

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Master/Chief Mate of Unlimited Tonnage  
Q101 Deck General - Part I  
(Sample Examination)

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

1. When the period of beam seas equals the natural rolling period of a vessel, what will most likely occur?
- (A) Excessive pitching
  - (B) Excessive yawing
  - (C) Excessive rolling
  - (D) No change should be evident

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

2. Each crewmember has an assigned firefighting station. Where is this assignment listed?
- (A) On the Certificate of Inspection
  - (B) On the muster list
  - (C) On the firefighting plan
  - (D) In the shipping articles

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

3. According to 33 CFR, on board which type of vessel described below is required to maintain Part II (Cargo/Ballast Operations) of the Oil Record Book?
- (A) A ship of 150 gross tons and above, other than an oil tanker.
  - (B) A non-tanker that carries more than 200 cubic meters of oil in bulk.
  - (C) Any oil tanker of 100 gross tons and above.
  - (D) An oil tanker of 150 gross tons and above on domestic voyages only.

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

4. Which of the following best describes the requirement of the emergency pump control when used as the emergency shutdown on tank vessels?
- (A) It will prevent the oil from leaving the shore facility
  - (B) It will prevent the oil from siphoning through the pump
  - (C) It will stop the flow of oil at the main deck manifold
  - (D) None of the above

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

5. Wages due a seaman may be attached by the court for which reason?
- (A) Support of a spouse
  - (B) Payment of back taxes to the IRS
  - (C) Payment of any fines imposed by the court
  - (D) All of the above

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**6.** What is required to be entered into the Official Logbook?

- (A) Opening a sideport at sea to renew a gasket
- (B) The drafts on entering port
- (C) The biennial weight test of the lifeboats and falls
- (D) The annual required stripping and cleaning of the lifeboats

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**7.** You are on a large vessel fitted with a right-handed controllable-pitch propeller. When making large speed changes while decreasing pitch, which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The stern will immediately slew to starboard due to unbalanced forces acting on the propeller.
- (B) The stern will immediately slew to port due to unbalanced forces acting on the propeller.
- (C) You will probably have full directional control throughout the speed change.
- (D) You may lose rudder control until the ship's speed has dropped to correspond to propeller speed.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**8.** What is the rule of thumb for the length of chain required to anchor a vessel under normal conditions?

- (A) Seven to ten times the depth of water
- (B) Twice the depth of water
- (C) Five to seven times the depth of water
- (D) Twice the depth of water plus the range of tide

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**9.** You are proceeding along the right bank of a narrow channel aboard a right-handed single-screw vessel. The vessel starts to sheer due to bank suction/cushion effect. Which action should you take?

- (A) Stop engines and put the rudder hard left
- (B) Decrease speed and put the rudder hard right
- (C) Back full with rudder amidships
- (D) Increase speed and put the rudder hard right

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**10.** What is NOT accepted as the required shipping papers on a manned and loaded tank barge?

- (A) Shipping document
- (B) Logbook entry
- (C) Bill of Lading
- (D) Manifest

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**11.** Which of the following is considered "discharge" as it applies to the pollution regulations?

- (A) leaking
- (B) spilling
- (C) pumping
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**12.** Your load line certificate expires on 27 May 1988. The vessel is surveyed on that date and is found satisfactory. You are sailing foreign the same day. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The existing certificate is endorsed as valid for a five year period commencing 27 May 1988.
- (B) The existing certificate is extended until the first foreign port of call where a new certificate will be issued by the local surveyor.
- (C) A new certificate must be issued before you sail.
- (D) The existing certificate is extended for a period of up to 150 days.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**13.** You are signing on a crew. You can determine the minimum number and qualifications of the crew that you are required to carry by consulting which document?

- (A) Crew list
- (B) Certificate of Inspection
- (C) Articles of Agreement
- (D) Fo'c'sle card

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**14.** How long is a credential issued by the U.S. Coast Guard for Master of Towing Vessels valid for?

- (A) 2 years and must be renewed
- (B) 3 years and must be renewed
- (C) 5 years and must be renewed
- (D) life and need not be renewed

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**15.** Which statement is TRUE when an anchor is used to assist in turning the vessel in restricted waters?

- (A) Deploying the anchor underfoot shifts the pivot point forward
- (B) Having to use the aid of an anchor is the sign of a novice shiphandler
- (C) Turning on the anchor is to be used only with a single-screw vessel
- (D) This technique should only be used as a last resort

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**16.** What is the period of validity of a Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate?

- (A) 72 months
- (B) 60 months
- (C) 48 months
- (D) 42 months

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**17.** What is the period of validity of a Safety Management Certificate?

- (A) 60 months
- (B) 48 months
- (C) 42 months
- (D) 36 months

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**18.** Besides the chemical testing of a mariner's breath for alcohol, what other specimen testing for alcohol is acceptable that can be taken onboard the vessel after a Serious Marine Incident?

- (A) Blood
- (B) Saliva
- (C) Hair
- (D) None of the above

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**19.** What happens to the efficiency of an anchor when it is moved from sand to mud?

- (A) The efficiency remains the same.
- (B) The efficiency cannot be determined.
- (C) The efficiency decreases.
- (D) The efficiency increases.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**20.** A vessel arrives in San Francisco from a foreign voyage. When MUST the Master make formal entry?

- (A) Within 48 hours after arrival, Sundays and holidays excepted
- (B) Within 24 hours after arrival, Sundays and holidays excepted
- (C) Within 24 hours after arrival
- (D) Within 48 hours and before all foreign cargo is discharged for that port

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**21.** Annex V to MARPOL 73/78 contains requirements pertaining to the discharge into the marine environment of which item?

- (A) Noxious liquid substances
- (B) Garbage
- (C) Oil
- (D) Air pollutants

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**22.** Which document has a list of names, birthplaces, and residences of persons employed on a merchant vessel bound from a U.S. port on a foreign voyage and is required at every port?

- (A) The Shipping Articles for every crewmember
- (B) A Crew List on form I-418
- (C) A Muster List ("Station Bill")
- (D) A Crew Manifest

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**23.** You are heading into the sea during rough weather. What may happen if there is too much weight forward in your small boat?

- (A) The craft may plunge into the wave
- (B) The craft will list severely
- (C) The craft will broach
- (D) The craft will rise rapidly over the wave

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**24.** Which agency must approve the Safety equipment on board inspected vessels?

- (A) The National Safety Council
- (B) The Safety Standards Bureau
- (C) The U.S. Coast Guard
- (D) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**25.** For insurance purposes, which is a requirements for a general average act?

- (A) There are no losses
- (B) There must be no imminent peril
- (C) It must be a successful venture
- (D) All of the above

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**26.** In general, a reinforced vessel can safely navigate in ice provided the concentration does not exceed how many tenths?

- (A) 1-2 tenths
- (B) 3-4 tenths
- (C) 5- 7 tenths
- (D) 8- 9 tenths with icebreaker assistance

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**27.** Which term is sometimes used to refer to a disk with a horizontal line through its center, equivalent to the summer load line on a vessel?

- (A) The tonnage mark
- (B) The Plimsoll mark
- (C) The deadrise mark
- (D) The maximum allowable draft mark

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**28.** The dangerous cargo manifest does NOT include which item of information?

- (A) The stowage location of hazardous material aboard the vessel
- (B) UN identification numbers
- (C) The net weight of each hazardous cargo
- (D) A description of the packaging (drums, boxes, etc.)

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**29.** Which statement about a tunnel bow thruster is TRUE?

- (A) It is fully effective at speeds up to about six knots.
- (B) It provides lateral control without affecting headway.
- (C) It will allow you to hold a position when the current is from astern.
- (D) It can be used to slow the ship in addition to backing down.

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**30.** What effect does lifting the shank of a Stockless anchor that is set on the bottom have?

- (A) The probability of fouling the chain increases
- (B) The flukes will dig deeper increasing the holding power
- (C) The flukes will break free of the bottom
- (D) The probability of fouling the chain decreases

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

- 31.** A twin screw vessel, making headway with both engines turning ahead, will turn more readily to starboard if you take which action?
- (A) Reverse starboard engine, rudder amidships
  - (B) Reverse port engine, rudder amidships
  - (C) Reverse port engine, apply right rudder
  - (D) Reverse starboard engine, apply right rudder

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 32.** A vessel loads 5000 tons of manganese ore. The railroad cars that brought the ore to the vessel were previously loaded with iron ore so the ore is contaminated. The agent requests the Master to sign a Clean Bill of Lading and in return the shipper will give him a Letter of Indemnity. What is the best procedure to follow?
- (A) Sign the Clean Bill of Lading and have the agent countersign it.
  - (B) Sign a Clean Bill of Lading and accept the Letter of Indemnity.
  - (C) Refuse to sign a Clean Bill of Lading.
  - (D) Sign a Clean Bill of lading under protest.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

- 33.** Which is TRUE when a deep draft VLCC (100,000 DWT+) is navigating in a narrow channel or canal?
- (A) The vessel draws less water with an increase in speed
  - (B) The vessel draws more water than when underway in deep water
  - (C) The vessel steers better under full power
  - (D) The vessel requires less power for a given speed

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

- 34.** Which statement is TRUE of a gasoline spill?
- (A) It is not covered by the pollution laws.
  - (B) It will sink more rapidly than crude oil.
  - (C) It does little harm to marine life.
  - (D) It is visible for a shorter time than a fuel oil spill.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 35.** When taking a Pilot from a pilot vessel in a seaway, which way should you head your vessel if the ladder is on the leeward side?
- (A) Sea on the weather bow and ship moving ahead slowly
  - (B) Sea on the quarter with sternway on the ship
  - (C) Bow to the sea and no way on your vessel
  - (D) Sea on the lee quarter with ship moving ahead slowly

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*



**36.** What information must be included in the Notice of Marine Casualty?

- (A) An evaluation of who was at fault
- (B) The name of the owner or agent of the vessel
- (C) The estimated cost of damage
- (D) The amount of ballast on board

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**37.** In which situation could a vessel most easily capsize?

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

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**38.** As a ship moves through the water, it causes a wake, which is also moving forward relative to the sea. In addition to a fore and aft motion, which direction will the wake flow?

- (A) Upward and outward flow
- (B) Downward and outward flow
- (C) Downward and inward flow
- (D) Upward and inward flow

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**39.** Which term defines only the weight of the cargo that is stowed inside a box?

- (A) Net weight
- (B) Rate weight
- (C) Light weight
- (D) Gross weight

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**40.** Where would a cargo exception officially be notated?

- (A) On the Export Declaration
- (B) On a Letter of Indemnity
- (C) On the cargo manifest
- (D) On the Bill of Lading

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**41.** Which is the Best way to reduce your wake in a narrow channel?

- (A) Reduce your speed
- (B) Apply enough rudder to counter the effect of the current
- (C) Shift the weight to the stern
- (D) Change your course to a zigzag course

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**42.** What is NOT a basic shiphandling rule for navigating in ice concentrations on the Great Lakes?

- (A) Transit ice along pressure ridges when possible.
- (B) Excessive speed means ice damage.
- (C) Work with the ice movement, not against.
- (D) Keep moving - even very slowly, but keep moving.

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**43.** Which statement concerning an accidental oil spill in the navigable waters of the U.S. is TRUE?

- (A) A warning broadcast must be made by radiotelephone.
- (B) The Department of Interior is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.
- (C) The Corps of Engineers is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.
- (D) The person in charge must report the spill to the Coast Guard.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**44.** Your vessel has completed an inspection for certification and is issued a temporary certificate. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The certificate must be posted in the vicinity of the officers' licenses
- (B) The certificate has the full force of a regular Certificate of Inspection
- (C) The certificate expires six months after it is issued
- (D) The certificate must be exchanged for a regular Certificate of Inspection before going foreign or out of state

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**45.** The number of certificated able seamen and lifeboatmen required on board is listed in which document?

- (A) Certificate of Inspection
- (B) American Bureau of Shipping code
- (C) Safety of Life at Sea Convention
- (D) Muster List ("Station Bill")

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**46.** Pollution of the waterways may result from the discharge of which item(s)?

- (A) Sewage
- (B) An oily mixture of one part per million
- (C) The galley trash can
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**47.** When observed, which item indicates a snag or other underwater obstruction in a river?

- (A) V-shaped ripple with the point of the V pointing downstream
- (B) A small patch of smooth water on a windy day
- (C) A smoothing out of the vessel's wake
- (D) V-shaped ripple with the point of the V pointing upstream

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**48.** Which term defines the payment of penalty for a ship's delay after the expiration of lay days due to some fault of the charterer or his agent?

- (A) Demurrage
- (B) Late fee
- (C) Miscibility
- (D) Volatility

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**49.** Your vessel is disabled and in imminent danger of grounding on a lee shore. The Master agrees to salvage services using Lloyd's Open Form of Salvage Agreement. Which is TRUE?

- (A) The salvor becomes the owner of the vessel until the salvage award, if any, is paid.
- (B) Underwriters will repudiate the agreement if it is unsuccessful, due to their increased liability.
- (C) The salvage service is on a "no cure-no pay" basis.
- (D) The salvage award will be decided by suit in Admiralty Court.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**50.** The transfer procedures required to be followed on tankships shall contain which item?

- (A) A line diagram of the vessel's transfer piping
- (B) The duties by name of each person in charge required for each transfer operation
- (C) A list of each port of discharge
- (D) A current crew list

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*