

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Operator Uninspected Passenger Vessels
Q356 Deck General – Safety
(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following Multiple-Choice Questions.

1. You are docking a vessel. Which statement is TRUE?
- A. You should go in with the current
 - B. You should approach the dock at a 90° angle
 - C. You should go in against the current
 - D. You should pass a mooring line to the dock and let the crew pull the vessel

Correct answer: C

2. Which type of bottom is best suited for holding an anchor of a small boat?
- A. Rocky
 - B. Gravel
 - C. Sandy
 - D. Mud and clay

Correct answer: D

3. Which statement is TRUE when anchoring in calm water?
- A. Let the anchor go with good headway on then go full astern until the vessel is stopped
 - B. Wait until the vessel is dead in the water before letting go the anchor
 - C. Maintain headway on the vessel when letting go the anchor
 - D. Maintain slight sternway on the vessel while letting go the anchor

Correct answer: D

4. If you shorten the scope of anchor cable, what is the effect of your anchor's holding power?
- A. The holding power decreases
 - B. The holding power remains the same
 - C. Holding power has no relation to scope
 - D. The holding power increases

Correct answer: A

5. To safely anchor a vessel there must be sufficient "scope" in the anchor cable. Which BEST defines the term scope?
- A. The ratio of the length of cable to the depth of water
 - B. The ratio of the length of anchor to the depth of water
 - C. The ratio of the weight of cable to the weight of vessel
 - D. The ratio of the weight of cable to the weight of the anchor

Correct answer: A

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

Correct answer: A

7. In which situation could a vessel most easily capsize?

- A. Running into head seas
- B. Running in the trough
- C. Anchored with your bow into the seas
- D. Running with following seas

Correct answer: B

8. Which action reduces the yawing of a vessel in a following sea?

- A. Shifting weights to the stern
- B. Pumping out tanks aft
- C. Shifting weights to the bow
- D. Increasing GM

Correct answer: A

9. Which is the proper term used to describe a stream of water immediately surrounding a moving vessel's hull, flowing in the same direction as the vessel?

- A. Wake current
- B. Forward current
- C. Propeller current
- D. Directional current

Correct answer: A

10. When passing a moored vessel in a narrow channel which actions will help minimize wake damage?

- A. Check the rudder several times while passing the vessel
- B. Go half astern when abeam of the moored vessel
- C. Stay on outside of channel and make a notation in the log book
- D. Reduce speed and make a notation in the bell book

Correct answer: D

11. When is the effect of wind on exposed areas of the vessel most noticeable?

- A. When going full ahead
- B. When backing
- C. When going slow ahead
- D. When turning

Correct answer: B

12. How can you prevent the spread of fire by conduction?

- A. Cool the bulkheads around the fire
- B. Close all openings to the area
- C. Shut off all electric power
- D. Remove combustibles from direct exposure

Correct answer: A

13. Which is TRUE of paints and solvents on a vessel?

- A. They should be returned to the paint locker after each use
- B. They should be stored safely at the work site until work is completed
- C. They must be covered at all times to protect from ignition sources
- D. They must be stored in a gear locker

Correct answer: A

14. What is the normal percentage of oxygen in air?

- A. 16%
- B. 18%
- C. 21%
- D. 25%

Correct answer: C

15. Which condition is necessary for a substance to burn?

- A. The mixture of vapors with air must be within the "explosive range."
- B. The temperature of the substance must be equal to or above its fire point.
- C. The air must contain oxygen in sufficient quantity.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

16. Spontaneous ignition can result from _____.

- A. worn electrical wires on power tools
- B. an unprotected drop-light bulb
- C. smoking in bed
- D. careless disposal or storage of material

Correct answer: D

17. How can the accumulation of dangerous fumes generated by the storage batteries be prevented?

- A. Mounting the batteries in a position as high as possible
- B. Covering the batteries in a nonconducting, solid enclosure
- C. By natural or mechanical ventilation
- D. Securing the batteries to vibration reducing mounting brackets

Correct answer: C

18. Which is the best method of extinguishing a class A fire?

- A. Smother fire with foam
- B. Remove oxygen from the area
- C. Smother with CO₂
- D. Cool fuel below ignition temperature

Correct answer: D

19. What is the primary hazard, other than fire damage, associated with a class C fire?

- A. Explosion
- B. Flashover
- C. Possibility of reflash
- D. Electrocutation or shock

Correct answer: D

20. CO₂ mainly extinguishes a fire by which of the following?

- A. Smothering
- B. Cooling
- C. Chemical action
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

21. Which extinguishing agent is most likely to allow reflash as a result of not cooling the fuel below its ignition temperature?

- A. CO₂
- B. Foam
- C. Water stream
- D. Water spray

Correct answer: A

22. When dry chemical extinguishers are used to put out class B fires, why is there a danger of reflash?

- A. Dry chemical agents do little or no cooling
- B. Dry chemical is not an effective agent on Class B fires
- C. It is rapidly absorbed by the liquid
- D. Dry chemical dissipates quickly

Correct answer: A

23. Dry chemical extinguishers extinguish class B fires to the greatest extent by which method?

- A. Breaking the chain reaction
- B. Smothering
- C. Cooling
- D. Oxygen dilution

Correct answer: A

24. Which extinguishing agent is most effective on a mattress fire?

- A. Halon
- B. Water
- C. Dry Chemical
- D. CO₂

Correct answer: B

25. When abandoning ship and jumping into the water from a substantial height without a life jacket, you should _____.

- A. hold your arms firmly at your sides and jump feet first
- B. jump feet first, holding your knees to your chest
- C. jump feet first, covering your nose and mouth with one hand and grasping the opposing upper arm with the other
- D. dive head first, using your hands to break the surface of the water

Correct answer: C

26. The vessel shown in illustration D025DG has broken down and you are going to take her in tow. The wind is on her starboard beam. Both vessels are making the same amount of leeway. Where should you position your vessel when you start running lines?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

Correct answer: C

27. A fuel line breaks, sprays fuel on the hot exhaust manifold, and catches fire. What should be your FIRST action?

- A. Secure the fuel supply
- B. Batten down the engine room
- C. Apply carbon dioxide to the fire
- D. Start the fire pump

Correct answer: A

28. If you are fighting a fire below the main deck of your vessel, which action is most important concerning the stability of the vessel?

- A. Maneuvering the vessel so the fire is on the lee side
- B. Removing burned debris from the cargo hold
- C. Shutting off electricity to damaged cables
- D. Pumping firefighting water overboard

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: D

30. Which is a major advantage of the round turn maneuver in a man overboard situation?

- A. It can be used in reduced visibility
- B. It is easy for a single-screw vessel to perform
- C. It requires the least shiphandling skills to perform
- D. It is the fastest method

Correct answer: D

31. A crew member has just fallen overboard off your port side. Which action should you take?

- A. Immediately put the rudder over hard left.
- B. Immediately put the engines astern.
- C. Wait until the stern is well clear of the man and then put the rudder over hard right.
- D. Immediately put the rudder over hard right.

Correct answer: A

32. On uninspected vessels, when may U. S. Coast Guard approved work vests be substituted for life jackets?

- A. Only when aboard towing vessels
- B. Under no circumstances may they be substituted
- C. Only when aboard work vessels
- D. Only when aboard sailing vessels

Correct answer: B

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

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

Correct answer: C

34. A change of a documented vessel's name can only be made by which organization?

- A. Treasury Department
- B. Commissioner of Customs
- C. American Bureau of Shipping
- D. Coast Guard

Correct answer: D

35. Which is TRUE concerning the official number of a documented vessel?

- A. It is not required to be marked anywhere on the vessel
- B. It is required to be permanently marked on the vessel's structure
- C. It is required to be painted on the vessel's stern
- D. It is required to be painted on the vessel's bow

Correct answer: B

36. Which term(s) are in the category of "oil" as used in the Oil Pollution Regulations?

- A. Oil refuse
- B. Sludge
- C. Fuel oil
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

37. Regardless of local requirements, when in a U.S. port, all oil spills must be reported to which of the following agencies?

- A. National Response Center (USCG)
- B. Minerals Management Service
- C. Environmental Protection Agency
- D. All of the Above

Correct answer: A

38. Which vessel is NOT required to have a Pollution Placard posted on board?

- A. 215-foot naval auxiliary vessel
- B. 75-foot towing vessel
- C. 50-foot cabin cruiser used for pleasure only
- D. 150-foot unmanned tank barge

Correct answer: A

39. According to U.S. regulations, what vessels are required to have the "Discharge of Oil Prohibited" placard?

- A. Foreign vessels when engaged in noncommercial service
- B. U.S. vessels less than 26 feet in length
- C. Foreign vessels not in U.S. navigable waters
- D. U.S. vessels 26 feet or more in length

Correct answer: D

40. 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

Correct answer: C

41. How does good housekeeping prevent fires on a vessel?

- A. Improving personnel qualifications
- B. Allowing better access in an emergency
- C. Eliminating potential fuel sources
- D. Eliminating trip hazards

Correct answer: C

42. Normally, where is the potable water systems directly connected to?

- A. The feed-water system
- B. A freshwater sanitary system
- C. The vessel's fire-main system
- D. The potable water tank

Correct answer: D

43. Which action should you take after sending a false distress alert on VHF?

- A. Send a DSC cancellation message on Ch-70.
- B. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-16.
- C. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-13.
- D. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-22A.

Correct answer: B

44. You are using VHF channel 16 (156.8 MHz) or 2182 kHz. You need help but are not in danger, which signal signifies urgency?

- A. "SECURITE"
- B. "PAN-PAN"
- C. "MAYDAY"
- D. "ASSISTANCE NEEDED"

Correct answer: B

45. Which color of rockets, shells, or rocket parachute flares are used to indicate that the vessel is in distress and requires immediate assistance?

- A. Yellow
- B. White
- C. Green
- D. Red

Correct answer: D

46. Which statement is TRUE concerning life preservers (Type I personal flotation devices)?

- A. Life preservers are designed to turn an unconscious person's face clear of the water.
- B. Life preservers must always be worn with the same side facing outwards to float properly.
- C. Buoyant vests may be substituted for life jackets.
- D. Lightly stained or faded life jackets will fail in the water and should not be used.

Correct answer: A

47. Which is TRUE concerning the stowage of life jackets?

- A. They are required to be stowed in messrooms
- B. They must be stowed in readily accessible locations
- C. They are always locked in watertight containers
- D. They are required to be stowed in a central location

Correct answer: B

48. When will a vessel "squat" while underway?

- A. Only when in shallow water
- B. Only when in narrow channels
- C. In all depths of water
- D. Only when in deep water

Correct answer: C

49. When piloting a vessel, how are visual references used to establish a constant rate of turn?

- A. Begin the turn when the fixed object is on the beam.
- B. Fixed objects that stay on the same relative bearing when the ship is turning indicate a constant rate of turn.
- C. Keep the fixed object's relative bearing opening, for a constant rate of turn.
- D. Visual references cannot be used to maintain a constant rate of turn.

Correct answer: B

50. Which is described as a wedge of water building up between the bow and the nearer bank which forces the bow out and away?

- A. Bank cushion
- B. Combined effect
- C. Bank suction
- D. Bend effect

Correct answer: A

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