

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. Which statement is TRUE?

- A. You must keep a record of the approximate weight of the garbage dumped.
- B. You need not keep a record of ground garbage dumped into the sea more than 25 miles offshore.
- C. You must keep a record of garbage discharged in port to a shore facility.
- D. You need not keep a record of garbage incinerated on the ship.

Correct answer: C

2. When using two tugs to assist in mooring a large, deeply laden ship, where is the most powerful tug usually placed?

- A. Aft to assist the ship's rudder and propeller
- B. Forward to control the bow
- C. Amidships to move the entire vessel evenly
- D. Anywhere, since the maneuverability of the tug governs the placement not the power

Correct answer: B

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

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

Correct answer: D

4. What is the purpose of a check valve?

- A. Permits flow in one direction only
- B. Regulates liquid flow
- C. Passes liquid but not air
- D. Passes air but not liquid

Correct answer: A

5. Which part of a conventional cargo gear rig provides for vertical control and positioning of a boom?

- A. Spider band
- B. Topping lift
- C. Cargo whip
- D. Gooseneck fitting

Correct answer: B

6. Which statement about tunnel bow thrusters fitted to large vessels is TRUE?
- A. They are effective on most vessels at speeds up to 10 knots.
  - B. They are fully effective at all drafts.
  - C. Because of their location, most modern installations have as much power as a tug.
  - D. When going astern at slow speed, they provide effective steering control.

Correct answer: D

7. What is the minimum number of bolts required in a permanently connected flange oil hose coupling?
- A. A bolt must be used in every hole.
  - B. 6
  - C. 4
  - D. 3

Correct answer: A

8. Which condition must be met during a stability test on an inspected vessel?
- A. All dunnage, tools, and extraneous items are secured
  - B. The vessel must be moored snugly
  - C. Each tank must be partially full to show it does not leak
  - D. Water under vessel must be deep enough to prevent grounding

Correct answer: D

9. Your tank barge requires repairs that include welding. Who normally would issue a gas-free certificate?
- A. The ABS marine surveyor
  - B. A certified marine chemist
  - C. Any Coast Guard marine inspector
  - D. The port engineer

Correct answer: B

10. What is the name of the mark indicated by the letter C in illustration D003DG below?
- A. Tropical water line
  - B. Summer water line
  - C. Fresh water line
  - D. Winter North Atlantic water line

Correct answer: C

11. During oil transfer operations, who is responsible for ensuring that the posted transfer procedures are followed?
- A. The senior able seaman
  - B. The oiler
  - C. The designated person in charge
  - D. The tankerman

Correct answer: C

**12.** The most likely time for oil pollution while bunkering is when \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hoses are being blown down
- B. first starting to receive fuel
- C. hoses are disconnected and being capped
- D. final topping off is occurring

Correct answer: D

**13.** What is the cause of most minor spills of oil products?

- A. Unforeseeable circumstances
- B. Equipment failure
- C. Major casualties
- D. Human error

Correct answer: D

**14.** Which describes ice blink?

- A. The soft light appearance on the underside of a cloud layer due to reflection from a surface of open water
- B. A whitish glare on the underside of a cloud layer
- C. A water sky
- D. The dark appearance of the underside of a cloud layer due to reflection of a surface of open water

Correct answer: B

**15.** A sling is rigged on a piece of pipe weighing 1000 lbs. The angle between the sling legs is  $140^\circ$  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

**16.** Before arriving at the first U.S. port from foreign, you must fill out a Crewman's Landing Permit. Which crewmember(s) require(s) this permit?

- A. All crewmembers
- B. All alien crewmembers
- C. Any nonresident alien crewmembers
- D. Only unlicensed crewmembers

Correct answer: C

**17.** A high cube container is designed specifically to accomplish which task?

- A. Carry cargoes of very low stowage factors
- B. Protect fragile cargoes
- C. Carry low density cargoes
- D. Stow cargoes with concentrated weights such as machinery

Correct answer: C

**18.** Under normal operating conditions aboard a ship, who has the overall responsibility in maintaining the Oil Record Book?

- A. Chief Mate
- B. First Assistant Engineer
- C. Master
- D. Chief Engineer

Correct answer: C

**19.** According to U.S. regulations, normally, where are manholes on a tank vessel designed to carry LFG located?

- A. There are no requirements in the regulation
- B. In the expansion trunk of each tank
- C. Above the weather deck
- D. In the ends of each tank

Correct answer: C

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

- A. Passenger spaces
- B. Companions and booby hatches
- C. Boatswain's stores
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: C

**21.** Which term describes the time allowed for loading and discharging cargo in a charter party?

- A. Demurrage
- B. Lay days
- C. Charter hire
- D. Dispatch

Correct answer: B

**22.** The number of able seamen required on board a vessel can be found in which document?

- A. American Bureau of Shipping code
- B. Classification Certificate
- C. Certificate of Inspection
- D. SOLAS Certificate

Correct answer: C

**23.** Which color is the next-to-last shot of an anchor cable usually painted?

- A. International orange
- B. Yellow
- C. White
- D. Red

Correct answer: B

**24.** Which item shall the Master insure regarding the Emergency Position Indicating Radio beacon (EPIRB)?

- A. The unit is secured inside the wheelhouse prior to sailing
- B. The unit is secured in the emergency locker
- C. The unit is only tested annually to conserve batteries
- D. The unit is tested monthly

Correct answer: D

**25.** According to the Chemical Data Guide, what is the Reid Vapor Pressure of tert-butylamine?

- A. 11 (psig)
- B. 12 (psig)
- C. 13 (psig)
- D. 14 (psig)

Correct answer: A

**26.** 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. One head line would be sufficient.
- B. The tug would need at least two head lines.
- C. The tug should put a stern line up, leading ahead on the ship.
- D. The tug should put a spring line up, leading astern on the ship.

Correct answer: C

**27.** Your 199 GT tugboat is on a 675-mile coastwise voyage. What percentage of the deck crew must be Able Bodied Seamen?

- A. 0%
- B. 25%
- C. 50%
- D. 65%

Correct answer: D

**28.** As the propeller turns, voids are formed on the trailing and leading edges of the propeller blades causing a loss of propulsive efficiency, pitting of the blades, and vibration. Which term defines this effect?

- A. Edging
- B. Advance
- C. Cavitation
- D. Slip

Correct answer: C

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

Correct answer: C

- 30.** 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. Solid (non-intercostal) bulkhead
  - C. Tank containing a third cargo compatible with the other two
  - D. Empty tank

Correct answer: B

- 31.** A credential for apprentice mate (steersman) of towing vessels shall be renewed within what time period before or after the expiration date?
- A. 90 days
  - B. 12 months
  - C. 6 months
  - D. 30 days

Correct answer: B

- 32.** After casting off moorings at a mooring buoy in calm weather, which action should you take?
- A. Go half ahead on the engines and pass upstream of the buoy
  - B. Back away a few lengths to clear the buoy and then go ahead on the engines
  - C. Go half ahead on the engines and put the rudder hard right
  - D. Go full ahead on the engine(s)

Correct answer: B

- 33.** What is the procedure to obtain an initial inspection for a Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection for your vessel?
- A. Only after a formal complaint has been filed with the OCMI against the vessel
  - B. You will be contacted when deemed necessary by the Regional Inspection Center
  - C. It is done at random from a Coast Guard patrol boat
  - D. Apply in writing to the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI)

Correct answer: D

**34.** Which action(s) is/are included in crane operations?

- A. Luff, slew, and hoist operations
- B. Pre-operation checks and start-up
- C. Removing booms from stowage
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

**35.** Which is a predictable result of a vessel nearing a bank or edge of a steep banked channel?

- A. The vessel will be drawn bodily into the bank unless the engines are stopped
- B. The stern is drawn to the bank as the bow sheers off
- C. The vessel continues in a straight line, but with greatly reduced maneuverability
- D. The bow sheers toward the bank

Correct answer: B

**36.** What affect does shallow water have on a vessel's stopping distance?

- A. The propeller is more effective when going astern in shallow water.
- B. The stopping distance is shorter.
- C. The stopping distance is longer.
- D. There is no difference in the stopping distance.

Correct answer: C

**37.** For insurance purposes, which is a requirement for a general average act?

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

Correct answer: B

**38.** What can cargo hold bilge soundings indicate?

- A. If the cargo is leaking into the cargo hold
- B. The amount of condensation in the hold
- C. If the vessel is taking on water
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

**39.** Your vessel is required to have a slop chest. Which of the following articles is NOT required by law to be carried in the slop chest?

- A. Blankets
- B. Tobacco products
- C. Foul weather clothing
- D. Candy

Correct answer: D

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

Correct answer: A

- 41.** Coast Guard Regulations permit which of the following systems to be used for fire prevention and the simultaneous inerting of cargo tanks on tank vessels?
- A. A fixed water spray system
  - B. An inert gas system
  - C. The deck foam system
  - D. The fire main system

Correct answer: B

- 42.** Which is a requirement for the stowage of the Emergency Position Indicating Radio beacon on an OSV?
- A. The unit shall be stowed in an inside passageway
  - B. The unit shall be stowed in an approved bracket
  - C. The unit shall be stowed so it is accessible from the pilothouse of the vessel
  - D. The unit shall be stowed so it will float free if the vessel sinks

Correct answer: D

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

Correct answer: C

- 44.** In accordance with U.S. regulations which of the following is the proper label name for a class 6.1 substance?
- A. Corrosive
  - B. Oxidizer
  - C. Poison
  - D. Organic Peroxide

Correct answer: C

- 45.** Sweat damage in a hatch full of canned goods in cartons will occur when which condition exists?
- A. When the air temperature is lower than the temperature of the cargo
  - B. When the air temperature is higher than the temperature of the cargo
  - C. When the dew point is higher than the temperature of the cargo
  - D. When the dew point is lower than the temperature of the cargo

Correct answer: C

**46.** The immersion suit requirements for OSV apply to units operating in the Atlantic Ocean in which latitudes?

- A. Above 20 degrees North and below 20 degrees South
- B. Above 25 degrees North and below 25 degrees South
- C. Above 30 degrees North and below 30 degrees South
- D. Above 32 degrees North and below 32 degrees South

Correct answer: D

**47.** Which of the following describes (auto) ignition temperature?

- A. the temperature at which a fuel begins to give off explosive vapors
- B. the temperature at which a fuel if ignited will continue to burn
- C. the temperature at which no spark or flame is required to ignite gas or vapor
- D. the temperature at which a 1% mixture of the fuel with air will explode

Correct answer: C

**48.** 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. Place a large drip pan under the leak and plug the scuppers
- B. Notify the terminal superintendent
- C. Replace the hose
- D. Repair the hose with a patch

Correct answer: C

**49.** 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

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

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

Correct answer: C

**51.** A seaman is entitled by law to a release from Foreign Articles when which situation has occurred?

- A. There is a change of Master
- B. He/she is intoxicated
- C. The vessel is overloaded
- D. There is a change of home port

Correct answer: C

**52.** The Master may require part of the crew to work when needed for which function?

- A. Performing fire, lifeboat or other drills in port or at sea
- B. Performing work necessary for the safety of the vessel, its passengers, crew or cargo
- C. Maneuvering, shifting berth, mooring and unmooring
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

**53.** Which characteristic is an advantage of a butterfly valve as compared to a gate valve?

- A. Less maintenance required
- B. No resistance to cargo flow when open
- C. Precise control over cargo flow
- D. Quick operation

Correct answer: D

**54.** 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 altering my course to port
- C. I am operating astern propulsion
- D. I am altering my course to starboard

Correct answer: C

**55.** A Danforth lightweight anchor usually skips along and does NOT hold well in which bottom?

- A. Clay
- B. Grass
- C. Sand
- D. Mud

Correct answer: B

**56.** Which action reduces the yawing of a vessel in a following sea?

- A. Shifting weights to the stern
- B. Pumping out tanks aft
- C. Increasing GM
- D. Shifting weights to the bow

Correct answer: A

**57.** Your ship has loaded 8,000 barrels of gasoline at a cargo temperature of 36°C (97°F). API gravity is 54°. The volume correction factor (VCF) is .0006. You are bound for New Jersey from Ecuador. How many gallons would you expect to unload if the cargo temperature is 55°F at the discharge port?

- A. 327,533
- B. 344,484
- C. 428,890
- D. 451,110

Correct answer: A

- 58.** On a vessel, constructed after 1970, carrying grades A, B, C or D cargoes, what can NOT segregate enclosed spaces where sources of vapor ignition are normally present from cargo tanks?
- A. Pump rooms
  - B. Tanks used to carry liquids having a flash point of 150°F or above
  - C. Galleys
  - D. Cofferdams

Correct answer: C

- 59.** Which is TRUE concerning the vapor pressure of a substance?
- A. The pressure decreases as temperature increases
  - B. The pressure increases with the temperature
  - C. The pressure is not affected by temperature
  - D. The pressure may increase or decrease as the temperature rises

Correct answer: B

- 60.** You are docking an oceangoing single-screw vessel under normal circumstances with a single tug. Which is the usual function of the tug?
- A. To pull the vessel into the slip and is tied to the bow
  - B. To control the bow and is tied to the offshore bow
  - C. To push the ship bodily alongside and is tied to the offshore side on the stern
  - D. To control the stern and is tied to the stern on the offshore side

Correct answer: B

- 61.** Which vessel is most likely to be loaded full but not down?
- A. A break bulk vessel loaded with palletized cargo
  - B. A bulk carrier loaded with steel
  - C. A bulk carrier loaded with heavy ore
  - D. A tanker loaded with heavy grain

Correct answer: A

- 62.** A vessel arrives in a foreign port and the Master is informed that the vessel is being sold to foreign interests. The new owners request that the crew remain on board to complete the voyage. Under these circumstances, which action can the crew take?
- A. The crew has the right to an immediate discharge and transportation to original port of engagement
  - B. The crew must remain on board and await orders
  - C. The crew must comply with the decision made by the Master
  - D. The crew must remain aboard until the vessel is delivered to the new owners at a mutually agreed upon port

Correct answer: A

**63.** Which item must be entered in the official log?

- A. Names of night mates and engineers
- B. Number of cargo gangs on board
- C. All engine orders
- D. Drafts upon leaving port

Correct answer: D

**64.** Which indicates the holding capability of an anchor?

- A. The stowage of the anchor on board
- B. The size of the vessel and its draft
- C. The shape of the anchor
- D. The anchor's ability to dig in

Correct answer: D

**65.** Which is usually the most gentle way of riding out a severe storm on a larger vessel?

- A. Rig a sea anchor
- B. Hove to
- C. Head into the seas at slow speeds
- D. Running before the seas

Correct answer: D

**66.** 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 port
- B. The rudder is amidships 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: A

**67.** A vessel to which Annex V to MARPOL 73/78 applies is located 10 nautical miles from the nearest land. Which type of garbage is prohibited from being discharged?

- A. Paper ground to less than 1"
- B. Rags ground to less than 1"
- C. Food waste, not comminuted or ground
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

**68.** SOLAS requires a lifesaving training manual be provided in each crew cabin or in which other location?

- A. In the engineering control station
- B. In the fire control room
- C. In the recreation and messrooms
- D. On the bridge

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: C

**70.** The possibility of wake damage can be reduced by following which action?

- A. Slow down when passing moored vessels
- B. Alternate engine speeds
- C. Apply rudder in both port and starboard directions
- D. Passing close aboard to the moored vessel

Correct answer: A



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