

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Master Less than 500-1600 Gross Registered Tons

Q120 Deck General

(Sample Examination)

Choose the best answer to the following Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is NOT true regarding a Lloyd's Open Form (LOF) Salvage Agreement?
- A. The LOF is subject to the law of the country the two parties agree upon
 - B. There is a bonus to the salvage award if environmental casualty is averted
 - C. If salvage is not successful, vessel owes salvor nothing
 - D. The agreement between vessels can be made via VHF

Correct answer: A

2. When the dew point of the outside air is higher than the dew point of the air in the cargo hold, which action should you take?
- A. Do not ventilate the cargo holds
 - B. Energize the exhaust blowers
 - C. Energize the intake blowers
 - D. Ventilate the cargo holds

Correct answer: A

3. What effect does shallow water have on a vessel's stopping distance?
- A. There is no difference in the stopping distance.
 - B. The stopping distance is longer.
 - C. The stopping distance is shorter.
 - D. The propeller is more effective when going astern in shallow water.

Correct answer: B

4. Battens are fitted in cargo holds across the frames of the vessel from the turn of the bilge upward. What is the main purpose of these cargo battens?
- A. Used for securing a snatch block when snaking cargo into the wings of the hold when loading
 - B. To provide fittings to which cargo lashings may be secured
 - C. To support the dunnage floors which are laid down between tiers of cargo
 - D. To prevent cargo from coming in contact with the vessel's frames or shell plating and to aid in air circulation

Correct answer: D

5. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is concerned with which document on a vessel making preliminary entry into a U.S. port from a foreign port?
- A. Curio List
 - B. Crew List form I-418
 - C. Certified Cargo Manifest
 - D. Shipping Articles

Correct answer: B

6. Which item PRIMARILY determines the holding capabilities of an anchor?

- A. The design of the anchor
- B. The scope of the anchor chain
- C. The weight of the anchor
- D. The size of the vessel

Correct answer: B

7. Considering the manning requirements for U.S. vessels (100 gross tons and above), your cargo vessel has a deck crew of 20 men, exclusive of the officers. How many of these men do the manning regulations require to be Able Seamen?

- A. 5
- B. 7
- C. 10
- D. 13

Correct answer: D

8. Which of the following statements is/are TRUE in regard to Ro-Ro vessels' spaces which are "specially suitable for vehicles"?

- A. The Commandant may permit the installation of an approved water sprinkler extinguishing system.
- B. The spaces shall be fitted with an approved fire or smoke detecting system.
- C. The spaces shall be fitted with an approved fixed fire extinguishing system.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

9. The regulations that were passed to implement MARPOL 73/78 concerning oil pollution apply to a U.S. flag vessel that sails on which waters?

- A. International waters
- B. Great Lakes only
- C. Inland waters only
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

10. Which agency must approve the safety equipment on board inspected vessels?

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

Correct answer: B

11. Which spaces are required to be segregated from cargo tanks carrying grades A, B, C, or D cargoes?

- A. Navigation spaces
- B. Pump rooms
- C. Cofferdams
- D. Enclosed deck spaces

Correct answer: A

12. What is the difference between net tonnage and gross tonnage?

- A. Net tonnage is the net weight of the ship.
- B. Net tonnage is gross tonnage minus engine and bunker spaces.
- C. Net tonnage is the gross tonnage less certain deductible spaces.
- D. Net tonnage is tonnage of cargo compared to tonnage of whole ship.

Correct answer: C

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

Correct answer: B

14. Your vessel is taking on cargo oil when a small leak develops in the hose. You order the pumping stopped. Before you resume pumping, you should _____.

- A. notify the terminal superintendent
- B. place a large drip pan under the leak and plug the scuppers
- C. repair the hose with a patch
- D. replace the hose

Correct answer: D

15. Your vessel is being assisted by an icebreaker. How should you indicate that you are ready to cast off the towline?

- A. Sound five short blasts on his whistle
- B. Display code letter "Y" (Yankee)
- C. Display code numeral "5"
- D. Sound one prolonged blast on the whistle

Correct answer: B

16. Which is an exception to the garbage discharge requirements in Annex V to MARPOL 73/78?

- A. The garbage to be discharged will sink.
- B. A person falls overboard, and a plastic ice chest is thrown for flotation.
- C. The destination port or terminal cannot receive garbage.
- D. Garbage accumulation on board has exceeded storage space.

Correct answer: B

17. The securing systems for containers were developed to prevent container movement during which ship motion?

- A. Roll
- B. Yaw
- C. Surge
- D. Sway

Correct answer: A

18. You are the Master of an uninspected diesel towing vessel of 190 GT operating on a regular run from New York to the Gulf of Mexico. Which statement is TRUE?
- A. Sailors may stand watch for 6 hours on and 6 hours off
 - B. Able Seamen are not required in the deck crew
 - C. A credentialed Chief Engineer is required
 - D. All crew members must have a Merchant Mariner Credential

Correct answer: D

19. How long is a credential issued by the U.S. Coast Guard for apprentice mate (steersman) 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. None of the above

Correct answer: C

20. The master or individual in charge of a vessel prepares a certificate of discharge for each mariner being discharged from the vessel. Which party receives the original copy?
- A. Officer In Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI)
 - B. Shipping Company
 - C. National Maritime Center
 - D. Mariner

Correct answer: D

21. Which is usually the most gentle way of riding out a severe storm on a larger vessel?
- A. Rig a sea anchor
 - B. Running before the seas
 - C. Head into the seas at slow speeds
 - D. Hove to

Correct answer: B

22. Who is responsible for the revision of muster lists?
- A. The United States Coast Guard
 - B. The Chief Officer of the vessel
 - C. The owner of the vessel
 - D. The Master of the vessel

Correct answer: D

23. An icebreaker assisting a vessel through an ice field displays a visual signal consisting of the code letter "S" (Sierra). What does this signal indicate?
- A. My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water
 - B. I am operating astern propulsion
 - C. I am altering my course to starboard
 - D. I am altering my course to port

Correct answer: B

24. According to U.S. regulations, how often are you required to test cargo discharge piping?

- A. 6 months
- B. 12 months
- C. 18 months
- D. 24 months

Correct answer: B

25. What do pollution regulations require of each scupper and or drain that is located in an enclosed deck area?

- A. The scuppers must be wooden plugs
- B. The scuppers shall be a two-piece soft patch
- C. The scuppers shall have a mechanical means of closing
- D. The scuppers must be a soft rubber plug

Correct answer: C

26. Which type of rudder may lose its effectiveness at angles of 10 or more degrees?

- A. Contra-guide
- B. Flat plate
- C. Balanced spade
- D. Unbalanced

Correct answer: C

27. When paying off seamen in a foreign port, where a United States consul is not available, the release must be executed by the seamen and which other person?

- A. The ship's union delegate
- B. The Master of the vessel
- C. The local port authority representative
- D. A representative of the foreign country

Correct answer: B

28. When a vessel is entering or leaving a port, where is the record of engine speeds kept?

- A. The Official Logbook
- B. The engine rough log
- C. The deck rough log
- D. The bell book

Correct answer: D

29. You are on watch while your vessel is entering port with a pilot conning. The pilot gives a steering command to the helmsman who fails to acknowledge it by repeating the command. You should immediately take which action?

- A. Tell the helmsman to ask the Pilot to repeat any command that he fails to hear or understand
- B. Ask the Pilot to repeat the command since the helmsman failed to hear it
- C. Notify the Master
- D. Repeat the Pilot's command and ensure that the helmsman repeats it exactly

Correct answer: D

30. 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

31. You are planning the stowage of two incompatible products on your multiple-product tankship. What will NOT provide the minimum required segregation?

- A. Diagonally adjacent tanks
- B. Empty tank
- C. Tank containing a third cargo compatible with the other two
- D. Solid (non-intercostal) bulkhead

Correct answer: D

32. Which topic is NOT required to be discussed at the pre-transfer conference?

- A. Details of transferring and receiving systems
- B. Estimated time of finishing cargo
- C. Identity of the product to be transferred
- D. Emergency shutdown procedures

Correct answer: B

33. Which space(s) is(are) deducted from gross tonnage to derive net tonnage?

- A. Galley fitted with range or oven
- B. Boatswain's stores
- C. Open structures
- D. Passenger spaces

Correct answer: B

34. Which of the signals listed is required to be displayed at night while bunkering at a dock?

- A. One red light over a yellow light
- B. Two red lights
- C. One red light
- D. One red light over a white light

Correct answer: C

35. The tankship Northland is loaded as shown in table BL-0001 below. Use the salmon-colored pages in the Stability Data Reference Book to determine the hogging numeral.

BL-0001

LONGITUDINAL BENDING STRESSES (PSI)		
	DESCRIPTION	
1.	FORE PEAK	0
2.	DEEP TANK P/S	0
3.	FWD STORES	6
4.	FWD BUNKERS	1600
5.	FWD COFFERDAM	0
6.	#1 CARGO TANK	5229
7.	#2 CARGO TANK	5193
8.	#3 CARGO TANK	4229
9.	#4 CARGO TANK	5116
10.	BRIDGE CREW	3
11.	BRIDGE STORES	12
12.	BRIDGE F.W.	15
13.	#5 CARGO TANK	2956
14.	#6 BALLAST TANK	1628
15.	#7 CARGO/BALLAST TANK	0
16.	#8 CARGO/BALLAST TANK	0
17.	#9 CARGO/BALLAST TANK	6012
18.	#10 CARGO TANK	5417
19.	#11 CARGO TANK	3257
20.	AFT COFFERDAM	0
21.	AFT BUNKERS	900
22.	AFT SETTLERS	325
23.	DISTILLED WATER	56
24.	AFT STORES	75
25.	AFT CREW	7
26.	F.W. AFT	57
27.	AFT PEAK	375

- A. 86.72 numeral
- B. 89.98 numeral
- C. 91.40 numeral
- D. 93.18 numeral

Correct answer: C

36. You are on a multiple-product chemical tanker and will carry cargoes of butyric acid, propylene oxide, and octyl alcohol. Which statement is true?

- A. All of these cargoes are compatible.
- B. Butyric acid is incompatible with octyl alcohol but not propylene oxide.
- C. Octyl alcohol is incompatible with both butyric acid and propylene oxide.
- D. Propylene oxide may not be stowed in a tank adjacent to butyric acid.

Correct answer: D

37. SOLAS requires Emergency Instructions be posted in conspicuous places throughout the vessel. On a passenger vessel what language shall these instructions be posted in?
- A. The language required by the ship's flag State and in English
 - B. The principal language of the passengers and in English
 - C. English because it is the international language
 - D. English, Spanish, French and German

Correct answer: A

38. In writing up the logbook at the end of your watch, you make an error in writing an entry. What is the proper means of correcting this error?
- A. Blot out the error completely and rewrite the entry correctly.
 - B. Cross out the error with a single line, and write the correct entry, then initial it.
 - C. Carefully and neatly erase the entry and rewrite it correctly.
 - D. Remove this page of the log book, and rewrite all entries on a clean page.

Correct answer: B

39. You are berthed at a cargo facility where you have just completed discharging a dangerous cargo. You must complete topside repairs involving hot-work before sailing. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A. The Captain of the Port may give specific approval to make hot-work repairs.
 - B. Hot-work repairs at such a facility are prohibited.
 - C. You can make repairs with permission of the facility owner since you are empty and the cargo is on the facility.
 - D. The repair area must be inspected by a marine surveyor to ensure that it can be done safely.

Correct answer: A

40. The S.S. Hollowpoint has a charter party in which the charterer assumes no responsibility for the operation of the vessel but pays stevedoring expenses. What is the name of the charter party?
- A. Dispatch
 - B. Demise
 - C. Voyage
 - D. Bareboat

Correct answer: C

41. Which is the BEST method of determining if a vessel is dragging anchor?
- A. Observe changes in bearings of fixed objects onshore
 - B. Observe how much the vessel sheers while at anchor
 - C. Observe the amount of line paid out
 - D. Note any change in the tautness of the anchor chain

Correct answer: A

42. You are using an automatic tension winch by yourself. If you get caught in the turns of the line as they lead into the gypsyhead _____.
- A. the safety cutout will stop the winch before you're injured
 - B. you may be pulled into the winch and injured or killed
 - C. the line will part and snap back
 - D. None of the above are correct

Correct answer: B

43. A sling is rigged on a piece of pipe weighing 1000 lbs. The angle between the sling legs is 140° and the legs are of equal length. What stress is exerted on each sling leg when the pipe is lifted?
- A. 1318 lbs.
 - B. 1366 lbs.
 - C. 1414 lbs.
 - D. 1462 lbs.

Correct answer: D

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

Correct answer: C

45. You are docking a vessel starboard side to with the assistance of two tugs. You are attempting to hold the vessel off by operating both tugs at right angles to the vessel and at full power. Which statement is TRUE?
- A. Steerageway is never taken off
 - B. The ship has no headway at the time
 - C. The bow doesn't close the dock first
 - D. The bow closes the dock first

Correct answer: B

46. What is the group of markings shown in illustration D003DG below called?
- A. The water mark
 - B. The loft mark
 - C. The load line mark
 - D. The test mark

Correct answer: C

47. A survey of refrigerated cargo, to certify that proper methods of stowage were utilized, can be conducted by which organization?
- A. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 - B. National Cargo Bureau
 - C. U.S. Coast Guard
 - D. American Bureau of Shipping

Correct answer: B

48. An icebreaker assisting a vessel through an ice field would display a visual signal consisting of the code letter "I" (India) to signify that "_____".
- A. I am altering my course to starboard
 - B. My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water
 - C. I am altering my course to port
 - D. I am operating astern propulsion

Correct answer: C

49. Flammable liquids should have what kind of label?
- A. Skull and crossbones
 - B. Green
 - C. Red
 - D. Yellow

Correct answer: C

50. You are in a tropical port. The refrigeration machinery on a container loaded with air-cooled fruit fails. It cannot be repaired for 18 to 24 hours. Which step should you take to reduce the temperature rise and spoilage of the fruit?
- A. Discharge a cylinder of nitrogen into the container
 - B. Shade the container and periodically hose it down
 - C. Seal any ventilation openings and add dry ice
 - D. Spread ice over the top layer and in any voids within the container

Correct answer: B

51. For insurance purposes, which is a requirement for a general average act?
- A. It must be a successful venture
 - B. There are no losses
 - C. There must be no imminent peril
 - D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

52. You are docking a ship with a single-screw tug assisting on your starboard bow. How should the tug be tied up if you are anticipating that she will have to hold your bow off while you stem the current?
- A. The tug should put a spring line up, leading astern on the ship.
 - B. The tug should put a stern line up, leading ahead on the ship.
 - C. The tug would need at least two head lines.
 - D. One head line would be sufficient.

Correct answer: B

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

- A. 60 months
- B. 48 months
- C. 42 months
- D. 36 months

Correct answer: A

54. SOLAS requires that all passenger vessels maintain Muster Lists. What information is required to be contained in this document?

- A. The distinguished number of adult, children and infant passengers
- B. Emergency egress routes for each passenger cabin
- C. Completion date of the most recent survival craft certification
- D. Duties assigned to members of the crew in relation to passengers

Correct answer: D

55. You are approaching the pilot station with the wind fine on the starboard bow and making about 3 knots. You can help to calm the seas by taking what action just before the pilot boat comes along on the port side?

- A. Stopping the engines
- B. A short burst of ahead full with left full rudder
- C. Giving right full rudder
- D. Backing full

Correct answer: B

56. How is the number of pounds of carbon dioxide required for each cargo space on a cargo vessel computed?

- A. The gross volume of the space in cubic feet divided by 30
- B. One pound of CO₂ per square foot of deck area
- C. One pound of CO₂ per cubic foot of cargo space
- D. The gross volume of the space in cubic feet divided by 100

Correct answer: A

57. Which will most likely occur when your vessel enters shallow water?

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

Correct answer: C

58. A seaman dies during a voyage. What is NOT required to be entered into the Official Log?

- A. Statement as to the total deductions to be made from the wages
- B. Statement that the Master has taken custody of the deceased's MMD and passport
- C. An inventory of the money and property
- D. Statement of the wages due

Correct answer: B

59. You are docking a vessel in a slip which has its entrance athwart the tide. You land the ship across the end of the pier, stemming the tide, preparatory to breaking the ship around the corner. You have one tug to assist. Where would you generally tie up the tug?
- A. Tie her up on the inshore bow to hold the ship off the end.
 - B. Have her on a hawser from the stern.
 - C. Tie her up on the offshore bow.
 - D. Tie her up on the inshore quarter to lift the stern.

Correct answer: C

60. Under U.S. law, what is the penalty for assaulting the Master?
- A. Revocation of the Merchant Mariner Credential
 - B. Fine of not more than \$500 and/or imprisonment for not more than 1 year
 - C. Imprisonment for not more than 2 years
 - D. Fine of not more than \$1000

Correct answer: C

61. Which is NOT a part of an anchor?
- A. The Palm
 - B. The crown
 - C. The bill
 - D. The devil's claw

Correct answer: D

62. After casting off moorings at a mooring buoy in calm weather, which action should you take?
- 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

Correct answer: B

63. If a tug equipped with flanking rudders is to be turned in a confined circle, when going astern, which is the best action to take to make the stern move to port?
- A. The rudder is hard to port and the flanking rudders are hard to starboard
 - B. The rudder is hard to port and the flanking rudders are hard to port
 - C. The rudder is amidships and the flanking rudders are hard to port
 - D. All of the rudders are hard to starboard

Correct answer: B

64. Which document shows a vessel's nationality, ownership, and tonnage?
- A. Manifest Certificate
 - B. Official Logbook
 - C. Certificate of Documentation
 - D. Bill of Lading Certificate

Correct answer: C

65. Who has the authority to grant an alternate procedure for oil transfer operations?

- A. The nearest Coast Guard office
- B. The Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection
- C. The Area Commander
- D. The Captain of the Port

Correct answer: D

66. In a following sea, a wave has overtaken your vessel and thrown the stern to starboard. To continue along your original course, which action should you take?

- A. Decrease speed
- B. Increase speed
- C. Use more left rudder
- D. Use more right rudder

Correct answer: D

67. Which is TRUE of a pelican hook?

- A. It is always used for lifeboat falls
- B. It can be released while under strain
- C. It is used for extra heavy loads
- D. It can only be used for light loads

Correct answer: B

68. Which of the signals listed is required to be displayed during the day while bunkering?

- A. A red and yellow flag
- B. A red light
- C. A yellow flag
- D. A red flag

Correct answer: D

69. A tankerman who permits or causes oil to go into a navigable waterway may be federally punished with which of the following?

- A. Suspension or revocation of tankerman's document
- B. Imprisonment not to exceed 5 years
- C. Fined in accordance with Title 18 U.S. Code
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

70. When a helmsman receives the command "Right 15 degrees rudder," what should the helmsman's immediate reply be?

- A. No reply is necessary, just carry out the order.
- B. "Rudder is right 15 degrees"
- C. "Right 15 degrees rudder"
- D. "Aye Aye Sir"

Correct answer: C

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