

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Master Uninspected Fishing Vessels  
Q181 Deck Safety  
(Sample Examination)

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

1. You are testing the external inflation bladder on an immersion suit and find it has a very slow leak. Which is the BEST action to be taken?
- A. Some leakage should be expected and a topping off tube is provided; no other action is necessary.
  - B. Replace the inflation bladder.
  - C. Take it out of service and repair in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
  - D. Replace the suit.

Correct answer: C

2. In battery charging rooms, where should the exhaust ventilation be provided?
- A. Near the deck only when charging is in progress
  - B. At the highest point in the room
  - C. Near the batteries
  - D. At the lowest point in the room

Correct answer: B

3. By day, what is the signal meaning, "This is the best place to land"?
- A. A white star rocket
  - B. A white smoke signal
  - C. Vertical motion of a red flag
  - D. Vertical motion of a white flag or the arms

Correct answer: D

4. What is the calling and distress frequency on a single side band (SSB) marine radiotelephone?
- A. 1492 kHz
  - B. 1892 kHz
  - C. 2082 kHz
  - D. 2182 kHz

Correct answer: D

5. Which statement about the Williamson turn is FALSE?
- A. It returns the vessel to the original track-line on a reciprocal course.
  - B. It requires the highest degree of shiphandling skills to accomplish.
  - C. It is the slowest of the methods used in turning the vessel.
  - D. It is the best turn to use when the victim is not in sight due to reduced visibility.

Correct answer: B

6. A fire hose with a nozzle attached must be connected to each hydrant except when exposed to heavy weather or when the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. fire main system is not charged
  - B. vessel is in port
  - C. fire hose might be damaged by cargo operations
  - D. fire pumps are used for purposes other than supplying water to the fire main

Correct answer: C

7. Which VHF channel should you avoid using as a working channel?

- A. 7A
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 16

Correct answer: D

8. For the purpose of training and drills, if reasonable and practicable, how frequently should rescue boats be launched with their assigned crew?

- A. Once a month
- B. Once a year
- C. Twice a year
- D. Once a week

Correct answer: A

9. You are attempting to take a dead ship in tow. All lines have been passed and secured. How should you get underway?

- A. Order minimum turns until the towing hawser is just clear of the water, then reduce speed to that necessary to keep the line clear of the water.
- B. Order minimum turns until the towing hawser is taut and then continue at that speed until towing speed is attained.
- C. Gradually apply power until catenary almost breaks the water but keep the catenary in the water.
- D. If the towline is properly adjusted and weighted you can order slow or dead slow and the towline will act as a spring to absorb the initial shock.

Correct answer: C

10. You are on a 165 foot (50.3 meters) long vessel with a draft of 9 feet (2.7 meters) and twin screws. Which statement about rescuing a survivor in the water with ship pickup is TRUE?

- A. Ship pick up should never be used with a shallow draft vessel.
- B. A pickup off the weather bow gives maximum maneuverability with the least possibility of injury to the man.
- C. You should stop to windward of the man and drift down on him.
- D. You should stop with the man on your weather beam and twist the ship up to him.

Correct answer: B

11. Which are the flammable limits of methyl ethyl ketone?

- A. 1.8% to 11.5%
- B. 6.6% to 12.1%
- C. 9.6% to 15.1%
- D. 12.2% to 18.1%

Correct answer: A

12. When supplemented by a comparable signal on the general alarm, what is the signal for boat stations or boat drill?
- A. More than six short blasts followed by one long blast of the whistle
  - B. One long blast followed by three short blasts of the whistle
  - C. A continuous blast of the whistle for a period of not less than 10 seconds
  - D. Three short blasts of the whistle

Correct answer: A

13. You are releasing carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) into an engine compartment to extinguish a fire. In which situation will the CO<sub>2</sub> be most effective?
- A. The compartment is closed and airtight
  - B. Air flow to the compartment is increased with blowers
  - C. The compartment is left open to the air
  - D. The compartment is closed and ventilators are opened

Correct answer: A

14. 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 center of the boat
  - D. Shift weight to the stern

Correct answer: D

15. The two factors which make underwater hull repair difficult are accessibility and which other factor?
- A. The shape of the hull
  - B. The pressure exerted by the water
  - C. The threat of progressive flooding
  - D. The availability of tools

Correct answer: B

16. You must shore up the collision bulkhead due to solid flooding forward. The bulkhead approximates an inverted triangle. Where should the center of pressure of the shores on the bulkhead be located?
- A. Approximately two-thirds of the way up the bulkhead
  - B. Evenly over the surface of the bulkhead
  - C. At the bottom of the bulkhead
  - D. Approximately halfway up the bulkhead

Correct answer: D

17. Sudden unloading of a diesel engine can cause which to occur?
- A. Increased exhaust temperature
  - B. Decreased fuel efficiency
  - C. Black smoke
  - D. The overspeed trip to activate

Correct answer: D

18. Which is the most effective cooling agent among those normally used to fight fires?

- A. Carbon dioxide
- B. Water fog or spray
- C. Mechanical foam
- D. Chemical foam

Correct answer: B

19. What quality of a diesel fuel is most significant for efficient combustion?

- A. Volatility
- B. Flash point
- C. Viscosity
- D. Specific heat

Correct answer: A

20. Which is an advantage of an ABC dry chemical over a carbon dioxide extinguisher?

- A. Greater multipurpose extinguishing ability
- B. Burn-back protection
- C. Less damage to electrical components
- D. Lack of toxicity

Correct answer: A

21. Small hull leaks can be temporarily repaired by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. parceling
- B. caulking
- C. seizing
- D. parbuckling

Correct answer: B

22. What represents poor sanitary procedures?

- A. After washing dishes with soap and warm water, sterilize them in water of at least 170°F (76.7°C).
- B. Locate potable (drinking) water tanks as low as possible in the bilge.
- C. Eliminate enclosed spaces in which trash, food particles, dirt may gather.
- D. Keep and use a separate filling hose for potable (drinking) water.

Correct answer: B

23. During cargo operations, your vessel develops a list due to the center of gravity rising above the transverse metacenter. Which is the most prudent action to correct the list?

- A. Shift weight to the centerline
- B. Remove weight from the lower holds or double bottoms
- C. Shift weight to the high side
- D. Add weight in the center line lower holds or double bottoms

Correct answer: D

24. Your vessel has run aground in waters where the tide is falling. Which of the following is the best action you can take?

- A. Slowly bring the engine(s) to full speed astern
- B. Set out a kedge anchor
- C. Shift the vessel's load forward and wait until the next high tide
- D. Shift the vessel's load aft and repeatedly surge the engine(s) astern

Correct answer: B

25. Which statement is TRUE concerning the "flash point" of a substance?

- A. It is the temperature at which a substance will spontaneously ignite.
- B. It is the temperature at which the released vapors will fall within the explosive range.
- C. It is lower than the ignition temperature.
- D. It is the temperature at which a substance, when ignited, will continue to burn.

Correct answer: C

26. Loading cargo above the vessel's center of gravity will increase the vessel's vertical center of gravity. How will this affect the vessel?

- A. If your vessel's stability is increasing, the rolling period will increase
- B. If your vessel's stability is decreasing, the rolling period will decrease
- C. If your vessel's stability is increasing, the rolling period will remain the same
- D. If your vessel's stability is decreasing, the roll period will increase

Correct answer: D

27. How is the "off-load" release system on a survival craft designed to be activated?

- A. It will activate only when the engine is started
- B. It will activate only when the doors are closed
- C. It will activate when there is no load on the cable
- D. It will activate when there is a load on the cable

Correct answer: C

28. While underway in thick fog you are on watch and hear the cry "man overboard". Which type of maneuver should you make?

- A. figure eight turn
- B. Williamson turn
- C. Racetrack turn
- D. Round turn

Correct answer: B

29. You are at sea and have received a General Emergency message announcing the outbreak of war in Europe. You are directed to comply with the instructions in NGA (NIMA) PUB 117, Chapter Eight. Which statement is TRUE?

- A. When over 200 miles from a port in the danger zone, you should not darken ship
- B. You should attempt to coordinate with the Shipping Control Team
- C. You should only enter a port in the danger zone during hours of darkness
- D. If on a coastwise voyage along the east coast of the U.S., you should put into the nearest port

Correct answer: B

30. Why are diesel engines considered safer than gasoline engines?

- A. The fuel used is less volatile
- B. They are more heavily built
- C. They can be easily reversed
- D. They operate at a lower speed

Correct answer: A

31. How should the sea painter of a rescue boat be led?

- A. Vertically up and down from the main deck
- B. Forward and outboard of all obstructions
- C. Forward and inboard of all obstructions
- D. To the foremost point on the vessel

Correct answer: B

32. When collecting condensation for drinking water, which is TRUE?

- A. Chlorine tablets should be used to make it drinkable
- B. Only condensation on the bottom of the canopy should be collected
- C. It should be strained through a finely woven cloth
- D. A sponge used to mop up and store condensation must be kept salt free

Correct answer: D

33. What is the purpose of a striking plate?

- A. Provides surface for applying force on machinery
- B. Provides landing surface for the sounding bob
- C. Absorbs machinery vibration
- D. Prevents valve stem over-travel

Correct answer: B

34. A burning pile of canvas is which classification of fire?

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

Correct answer: A

35. Topside icing that blocks freeing ports and scuppers \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. increases the effective freeboard and increases the wind-heel affect
- B. is usually below the center of gravity and has little effect on stability
- C. will cause water on deck to pocket and increase stability
- D. may decrease stability by increasing free surface effect due to water on deck

Correct answer: D

36. Your vessel is equipped with totally enclosed lifeboats. Which statement is TRUE when the boat is enveloped in flames?
- A. The ventilators will automatically close by the action of fusible links.
  - B. The motor takes its air supply from outside the lifeboat to prevent asphyxiation of the crew.
  - C. A water spray system to cool the outside of the boat is operated by a high-volume manual pump.
  - D. An air tank will provide about ten minutes of air for the survivors and the engine.

Correct answer: D

37. The "trimming arm" of a vessel is the horizontal distance between which two points?
- A. LCB and LCF
  - B. LCB and LCG
  - C. LCF and LCG
  - D. LHA and LCG

Correct answer: B

38. According to the regulations for lifeboat falls, which action must be taken at 30-month intervals?
- A. Renewed
  - B. Weight tested
  - C. Inspected
  - D. End-for-ended

Correct answer: D

39. In illustration D016SA below, the line indicated by number 4 is connected to which of the following?
- A. Releasing gear
  - B. McCluny hook
  - C. Sea painter
  - D. Fleming gear

Correct answer: B

40. Normally, before taking drinking water on board in the U.S. or its possessions, the responsible person from the vessel should determine which information about the water source?
- A. Is approved by the Public Health Service
  - B. Is not from surface water
  - C. Has been treated with chlorine
  - D. Is used by a city

Correct answer: A

41. If heavy smoke is coming from the paint locker, what should be the FIRST firefighting response?
- A. Enter and use a portable extinguisher
  - B. Secure the ventilation
  - C. Release the CO2 flooding system
  - D. Open the door to evaluate the extent of the fire

Correct answer: B



42. If you are forced to abandon ship in a rescue boat, which action should you take?

- A. Vote on what to do, so all hands will have a part in the decision
- B. Head for the nearest land
- C. Remain in the immediate vicinity
- D. Head for the closest sea lanes

Correct answer: C

43. Which statement is TRUE concerning carbon dioxide?

- A. It is non-conductive.
- B. It is used on class B and C fires.
- C. It is heavier than air.
- D. All of the above are true.

Correct answer: D

44. A yellow signal, floating in the air from a parachute, about 300 feet above the water, indicates what about a submarine?

- A. The submarine is in distress and will try to surface
- B. It will be coming to periscope depth
- C. The submarine is on the bottom in distress
- D. It will be coming to the surface

Correct answer: B

45. You are landing an oar propelled lifeboat through heavy surf with a strong current running parallel to the beach (from right to left when facing from seaward). Which is the recommended procedure to follow?

- A. Rig a drogue with tripping line over the bow, back ashore with drogue tripped between breakers
- B. Approach slow enough so that the boat can be brought around to meet breaking seas on the bow
- C. Drop an anchor outside the surf line, then pay out anchor line over the bow while the seas carry the boat toward the beach
- D. Approach while coming to the left to take advantage of the current

Correct answer: A

46. Which is TRUE of an "on-load" release system on a survival craft?

- A. It can be released only when there is a load on the cable
- B. It can be released only when the load is taken off the cable
- C. It can be released only when activated by the controls at the lowering station
- D. It can be released at any time

Correct answer: D

47. According to the Lifesaving regulations in Subchapter W, fire and abandon ship drills must be held within 24 hours of leaving port if the percentage of the crew that has not participated in drills aboard that particular vessel in the prior month exceeds which percentage?
- A. 5%
  - B. 10%
  - C. 25%
  - D. 40%

Correct answer: C

48. You are picking up a conscious person that has fallen overboard in one of the vessels motorboats. Recovery is easier in a light breeze if you approach from which direction?
- A. Windward with the victim to leeward
  - B. Leeward with the victim to windward
  - C. Approach with the wind on your port side
  - D. Approach with the wind on your starboard side

Correct answer: A

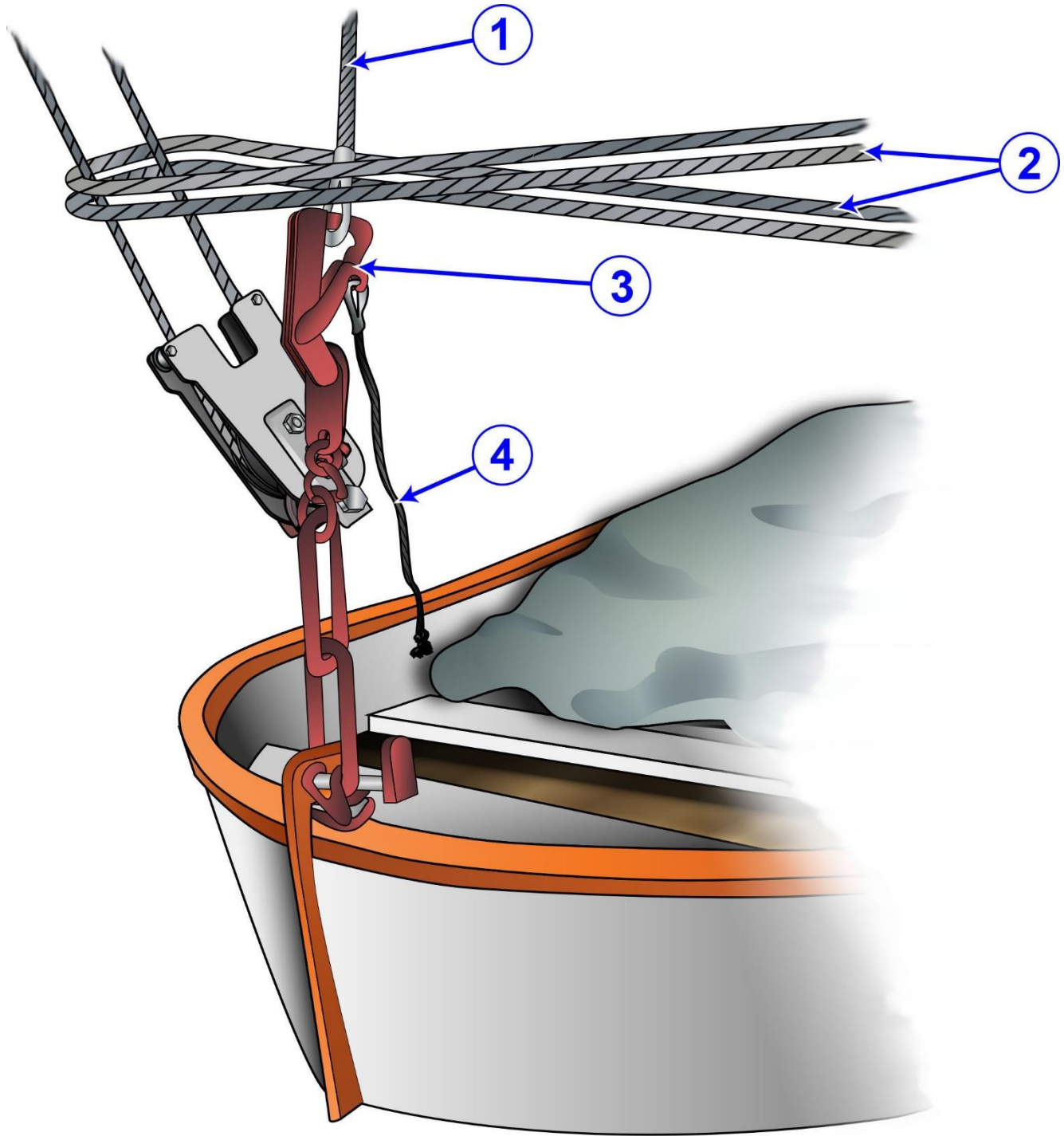
49. Which of the following defines "Rolling Period"?
- A. The time it takes the vessel to make a complete roll such as from port to starboard and back to port
  - B. The time it takes the vessel to make a complete roll such as from port to starboard and return to level
  - C. The time it takes the vessel to make a complete roll such as from level to starboard and return to port
  - D. The time it takes the vessel to make a complete roll such as from port and return to level

Correct answer: A

50. Which term describes the horizontal fore or aft motion of a vessel?
- A. Roll
  - B. Pitch
  - C. Surge
  - D. Sway

Correct answer: C

## D016SA



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