

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Master/Chief Mate Offshore Supply Vessels
Q200 Deck General
(Sample Examination)

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

1. Who will certify the vessel to be gas free before entering the shipyard?
- A. A shoreside marine chemist
 - B. The chief officer
 - C. A dedicated company representative
 - D. A representative from the vessel's class society

Correct answer: A

2. Which statement is FALSE concerning precautions during fueling operations?
- A. All windows, doors, hatches, etc. should be closed.
 - B. All engines, motors, fans, etc. should be shut down when fueling.
 - C. Fuel tanks should be topped off with no room for expansion.
 - D. A fire extinguisher should be kept nearby.

Correct answer: C

3. You are anchoring your vessel. When should you release and payout the anchor?
- A. When the vessel is dead in the water
 - B. When the vessel has minimal sternway
 - C. When the vessel is going full ahead
 - D. When the vessel is going full astern

Correct answer: B

4. Which statement about general average is TRUE?
- A. The loss or damage to deck cargo due to heavy weather constitutes general average.
 - B. Of the ship, the freight, and the cargo interests, only one need be involved.
 - C. Property must have been sacrificed or an expenditure of money incurred.
 - D. Damage to a ship must have been incurred while the ship and/or its machinery was being used for its intended purpose.

Correct answer: C

5. You are on a 120,000 DWT loaded bulk carrier. What is a safe docking speed when approaching a berth?
- A. Bare steerageway
 - B. Any speed in a head current
 - C. Any speed in a following current
 - D. 5 knots

Correct answer: A

6. A maritime lien may be placed against which item(s)?
- A. The vessel, cargo, or freight
 - B. The vessel only
 - C. Any assets that a ship's owner may have
 - D. Objects that are fixed and immovable, such as wharves

Correct answer: A

7. If your asphalt barge has operated more than 12 months in saltwater in the 24 month period since it was last dry-docked, when is it required to be hauled out again?
- A. 12 months since last dry-docking
 - B. 18 months since last dry-docking
 - C. 24 months since last dry-docking
 - D. 36 months since last dry-docking

Correct answer: D

8. What is the period of validity of a Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate?
- A. 6 months
 - B. 12 months
 - C. 24 months
 - D. 60 months

Correct answer: D

9. Which term defines the total weight of a box containing cargo?
- A. Gross weight
 - B. Tare weight
 - C. Net weight
 - D. Cargo weight

Correct answer: A

10. In which situation could a vessel most easily capsize?
- A. Running into head seas
 - B. Anchored with your bow into the seas
 - C. Running with following seas
 - D. Running in the trough

Correct answer: D

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

Correct answer: D

12. On a vessel proceeding from a very cold to a warm climate with a cargo of a nonhygroscopic nature in the holds, which is TRUE?
- A. The possibility of any sweat problem, either cargo or ship, is remote.
 - B. There is danger of heavy cargo sweat if outside air is introduced by ventilation.
 - C. There is little danger of ship's sweat, slight possibility of cargo sweat; moderate ventilation is needed.
 - D. Danger of heavy ship sweat exists; constant and vigorous ventilation is required.

Correct answer: B

13. The person-in-charge shall insure that each rescue boat on an OSV is lowered to the water, launched and operated. Which meets the requirement?
- A. Launch every week
 - B. Launch every two months
 - C. Launch at least once in three months
 - D. Launch at least once in six months

Correct answer: C

14. What is the purpose of a check valve?
- A. Permits flow in one direction only
 - B. Passes liquid but not air
 - C. Passes air but not liquid
 - D. Regulates liquid flow

Correct answer: A

15. The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code assigns classes for dangerous goods. What is the proper nomenclature for class 1 substances?
- A. Explosives
 - B. Flammable liquids
 - C. Gases
 - D. Radioactive material

Correct answer: A

16. You are at sea and not in a special area as defined in ANNEX V of MARPOL. What is the minimum distance in nautical miles from land must you be to discharge ground food garbage that will pass through a one-inch (25 mm) screen into the sea?
- A. Outside of 3nm
 - B. Outside of 6nm
 - C. Outside of 12nm
 - D. Outside of 25nm

Correct answer: A

17. How should a vessel that is being assisted by an icebreaker indicate that it is ready to cast off the towline (if one is used)?
- A. Display code numeral "5"
 - B. Sound five short blasts of his whistle
 - C. Display the code letter "Y" (Yankee)
 - D. Sound one prolonged blast of the whistle

Correct answer: C

18. 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. Have her on a hawser from the stern.
 - B. Tie her up on the inshore bow to hold the ship off the end.
 - C. Tie her up on the offshore bow.
 - D. Tie her up on the inshore quarter to lift the stern.

Correct answer: C

19. 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

20. U.S. Customs, upon boarding a vessel desiring entry into a U.S. port, would inspect which document?

- A. Cargo Manifest
- B. Stores List
- C. Crew List
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

21. Your vessel is chartered under a time charter party. Under this type of charter party, what is your responsibility as Master?

- A. It is to the owner for vessel administration and to the charterer for cargo operations and schedule
- B. It is solely to the charterer for all matters pertaining to cargo and ship administration
- C. It is solely to the cargo shippers and consignees
- D. It is solely to the owner, as under normal conditions

Correct answer: A

22. Which statement about the forecastle card is TRUE?

- A. Each crewmember is given a copy of the forecastle card
- B. Is a copy of the shipping articles excluding crewmember signatures
- C. It contains copies of the crew's signatures from the articles
- D. The forecastle card is a blank sample of the articles

Correct answer: B

23. According to the Chemical Data Guide, what are the flammable limits of ethylene oxide?

- A. 1.9 - 88.0%
- B. 1.85 - 48.0%
- C. 2.7 - 34%
- D. 2 - 100%

Correct answer: D

24. A mariner whose credential has been revoked shall not be issued another credential without which of the following?

- A. Approval of the Commandant
- B. Approval of an administrative law judge
- C. Taking a new examination
- D. Approval of the Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection

Correct answer: A

25. Which is the length of a standard "shot" of anchor chain?

- A. 12 fathoms
- B. 15 fathoms
- C. 18 fathoms
- D. 20 fathoms

Correct answer: B

26. You are to load styrene in bulk, which is subject to self-polymerization. In accordance with 46 CFR Table 153 what are you required to do?
- A. Inject nitrogen to pad any ullage above the styrene to prevent contact with oxygen
 - B. Be furnished with a Certificate of Inhibition to be maintained on the bridge
 - C. Not carry any cargo in the tanks surrounding the tank loaded with styrene
 - D. Use heating coils to maintain the styrene within the temperatures specified by the shipper

Correct answer: B

27. What effect does bank cushion have on the hull of a vessel in shallow water?
- A. The hull has a greater pressure on the land side of the bow
 - B. The hull has a lesser pressure on the land side of the bow
 - C. The hull has a greater pressure on the land side of the stern
 - D. The hull has a lesser pressure on the land side of the stern

Correct answer: A

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

Correct answer: B

29. What is the function of the "rudder adjustment" control on an autopilot steering stand?
- A. To set the number of degrees of rudder per degree of course error
 - B. To set the departure from base course before actuating the rudder
 - C. To set the rate at which the rudder responds
 - D. To align the rudder angle indicator with the true rudder angle

Correct answer: A

30. On a passenger vessel over 400 gross tons, in which section are the routine entries recorded in the Oil Record Book?
- A. An Oil Record Book is not required on this vessel
 - B. Part II (Cargo Oil/Ballast Operations)
 - C. Part III (Emergency Discharge/Spillage)
 - D. Part I (Machinery Space Operations)

Correct answer: D

31. Which characteristic is an advantage of a butterfly valve as compared to a gate valve?
- A. Quick operation
 - B. No resistance to cargo flow when open
 - C. Less maintenance required
 - D. Precise control over cargo flow

Correct answer: A

32. Open ullage holes in tanks which are not gas-free must be protected by _____.
- A. stop-check valves
 - B. PV valves
 - C. warning signs
 - D. flame screens

Correct answer: D

33. Your vessel is taking on fuel 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

34. 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 amidships and the flanking rudders are hard to port
 - B. The rudder is hard to port and the flanking rudders are hard to port
 - C. All of the rudders are hard to starboard
 - D. The rudder is hard to port and the flanking rudders are hard to starboard

Correct answer: B

35. Which effect does speed through the water have on a vessel which is underway in shallow water?
- A. An increase in speed results in the stern sucking down lower than the bow.
 - B. A decrease in speed results in the vessel sucking down on an even plane.
 - C. A decrease in the speed results in a decrease in steering response and maneuverability.
 - D. An increase in speed results in the vessel rising on an even plane.

Correct answer: A

36. Multi-year ice is the hardest sea ice and should be avoided if possible. It is recognizable because of what tone to its surface color?
- A. Greenish
 - B. Grey
 - C. Bluish
 - D. Grey-white

Correct answer: C

37. You are the credentialed Master of a towing vessel operating between New York and Tampa, FL. If you carry four deckhands onboard, how many must be able seamen?
- A. one
 - B. two
 - C. three
 - D. four

Correct answer: C

38. Which statement about a tunnel bow thruster is TRUE?

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

Correct answer: A

39. At what distance from shore may plastic material be thrown overboard from a vessel?

- A. 25 miles from shore
- B. 12 miles from shore
- C. 3 miles from shore
- D. None of the above are correct.

Correct answer: D

40. Muster Lists and emergency instructions are required for all SOLAS vessels. The muster list shall show the duties assigned to different members of the crew including which of the following?

- A. the person responsible for bringing water to the survival craft
- B. the person responsible for the instruction on the donning of lifejackets
- C. the person responsible for emergency repairs to life saving equipment
- D. the person responsible for the muster of passengers

Correct answer: D

41. What type of information is found in 33 CFR part 156?

- A. Vessel construction and design
- B. Operation of nautical school ships
- C. Lifesaving and firefighting equipment
- D. Oil and hazardous material transfer operations

Correct answer: D

42. Which item is part of the normal equipment of every rescue boat?

- A. A compass
- B. One liter of water
- C. One can opener
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

43. Under the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act of 1936, a vessel will be liable for damage to cargo when the damage arises from which situation?

- A. Perils of the sea
- B. An error in navigation
- C. An act of war
- D. Lack of ventilation in transit

Correct answer: D

44. Which may indicate the proximity of pack ice?

- A. Icebergs
- B. Frequent changes in air temperature
- C. Rapid changes in seawater salinity
- D. White glare on clouds on the horizon

Correct answer: D

45. An alien crewmember with a D-1 permit leaves the vessel in a U.S. port and fails to return. The first report you make should be to which organization?

- A. OCM I
- B. The local police
- C. Immigration Service
- D. Customs Service

Correct answer: C

46. On your vessel, a wire rope for the cargo gear shows signs of excessive wear and must be replaced. In ordering a new wire for this 10-ton boom, what safety factor should you use?

- A. Three
- B. Five
- C. Six
- D. Seven

Correct answer: B

47. Firefighting equipment requirements for a particular vessel may be found on which document?

- A. Classification Certificate
- B. Certificate of Inspection
- C. Certificate of Seaworthiness
- D. Certificate of Registry

Correct answer: B

48. You are using the anchor to steady the bow while maneuvering. When do you know you have the proper scope of anchor cable out?

- A. When the cable enters the water at an angle between 60° and 85° from the horizontal
- B. When the anchor is just touching the bottom
- C. When the bow is held in position with the engines coming slowly ahead
- D. If the scope is not more than 5 times the depth of the water

Correct answer: C

49. The signal man assisting a crane operator has his arm extended with his fingers closed and thumb pointing upward. This is the signal to _____.

- A. raise the boom
- B. raise the boom and hook
- C. raise the hook
- D. check the boom stop

Correct answer: A

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

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

Correct answer: A

51. A seaman may not make an allotment to which relation?

- A. Grandparents
- B. Minor children
- C. Brother
- D. Mother-in-law

Correct answer: D

52. Your vessel is carrying 24,000 barrels of oil for discharge. The cargo hoses have an inside diameter of eight inches. What is the minimum capacity of the container around the loading manifold?

- A. Three barrels
- B. Four barrels
- C. Six barrels
- D. Eight barrels

Correct answer: A

53. Which defines the pitch of a propeller on a merchant vessel?

- A. The number of feet per revolution the propeller is designed to advance in still water without slip
- B. The angle that the propeller makes with a free stream of water
- C. The angle that the propeller makes with the surface of the water
- D. The positive pressure resulting from the difference of the forces on both sides of the moving propeller in still water without slip

Correct answer: A

54. Using a scope of 6, determine how many feet of anchor cable you should put out to anchor in 12 feet (3.7 meters) of water.

- A. 2 feet (0.6 meters)
- B. 18 feet (5.5 meters)
- C. 48 feet (14.6 meters)
- D. 72 feet (21.9 meters)

Correct answer: D

55. You are in the North Sea, which is a special area listed in ANNEX V of MARPOL. How many miles from land must you be to throw broken plywood dunnage over the side?

- A. 6 nm
- B. 12 nm
- C. 25 nm
- D. Must be retained aboard

Correct answer: D

56. The strictest load line regulations apply to which type of vessel?

- A. Tankers
- B. Passenger ships
- C. Gas carriers
- D. Freighters (break-bulk)

Correct answer: B

57. 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

58. Which statement about the pressure in a tank being inerted by an inert gas system is TRUE?

- A. The maximum pressure permitted is 8 psi.
- B. A positive pressure should be maintained at all times.
- C. The pressure must remain within the limits of +5 psi to -1 psi.
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: B

59. Which best describes an anchor buoy?

- A. A black ball that is hoisted when the ship anchors
- B. A mark of the number of fathoms in an anchor chain
- C. A buoy attached to the scope of an anchor chain
- D. A buoy attached to the anchor

Correct answer: D

60. Who is responsible for establishing watches aboard a U.S. vessel?

- A. The owner of the vessel
- B. The company that charters the vessel
- C. The company that operates the vessel
- D. The Master of the vessel

Correct answer: D

61. On an inspected vessel, when may a stability test be dispensed with?

- A. The vessel is of a proven design
- B. Coast Guard has the approved stability test results of a sister vessel
- C. Coast Guard does not have a qualified inspector available
- D. The projected cost is unreasonable

Correct answer: B

62. Which statement is TRUE concerning the vessel's slipstream?

- A. It has no effect on the rudder when the helm is amidships.
- B. The propeller gives it a helical motion.
- C. Its velocity is the same as that of the wake.
- D. It has no effect on the steering of the vessel.

Correct answer: B

63. The last 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) of vapor piping before the vessel vapor connection must be painted _____.

- A. international orange
- B. red/yellow/red
- C. hi-visibility yellow
- D. yellow/red/yellow

Correct answer: B

64. When can a work vest be substituted for a lifejacket in the total count of the required lifesaving gear?

- A. When it is approved by the Coast Guard
- B. When stowed away from the ring buoys
- C. When working near or over the water
- D. A work vest may never be counted as a lifejacket.

Correct answer: D

65. Regulations require that OSV's under 100 GT must have a steering system that is capable of moving the rudder _____.

- A. From 15° on one side to 15° on the other side, in 30 seconds at 7 knots, or one-half the maximum speed
- B. At one-half the maximum astern speed without damage
- C. From 35° on one side to 30° on the other side, in no more than 28 seconds, while making maximum headway
- D. By a required auxiliary steering system under emergency conditions when duplicated main steering power systems are provided

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: D

67. 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

68. Which entry is NOT required in the Official Logbook?

- A. Closure of hatches and sideports upon sailing
- B. Steering gear tests
- C. Commencement and termination of cargo operations
- D. Position of the load line and freeboard upon sailing

Correct answer: C

69. As soon as the officer in charge of the vessel has taken steps to stop the discharge of oil or oily mixture into a U.S. harbor, what must he/she do FIRST?

- A. Alert the fire department
- B. Inform the Environmental Protection Agency
- C. Contact the Coast Guard
- D. Rig a boom on deck

Correct answer: C

70. What is the name of the mark indicated by the letter E in illustration D003DG below?

- A. Summer water line
- B. Tropical water line
- C. Fresh water line
- D. Winter water line

Correct answer: A

D003DG

