U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Deck Officer Endorsements

Q300 Rules of the Road – Inland

(Sample Examination)
Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice questions.

NO reference materials are authorized for use on this exam.

1. **INLAND ONLY** The term "Great Lakes", as defined by the Inland Rules of the Road, includes part of which river(s)?
   
   - (A) Chicago River
   - (B) Calumet River
   - (C) St. Lawrence River
   - (D) All of the above

   *If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

2. **BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which situation would be a "special circumstance" under the Rules?
   
   - (A) More than two vessels meeting
   - (B) Vessel at anchor
   - (C) Two vessels crossing
   - (D) Speed in fog

   *If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

3. **INLAND ONLY** A power-driven vessel operating in a narrow channel with a following current on the Great Lakes or Western Rivers is meeting an upbound vessel. Which statement is TRUE?
   
   - (A) The downbound vessel has the right of way.
   - (B) The upbound vessel must initiate the required maneuvering signals.
   - (C) The upbound vessel must propose the manner of passing.
   - (D) All of the above

   *If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

4. **BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** In a crossing situation, which vessel may sound a signal to indicate failure to understand the intentions or actions of another vessel consisting of at least five short and rapid blasts of the whistle?
   
   - (A) Neither vessel
   - (B) The give-way vessel
   - (C) The stand-on vessel
   - (D) Either vessel

   *If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
5. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which identification lights are required to be exhibited on a vessel engaged in trawling?

- (A) a green light over a white light
  - (B) a white light over a red light
  - (C) a red light over a white light
  - (D) two red lights in a vertical line

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

6. INLAND ONLY A law enforcement vessel patrolling a marine regatta may exhibit a flashing blue light or which of the following alternates?

  - (A) a high intensity flashing white light (strobe)
  - (B) a fixed green light over a red flashing light
  - (C) an alternately flashing red and yellow light
  - (D) two amber lights in a horizontal line

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

7. INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel crossing a river on the Western Rivers has the right of way over which vessel?

  - (A) Vessels descending the river
  - (B) All vessels ascending and descending the river
  - (C) Vessels ascending the river
  - (D) None of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

8. INLAND ONLY Which lights are required for a single barge being towed alongside?

  - (A) Sidelights and a stern light
  - (B) Sidelights, a towing light, and a stern light
  - (C) Sidelights, a special flashing light, and a stern light
  - (D) Sidelights and a special flashing light

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

9. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway in a fog when you hear a whistle signal of one prolonged blast followed by two short blasts. This signal could indicate all of the following with the EXCEPTION of which vessel?

  - (A) A vessel being towed
  - (B) A vessel fishing with trawls
  - (C) A tug towing astern
  - (D) A vessel not under command

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
10. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway in restricted visibility and hear a fog signal forward of the beam. Nothing appears on your radar screen. You must take what action?

- (A) Stop your engines
- (B) Sound at least five short and rapid blasts on the whistle
- (C) Sound two prolonged blasts of the whistle
- (D) Slow to minimum at which the vessel can be kept on course

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

11. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which signal would a vessel aground show during daylight?

- (A) One black ball
- (B) Two black balls
- (C) Three black balls
- (D) Four black balls

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

12. INLAND ONLY Which is TRUE of a power-driven vessel, bound downstream, when meeting an upbound vessel on the Western Rivers?

- (A) She shall propose the manner of passage.
- (B) She has the right of way.
- (C) She shall initiate maneuvering signals.
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

13. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND While underway at night, you sight a vessel ahead displaying the lights shown in illustration D071RR below. How should the vessels pass?

- (A) Both vessels should alter course to port and pass starboard to starboard.
- (B) You should sound an appropriate overtaking signal.
- (C) Your vessel should hold course and speed and the other vessel should keep clear.
- (D) Both vessels should alter course to starboard and pass port to port.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

14. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are on watch in the fog. Your vessel is proceeding at a safe speed when you hear a fog signal ahead of you. The Rules require you to navigate with caution and take which action if danger of collision exists?

- (A) Slow to minimum that the vessel can be kept on course
- (B) Begin a radar plot
- (C) Slow to less than 2 knots
- (D) Stop your engines

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are on a sailing vessel with the wind on the starboard side and are approaching another sailing vessel that has the wind on the port side. Which action should you take?

- (A) Any maneuver to avoid collision.
- (B) Reduce sail and hold course.
- (C) Maintain course and speed.
- (D) Alter course away from the other vessel.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

16. INLAND ONLY You are on power-driven vessel "A" and power-driven vessel "B" desires to overtake you on the starboard side as shown in illustration D038RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?

- (A) Hold course and speed
- (B) Slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed
- (C) Alter course to the left or right to give vessel "B" more sea room
- (D) Alter course to the left

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

17. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway on vessel "B" approaching vessel "A" as shown in illustration D038RR below. You are unable to see any sidelights on vessel "A". What type of situation is this?

- (A) meeting situation
- (B) special circumstances situation
- (C) crossing situation
- (D) overtaking situation

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

18. INLAND ONLY You are meeting another power-driven vessel head-on and sound one short blast as a passing signal. The other vessel answers with two short blasts. What should be your next action?

- (A) Sound at least five short and rapid blast.
- (B) Hold your course and speed.
- (C) Pass astern of the other vessel.
- (D) Pass on the other vessel's starboard side.

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
19. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When action to avoid a close-quarters situation is taken, a course change alone may be the most effective action provided that __________.

- (A) it is NOT done too early
- (B) it is a large course change
- (C) the course change is to starboard
- (D) it is done in a succession of small course changes

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

20. INLAND ONLY Which of the following is indicated by a vessel displaying a flashing blue light?

- (A) A vessel transferring hazardous cargo
- (B) A work boat
- (C) A law enforcement vessel
- (D) A vessel engaged in a race

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

21. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which is a light signal authorized by the Secretary of the Navy as an additional navigational light for a ship of war?

- (A) Red-white-red lights in a vertical line for a carrier, launching aircraft
- (B) Intermittent flashing amber (yellow) beacon for submarines
- (C) Yellow flares indicating torpedo firing exercises
- (D) Green masthead and yardarm lights indicating mineclearance operations

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

22. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND There are vessels which, to the extent necessary to carry out their work, do not have to comply with the rules regarding traffic separation schemes. Which is one of these vessels?

- (A) servicing a submarine cable
- (B) engaged in fishing in a traffic lane
- (C) engaged on pilotage duty
- (D) towing another

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

23. INLAND ONLY Two vessels are in a starboard to starboard meeting situation and will pass well clear approximately 1/4 mile apart. Which action should each vessel take?

- (A) Sound a three blast whistle signal and turn to port.
- (B) Sound a one blast whistle signal and turn to starboard.
- (C) Maintain course and sound no signal.
- (D) Sound a two blast whistle signal and maintain course.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
24. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Under the Rules, any vessel may slacken her speed, stop, or reverse her engines. What should this action accomplish?

- (A) attract the attention of another vessel
- (B) create a crossing situation
- (C) allow more time to assess the situation
- (D) All of the above

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The stern light shall be positioned such that it will show from dead astern to how many degrees on each side of the stern of the vessel?

- (A) 22.5°
- (B) 67.5°
- (C) 112.5°
- (D) 135.0°

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

26. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel would show 3 shapes in a vertical line, the highest and lowest being balls and the middle shape being a diamond?

- (A) Vessel constrained by her draft
- (B) Vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- (C) Vessel not under command
- (D) Vessel minesweeping

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

27. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In a crossing situation, a stand-on vessel which is forced to take action in order to avoid collision with a vessel on her own port side shall, if possible, avoid which action?

- (A) turning to starboard
- (B) turning to port
- (C) decreasing speed
- (D) increasing speed

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
28. INLAND ONLY Maneuvering signals shall be sounded on inland waters by __________.

- (A) all vessels when meeting, crossing, or overtaking and in sight of one another
- (B) power-driven vessels overtaking and in sight of one another
- (C) power-driven vessels crossing at a distance within half a mile of each other and NOT in sight of one another
- (D) all vessels meeting or crossing at a distance within half a mile of each other and not in sight of one another

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

29. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which statement is TRUE concerning a situation involving a fishing vessel and a vessel not under command?

- (A) Both vessels are required to take action to stay clear of each other.
- (B) They are required to communicate by radiotelephone.
- (C) The fishing vessel must keep out of the way of the vessel not under command.
- (D) If the vessel not under command is a power-driven vessel, she must keep clear of the fishing vessel.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

30. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND By definition which vessel is unable to keep out of the way of another vessel?

- (A) Vessel engaged in fishing
- (B) Vessel towing
- (C) Vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- (D) Sailing vessel

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which whistle signal is required to be sounded by a vessel operating astern propulsion?

- (A) One long blast
- (B) One prolonged blast
- (C) Three short blasts
- (D) Four or more short blasts

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
32. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In determining "safe speed", all of the following must be taken into account EXCEPT the __________.

- (A) maneuverability of your vessel
- (B) presence of background lights at night
- (C) maximum horsepower of your vessel
- (D) draft of your vessel

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

33. INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel crossing a river on the Great Lakes or Western Rivers, must keep out of the way of which of the following power-driven vessels?

- (A) Ascending the river with a tow
- (B) Ascending the river without a tow
- (C) Descending the river with a tow
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

34. INLAND ONLY While underway during the day you sight a small motorboat showing a flashing blue light. What does the blue light indicate?

- (A) rescue boat
- (B) Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel on regatta patrol
- (C) boat involved in a race
- (D) law enforcement boat

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

35. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When does the rule regarding look-outs apply?

- (A) in restricted visibility
- (B) between dusk and dawn
- (C) in heavy traffic
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

36. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel and are not sure whether danger of collision exists. What must you assume?

- (A) there is risk of collision
- (B) you are the give way vessel
- (C) the other vessel is also in doubt
- (D) All of the above are correct.

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
37. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are the stand-on vessel in a crossing situation. How long may you hold your course and speed?

- (A) until the other vessel takes necessary action
- (B) until action by the give-way vessel alone will not prevent collision
- (C) until the other vessel gets to within a quarter mile of your vessel
- (D) until the other vessel gets to within half a mile of your vessel

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

38. INLAND ONLY For the purpose of the Inland Navigation Rules, the term "Inland Waters" includes which of the following?

- (A) The Great Lakes in their entirety
- (B) The Mississippi River System
- (C) U.S. waters out to three miles offshore
- (D) The St. Lawrence River to Anticosti Island

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

39. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In a crossing situation on open waters, a sailing vessel shall keep out of the way of all the following vessels EXCEPT a __________.

- (A) power-driven vessel approaching on her starboard side
- (B) vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- (C) vessel not under command
- (D) vessel fishing

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

40. INLAND ONLY Which statement is TRUE concerning the Inland Navigation Rules?

- (A) They list requirements for Traffic Separation Schemes.
- (B) They define moderate speed.
- (C) They require communication by radiotelephone to reach a passing agreement.
- (D) All of the above

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

41. INLAND ONLY While underway you sight the lights shown in illustration D081RR below with the yellow lights flashing, what action should you take?

- (A) pass between the two sets of vertical red lights
- (B) stop until the red lights turn green
- (C) wait until the vessel ahead crosses your bow
- (D) proceed leaving all the lights on your starboard side

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
42. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When are Barges being towed at night required to exhibit navigation lights?

- (A) At all times
  - (B) Need not be lighted
  - (C) Only if manned
  - (D) Only if towed astern

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

43. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The steering and sailing rules for vessels in restricted visibility apply to vessels __________.

- (A) only if they have operational radar
- (B) in sight of one another in fog
- (C) only if they are showing special purpose lights
- (D) navigating in or near an area of restricted visibility

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

44. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Risk of collision may be deemed to exist under which of the following situations?

- (A) if you observe both sidelights of a vessel ahead for an extended period of time
- (B) if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does NOT appreciably change
- (C) even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly when approaching a vessel at close range
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

45. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which is TRUE concerning a signal consisting of at least five short and rapid blast of the whistle?

- (A) It makes the other vessel the stand-on vessel
- (B) It indicates doubt as to another vessels actions
- (C) It has the same meaning as a "MAYDAY" signal
- (D) The signal replaces directional signals

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

46. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which statement is TRUE concerning fog signals?

- (A) All fog signals for sailing vessels are to be given at intervals of not more than one minute.
- (B) A pilot vessel underway and making way sounds the pilot identity signal and no other signal.
- (C) A vessel not under command sounds the same fog signal as a vessel towed.
- (D) A vessel aground may sound a whistle signal.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
47. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When two power-driven vessels are crossing, the vessel which has the other to starboard must keep out of the way if__________.

- (A) the vessels will pass within half a mile of each other
- (B) whistle signals have been sounded
- (C) the situation involves risk of collision
- (D) she is the faster vessel

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

48. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What determines if a vessel is "restricted in her ability to maneuver"?

- (A) Whether or not the vessel is the give-way vessel in a meeting situation
- (B) The vessel's draft in relation to the available depth of water
- (C) Whether or not all of the vessel's control equipment is in working order
- (D) Whether the nature of the vessel's work limits maneuverability required by the Rules

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

49. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which lights shall a vessel trawling display?

- (A) white light over a green light
- (B) red light over a white light
- (C) green light over a white light
- (D) yellow light over a red light

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

50. INLAND ONLY Which statement is TRUE concerning the fog signal of a vessel 15 meters in length, anchored in a "special anchorage area" approved by the Secretary?

- (A) The vessel is not required to sound a fog signal.
- (B) The vessel shall ring a bell for 5 seconds every minute.
- (C) The vessel shall sound three blasts on the whistle every 2 minutes.
- (D) The vessel shall sound one blast of the foghorn every 2 minutes.

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*