

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Master Uninspected Fishing Vessels  
Q180 Deck General  
(Sample Examination)

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

1. What is the minimum standard for making an eye splice in a wire to be used as cargo gear?
  - A. Make six tucks with each strand, removing a few wires from each strand as each additional tuck is made.
  - B. Make three tucks with full strands, remove half the wires from each strand, and make two more tucks.
  - C. Make four tucks in each strand, cut away every other strand, and make two more tucks with each remaining strand.
  - D. Make four tucks with each full strand.

Correct answer: B

2. You are standing the wheelwatch when you hear the cry, "Man overboard starboard side". What immediate order would you expect to receive?
  - A. Give full right rudder
  - B. Give full left rudder
  - C. Throw a life ring to mark the spot
  - D. Put the rudder amidships

Correct answer: A

3. Who is responsible for seeing that all hands are familiar with their duties, as specified in the muster list, and that the muster list is correct?
  - A. The Chief Mate
  - B. The safety officer
  - C. The Master
  - D. The department heads

Correct answer: C

4. In the event of an oil spill a report must be made to which of the following entities?
  - A. U.S. Coast Guard
  - B. U.S. Corps of Engineers
  - C. The local police
  - D. The local fire department

Correct answer: A

5. Which space(s) is(are) deducted from gross tonnage to derive net tonnage?
  - A. Passenger spaces
  - B. Boatswain's stores
  - C. Companions and booby hatches
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: B

6. 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 will list severely
  - B. The craft may plunge into the wave
  - C. The craft will rise rapidly over the wave
  - D. The craft will broach

Correct answer: B

7. Which statement is TRUE concerning the bilge pump on a commercial fishing vessel?
- A. The pump may be used as a fire pump
  - B. The pump unit must be capable of pumping at least 450 gpm
  - C. The pump must be portable if there are more than 4 watertight compartments
  - D. The pump must be fixed if the vessel exceeds 24 meters in length

Correct answer: D

8. You are the officer on watch and have taken the final drafts of your vessel prior to getting underway. The vessel takes departure and proceeds outbound in a narrow channel. As the vessel increases speed and gains momentum, what will be the effect on the mean draft?
- A. It will increase if you decrease speed
  - B. It will decrease in comparison to the sailing drafts
  - C. It will remain the same as the sailing drafts
  - D. It will increase in comparison to the sailing drafts

Correct answer: D

9. Which type of fixed fire-extinguishing system is approved for use on board uninspected vessels?
- A. Chemical foam
  - B. Carbon dioxide
  - C. Steam smothering
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: B

10. The moisture equilibrium chart can be used to determine which item?
- A. Temperature at which moisture equilibrium will occur in a cargo hold containing a hygroscopic cargo
  - B. Dew point temperature that the air surrounding a hygroscopic commodity will have when in moisture equilibrium with that commodity
  - C. Enthalpy of the air surrounding a hydroscopic cargo which is in moisture equilibrium with the cargo
  - D. Absolute moisture content of the air surrounding a hygroscopic cargo when moisture equilibrium exists

Correct answer: B

11. You should NOT use a power tool if which condition exists?

- A. The insulation of the power wires is worn
- B. The power source is alternating current
- C. It has a three-prong plug
- D. Hand tools can be used instead

Correct answer: A

12. While standing look-out at night, which is the BEST way to see a dim light on the horizon?

- A. Look a little below the horizon
- B. Look a little above the horizon
- C. Look directly towards the light
- D. Look quickly above then quickly below the horizon

Correct answer: B

13. A heated bulkhead has which effect on a hygroscopic commodity?

- A. Causes moisture to accumulate against the bulkhead
- B. It raises the vapor pressure of the commodity
- C. It lowers the vapor pressure of the commodity
- D. It will lower the dew point of the air

Correct answer: B

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

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

Correct answer: D

15. You are conducting trials to determine the maneuvering characteristics of your vessel. While making a turn you take the ranges and bearings of an isolated light. The results are shown in illustration D034DG below. What is the transfer for a turn of 75°?

- A. 365 yards (306 meters)
- B. 320 yards (274 meters)
- C. 230 yards (207 meters)
- D. 190 yards (171 meters)

Correct answer: B

16. Which statement is TRUE when using the anchor to steady the bow while approaching a dock?

- A. Steering control is ineffective in trying to turn to the side opposite to that of the anchor being used
- B. The anchor cable must never lead under the hull
- C. Using an offshore anchor decreases the chances of the anchor holding
- D. The vessel will tend to take a large sheer towards the side where the anchor is down

Correct answer: C

17. In general, an un-reinforced vessel can safely navigate in ice provided the concentration does not exceed how many tenths?

- A. 9 - 10 tenths
- B. 6 - 8 tenths
- C. 4 - 6 tenths
- D. 1 - 3 tenths

Correct answer: D

18. Which is a precaution you should take before bunkering?

- A. Plug the sounding pipes
- B. Plug the vents
- C. Close the lids on the vents
- D. Plug the scuppers

Correct answer: D

19. A vessel reduces speed without backing. Which item is the primary factor that determines the rate that her speed through the water decreases?

- A. The sea state
- B. The vessel's horsepower
- C. The vessel's displacement
- D. The number of propellers

Correct answer: C

20. Open ullage holes in tanks which are not gas-free must be protected by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. stop-check valves
- B. warning signs
- C. PV valves
- D. flame screens

Correct answer: D

21. Considering the manning requirements for U.S. vessels, your three-watch cargo vessel has a deck crew of 20 people, exclusive of the officers. How many of these people do the manning regulations require to be Able Seamen?

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

Correct answer: B

22. You are proceeding at a slow speed with your starboard side near the right bank of a channel. If your vessel suddenly sheers toward the opposite bank, which would be the BEST action to take?

- A. Put engine full ahead, hard left rudder
- B. Put engine full astern, hard right rudder
- C. Put engine full astern, hard left rudder
- D. Put engine full ahead, hard right rudder

Correct answer: D

23. Ice concentration is measured in tenths. What concentration range of ice corresponds to "Close Pack"?

- A. 9 - 10 tenths
- B. 7 - 8 tenths
- C. 4 - 6 tenths
- D. 1 - 3 tenths

Correct answer: B

24. The boom indicator tells the operator at what angle the boom is compared to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. horizontal position of the boom
- B. vertical position of the load being lifted
- C. vertical position of the boom
- D. horizontal position of the load being lifted

Correct answer: A

25. Which statement is TRUE of a gasoline spill?

- A. It will sink more rapidly than crude oil.
- B. It does little harm to marine life.
- C. It is visible for a shorter time than a fuel oil spill.
- D. It is not covered by the pollution laws.

Correct answer: C

26. You are signing on a crew. When they present their Merchant Mariner Credential, you should suspect a fraudulent document if it has which endorsement listed on it?

- A. Certificate of Registry
- B. Bosun
- C. Any unlicensed rating in the deck department including AB
- D. Steward's Department (F.H.)

Correct answer: B

27. If you are bunkering and you close off one tank in the line of tanks being filled, what happens to the rate of flow to other open tanks on the same line?

- A. The rate of flow increases to the open tanks
- B. The rate of flow remains constant to the open tanks
- C. The rate of flow decreases to the open tanks
- D. The rate of flow stops to the open tanks

Correct answer: A

28. Stress on the topping lift of a swinging boom can be reduced by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. rigging a back stay
- B. increasing the mechanical advantage of the cargo purchase
- C. taking all slack out of the preventer
- D. raising the boom

Correct answer: D

29. Which would be the BEST condition for your vessel to enter into pack ice?

- A. The vessel has a drag of not more than 2 to 3 feet
- B. The vessel is on an even keel
- C. The vessel is trimmed slightly by the head
- D. The vessel is ballasted so the forefoot is near the surface

Correct answer: A

30. Which statement is TRUE concerning the hydrostatic release on inflatable liferafts on fishing vessels?

- A. The releases shall be overhauled quarterly
- B. The releases shall be tested monthly
- C. The releases shall be serviced annually
- D. The releases shall be replaced every five years

Correct answer: C

31. You are in charge of a towing vessel that operates exclusively on inland waters. You regularly tow barges that provide services (cargo lighters, fuel barges, etc.) to foreign flag vessels in port. What will be accepted as proper credentials for you and your crew?

- A. State driver's license with photo ID
- B. Social Security card
- C. Merchant Mariner Credential
- D. No credentials are required since you operate on inland waters only

Correct answer: C

32. Where may a crewmember find information on the fire and abandon ship stations and his/her assigned duties?

- A. The shipping articles
- B. The Certificate of Inspection
- C. The muster list
- D. The crewman's duty list

Correct answer: C

33. What is the number of fire extinguishers required on an uninspected "Motor vessel" based on?

- A. The vessel's gross tonnage
- B. The number of crew members
- C. The vessel's length
- D. The vessel's draft

Correct answer: A

34. Each life preserver must be readily accessible to the person for whom it is intended. Which statement is TRUE?

- A. Life preservers shall be located in his or her berthing area only
- B. Life preservers shall be located at workstations only
- C. Life preservers shall be located BOTH at work and in berthing areas
- D. None of the above statements are TRUE

Correct answer: C

35. What is a serving mallet used for?

- A. Forcing fids into a line by striking the small end
- B. To aid in the dogging the hatches
- C. To cut the line clean before splicing the line
- D. To aid in covering wire or fiber rope with marline

Correct answer: D

36. Which statement is TRUE with respect to shiphandling procedures in ice?

- A. The presence of a snow cover on the ice assists a vessel's progress through an ice field.
- B. Never go "full astern" at any time while in ice.
- C. Enter ice at medium speeds to reduce impact.
- D. Go astern in ice with extreme care - always with rudder amidships.

Correct answer: D

37. Close link chain of not less the 3/4" (or the wire rope equivalent) is required for lashing deck cargoes of timber. What size flexible wire rope would provide the strength equivalent to 3/4" chain, using a safety factor of 5?

- A. 9/16"
- B. 1"
- C. 1 1/4"
- D. 1 3/8"

Correct answer: B

38. Which is the BEST way to reduce your wake in a narrow channel?

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

Correct answer: B

39. The official identification of a vessel is found in which document?

- A. Load Line Certificate
- B. Classification Certificate
- C. Certificate of Documentation
- D. Certificate of Inspection

Correct answer: C

40. Who carries the total responsibility for shipping and discharging the seamen on a vessel?

- A. Steamship company
- B. U.S. Custom Service
- C. U.S. Coast Guard
- D. Master of the vessel

Correct answer: D



41. Who must sign the Declaration of Inspection made before oil transfer operations?

- A. Master of the vessel
- B. Person(s) in charge
- C. Captain of the Port
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: B

42. Which term defines when a boat turns broadside to heavy seas and winds, thus exposing the boat to the danger of capsizing?

- A. Broached
- B. Trimmed
- C. Pitchpoled
- D. Yawed

Correct answer: A

43. What is the minimum number of bolts required in a temporarily connected standard ANSI (American National Standards Institute) 8-bolt flange for the transfer of cargo oil?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 8

Correct answer: B

44. Ice concentration is measured in tenths. What concentration range of ice corresponds to "Open Pack"?

- A. < 1 tenth
- B. 1 - 3 tenths
- C. 4 - 6 tenths
- D. 7 - 8 tenths

Correct answer: C

45. What is the name of tackle number 8 as shown in illustration D029DG?

- A. Single purchase
- B. Gun tackle
- C. Parbuckle
- D. Single luff tackle

Correct answer: B

46. You are docking a vessel. When are the wind and current most favorable in this situation?

- A. When they are crossing your course, in opposite directions to the other
- B. When they are crossing your course, both in the same direction
- C. When they are both parallel to the pier from ahead
- D. When they are both setting you on the pier

Correct answer: C

47. When picking up your mooring at the buoy, which is the correct method?

- A. Stop upwind and up current and drift down on the buoy
- B. Approach the buoy with the wind and current astern
- C. Approach the buoy with wind and sea abeam
- D. Approach the buoy with the wind and current ahead

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: C

49. Which position shown in illustration D019DG below is the most dangerous when tying up?

- A. II
- B. I
- C. IV
- D. III

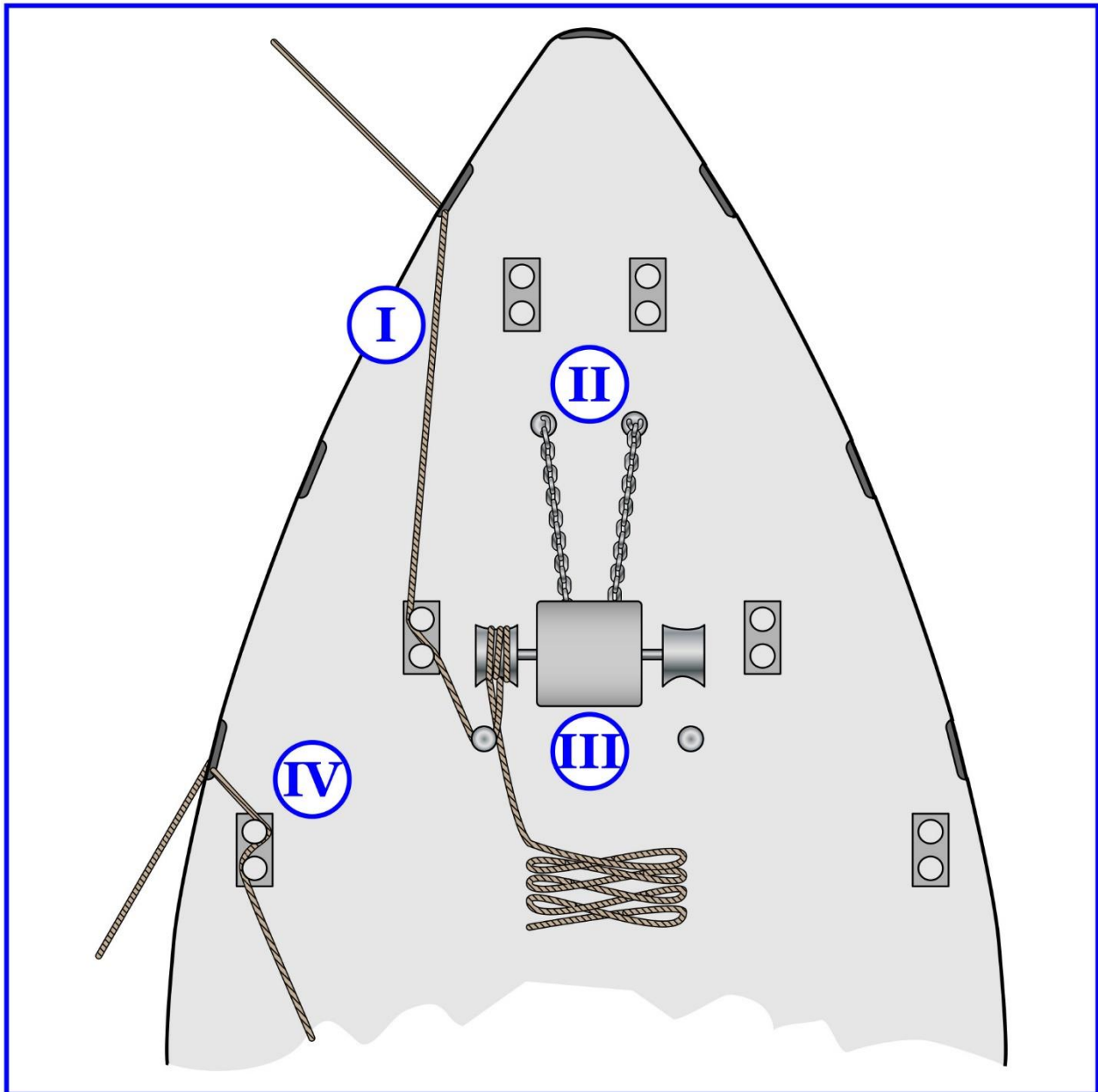
Correct answer: B

50. Which term defines "An electronic or electric device that indicates the rate of turn of a vessel"?

- A. Gyrocompass
- B. Swing meter
- C. Magnetic compass
- D. Odometer

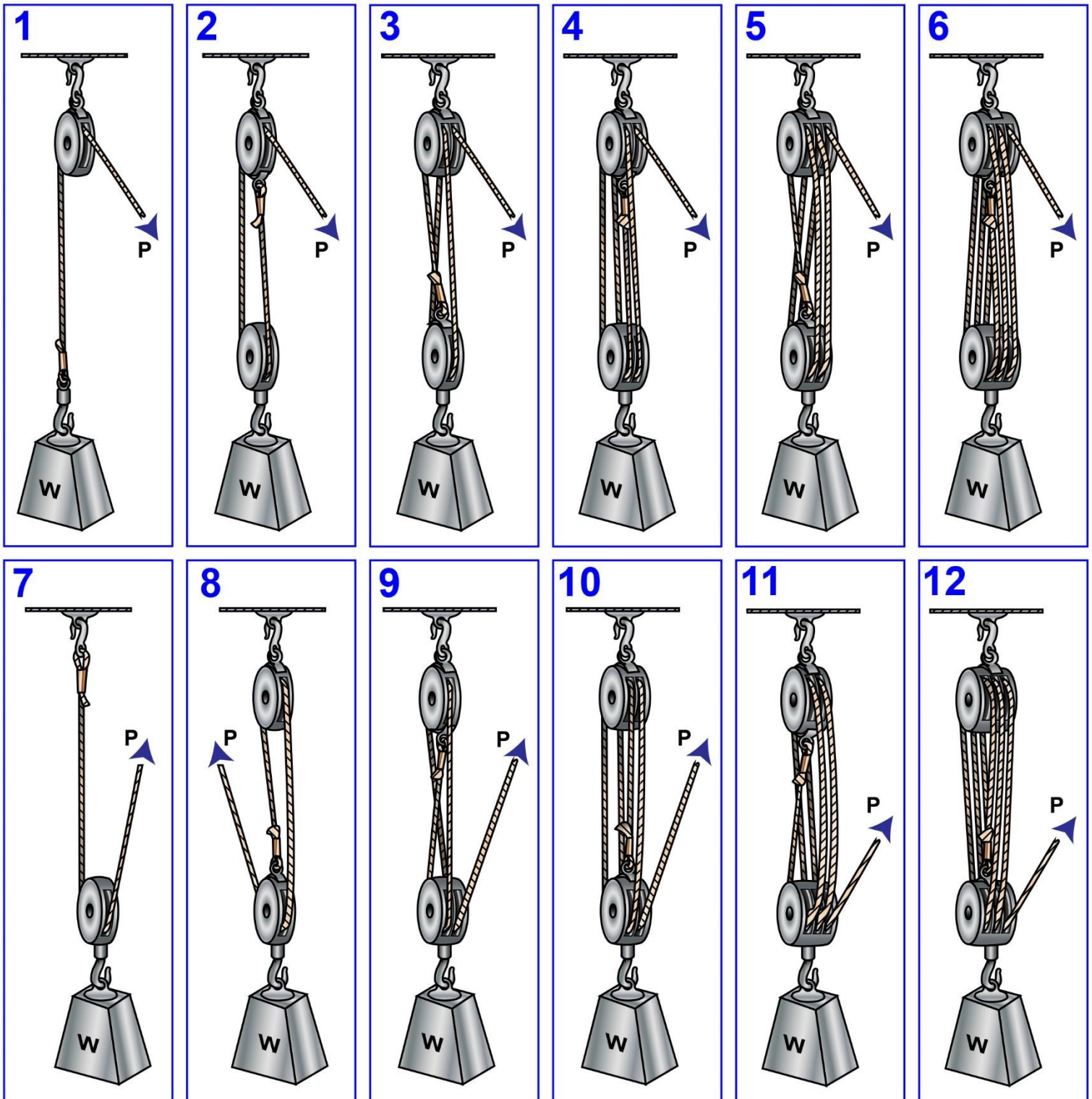
Correct answer: B

## D019DG



Adapted for testing purposes only  
Further reproduction prohibited without permission

## D029DG



Adapted for testing purposes only from HAYLER, American Merchant Seaman's Manual

Copyright © 1980 by Cornell Maritime Press, Inc.

Further reproduction prohibited without permission

## D034DG

HEADING (TRUE)	BEARING (TRUE)	RANGE (YDS)	REMARKS
228°			INITIAL HEADING
228°	232°	2260	ON INITIAL COURSE
228°	234°	1700	RIGHT FULL RUDDER ORDERED
230°	236°	1490	
252°	235°	1275	
275°	231°	1000	
316°	214°	850	
352°	198°	975	
022°	194°	1210	
053°	197°	1430	
087°	202°	1600	
115°	209°	1690	
151°	217°	1700	
183°	225°	1600	
218°	232°	1350	RUDDER AMIDSHIPS
228°	235°	1125	STEADY ON 228°