - (B) Visible damage to the towline, including fishhooks.
 - (C) Measurements showing a decrease in diameter.
 - (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

5. What does "end for end" mean in regard to a towing hawser?
- (A) To take the kinks out of the hawser
 - (B) To fake it down in figure eights
 - (C) To increase the catenary
 - (D) To swap ends of the hawser to minimize wear

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

6. Which statement is TRUE about the use of a "gob rope"?

- (A) The gob rope is a rope used in mooring a vessel to a buoy.
- (B) The gob rope is a line hung over a vessel's side to assist in boarding.
- (C) The gob rope is used to secure the towline aft over the centerline of a tug..
- (D) The gob rope is a mooring line for tying up lighters for working cargo alongside a vessel anchored in an open roadstead.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

7. The effect of excessive catenary in shallow water may be _____.

- (A) slowing, stopping or endangering the towing operation by placing the tug in irons
- (B) dragging the towing hawser along the bottom and chafing it
- (C) snagging sunken or submerged objects
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

8. 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.

9. A situation has occurred where it becomes necessary for you to be towed. What action should be taken to prevent your vessel from yawing?

- (A) Shift weight to the bow
- (B) Throw excess weight overboard
- (C) Shift weight to the stern
- (D) Shift weight to the center of the boat

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

10. 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.

11. What could be used as fairleads on a towed vessel?

- (A) Roller chocks
- (B) Chocks
- (C) Double bitts
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

12. To lead the towing hawser over the center of the stern when not under a strain you could _____.

- (A) lead it through the Norman pins
- (B) hold it in the median position by a gob rope
- (C) fairlead it through a stern roller chock
- (D) All of the above when so equipped

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

13. While towing, bridle legs of unequal lengths may cause _____.

- (A) a bent swivel
- (B) the bridle to foul
- (C) the shorter leg to fail
- (D) chafing on the fairlead or bitts

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

14. One advantage of chain over wire rope for a tow bridle is that chain _____.

- (A) is better suited for inland towing
- (B) equalizes towing forces better
- (C) handles more easily
- (D) resists damage from chafing

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

15. The MINIMUM acceptable size for a towing bridle would be that size in which the safe working load (SWL) of each leg of the bridle is equal to _____.

- (A) one-half the SWL of the main towing hawser
- (B) three-fourths the SWL of the main towing hawser
- (C) twice that of the main towing hawser
- (D) that of the main towing hawser

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.