

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Mate Less than 500-1600 Gross Registered Tons

Q328 Deck Safety

(Sample Examination)

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

1. Who should inspect and test an inflatable liferaft?

- A. A certificated lifeboatman
- B. An approved servicing facility
- C. Shipyard personnel
- D. The person in charge

Correct answer: B

2. Which is an indication that progressive flooding is occurring?

- A. Excessive list or trim
- B. Continual worsening of list or trim
- C. Excessive draft
- D. Ballast control alarms sounding

Correct answer: B

3. When compared to low-expansion foam, a high-expansion foam will _____.

- A. be drier
- B. be heavier
- C. be more heat resistant
- D. not cling to vertical surfaces

Correct answer: A

4. You are on watch and receive word that a person has fallen overboard from the starboard side. What should your first action be?

- A. Sound the man overboard alarm
- B. Put the engines full astern
- C. Put the wheel hard right
- D. Notify the Master

Correct answer: C

5. If heavy smoke is coming from the paint locker, what should be the FIRST firefighting response?

- A. Open the door to evaluate the extent of the fire
- B. Release the CO2 flooding system
- C. Enter and use a portable extinguisher
- D. Secure the ventilation

Correct answer: D

6. According to the "Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act", what information that affects your vessel is required to be entered into the radiotelephone log?
- A. The home address of the vessel's Master or owner
 - B. A record of all routine calls
 - C. A record of your transmissions only
 - D. A summary of all distress calls and messages

Correct answer: D

7. What is the Ring life buoy requirement on your small passenger vessel that has a length of 28 feet?
- A. A minimum of one life buoy not less than 24 inches in diameter
 - B. A minimum of one life buoy less than 20 inches in diameter
 - C. A minimum of two life buoys less than 20 inches in diameter
 - D. A minimum of two life buoys not less than 24 inches in diameter

Correct answer: A

8. You have abandoned your vessel and are the person in charge of lifeboat No. 2. Which procedure should be followed when landing a boat under oars through a slight surf?
- A. Head into the seas and drift astern with the sea anchor deployed until land is reached
 - B. Head into the beach, row steadily and swiftly as possible until land is reached
 - C. Head into the seas, tripping the sea anchor and resetting between swells to allow back-watering to the beach
 - D. Head into the beach, tripping the sea anchor from the stern while steadily rowing towards the beach

Correct answer: C

9. Which is TRUE of High-velocity fog?
- A. It extinguishes a fire by absorbing heat and reducing the supply of oxygen
 - B. It is a finer, more diffuse water spray than low-velocity fog
 - C. It produces an effective fog pattern no more than 6 feet beyond the nozzle
 - D. It requires that the water pressure be no greater than 60 psi

Correct answer: A

10. Which is TRUE of the term negative slip on a vessel?
- A. The distance a vessel travels when all propulsion has been stopped
 - B. The distance a vessel travels in the same direction when rudder has been applied
 - C. The ship is moving slower than the theoretical propeller speed
 - D. The ship is moving faster than the theoretical propeller speed

Correct answer: D

11. What may the firing of a red star signal mean?

- A. "Slack away"
- B. "This is the best place to land"
- C. "You are seen - assistance will be given as soon as possible"
- D. "Tail block is made fast"

Correct answer: A

12. You are approaching a ship that is broken down and are preparing to take her in tow. BEFORE positioning your vessel to pass the towline, which action should you take?

- A. Have traveling lizards rigged to guide the towline while it is paid-out
- B. Secure the bitter end of the towing hawser to prevent loss if the tow is slipped
- C. Compare the rate of drift between the ships
- D. Install chafing gear on the towline

Correct answer: C

13. Which term is used to describe the point that is halfway between the forward and after perpendicular and is a reference point for vessel construction?

- A. Mid-body
- B. Amidships
- C. Center line
- D. Half length

Correct answer: B

14. Puncture leaks in the lower tubes or bottom of an inflatable liferaft should FIRST be stopped by using which item(s)?

- A. A tube patch
- B. Sail twine and vulcanizing kit
- C. Sealing clamps
- D. Repair tape

Correct answer: C

15. The rated operating time of a self-contained breathing device may be reduced in actual use because of _____.

- A. spaces containing poisonous vapors
- B. pressure differences in the atmosphere
- C. the length of the hose attached to the facepiece
- D. the physical exertion of the person wearing the device

Correct answer: D

16. You have hand launched an inflatable liferaft. What should be one of your FIRST actions after all persons have boarded the liferaft?

- A. Open the equipment pack.
- B. Cut the sea painter and clear the vessel.
- C. Decide on food and water rations.
- D. Inflate the liferaft floor.

Correct answer: B

17. Fires are grouped into what categories?

- A. Flammable solids, liquids, and gases
- B. Class A, B, C, and D
- C. Type 1, 2, 3, and 4
- D. Combustible solids, liquids, and gases

Correct answer: B

18. Inflatable liferafts are provided with which item?

- A. A Very pistol
- B. A towing connection
- C. A sail
- D. Canned milk

Correct answer: B

19. All of the following are recognized distress signals under the Navigation Rules EXCEPT which signal?

- A. The repeated raising and lowering of outstretched arms
- B. Red flares
- C. Orange-colored smoke
- D. A green star signal

Correct answer: D

20. Which signaling devices are required on inflatable liferafts?

- A. Orange smoke signal
- B. Lantern
- C. Air horn
- D. Very pistol

Correct answer: A

21. Which type of portable fire extinguishers is NOT designed for use on flammable liquid fires?

- A. Dry chemical
- B. Carbon dioxide
- C. Foam (stored-pressure)
- D. Water (cartridge-operated)

Correct answer: D

22. Which is the required amount of water for each person in a lifeboat on an oceangoing vessel, on an international voyage?

- A. 1 liter
- B. 2 liters
- C. 3 liters
- D. 4 liters

Correct answer: C

23. Which term indicates how many tons of cargo a vessel can carry?

- A. Bale cubic
- B. Loaded displacement
- C. Deadweight
- D. Gross tonnage

Correct answer: C

24. Actuating the CO₂ fixed system causes which of the following to shut down?

- A. Electrical lighting
- B. Fuel supply
- C. Mechanical ventilation
- D. Natural ventilation

Correct answer: C

25. What is the space above the engine room called?

- A. Gold locker
- B. Fidley
- C. Noble
- D. Middle hatch

Correct answer: B

26. Transverse frames are more widely spaced on a ship that is designed with the _____.

- A. transverse system of framing
- B. centerline system of framing
- C. isometric system of framing
- D. longitudinal system of framing

Correct answer: D

27. To lubricate the swivel or remove corrosion from a fire hose coupling, which should be used?

- A. Fresh water and soap
- B. Graphite
- C. Kerosene
- D. Glycerine

Correct answer: A

28. What is the function of wearing rings found on some centrifugal pumps?

- A. Seal pump shaft against entry of air
- B. Dampen the turbulent discharge flow
- C. Isolate the outlet side from the inlet side
- D. Absorb erosion of high-velocity discharge stream

Correct answer: C

29. The welds used to join shell plates in flush construction are known as _____.

- A. seam welds
- B. continuous welds
- C. fillet welds
- D. butt welds

Correct answer: D

30. On every vessel, where must distress signals be stowed?

- A. On the flying bridge not closer than 15 feet to any bulkhead
- B. In an enclosed space below the freeboard deck away from heat
- C. On or near the navigating bridge
- D. Above the freeboard deck away from heat

Correct answer: C

31. Which types of portable fire extinguishers are designed for use on electrical fires?

- A. Dry chemical and carbon dioxide
- B. Carbon dioxide and foam (stored pressure)
- C. Foam (stored pressure) and soda-acid
- D. Dry chemical and soda-acid

Correct answer: A

32. Which defines the "flammable limits" of an atmosphere?

- A. The two temperatures between which an atmosphere will burn if an ignition source is present
- B. The two temperatures between which an atmosphere will self-ignite
- C. The upper and lower pressures between which an atmosphere will not burn
- D. The upper and lower percentage of vapor concentrations in an atmosphere which will burn if an ignition source is present

Correct answer: D

33. Using a sea anchor will accomplish which of the following?

- A. Reduce your drift rate
- B. Increase your visibility
- C. Aid in the maneuverability of the liferaft
- D. Keep the liferaft from turning over

Correct answer: A

34. A short ton is a unit of weight consisting of _____.

- A. 2,240 pounds
- B. 2,000 pounds
- C. 2,205 pounds
- D. 1,000 pounds

Correct answer: B

35. How should the letter "D" be pronounced when spoken on the radiotelephone?

- A. DELL TAH
- B. DA VID
- C. DUKE
- D. DOG

Correct answer: A

36. Which system is most likely to be subject to fading or static interference?

- A. Digital Selective Calling on channel 70
- B. INMARSAT
- C. VHF ARQ
- D. HF SITOR

Correct answer: D

37. Which term refers to a transverse curvature of the deck?

- A. Flare
- B. Deadrise
- C. Camber
- D. Freeboard

Correct answer: C

38. Which type of weld testing can be used to detect internal flaws?

- A. Radiographic
- B. Dye penetrant
- C. Magnetic particle
- D. Chemical reaction

Correct answer: A

39. Portable foam fire-extinguishers are designed for use on which class of fires?

- A. Class B and class C fires
- B. Class A and class B fires
- C. Class A and class C fires
- D. Class A, class B, and class C fires

Correct answer: B

40. Your vessel has been damaged and is partially flooded. The first step to be taken in attempting to save the vessel is to _____.
- A. plug the hole(s) in the outer shell
 - B. pump out the water inside the vessel
 - C. calculate the free surface effect and lost buoyancy to determine the vessel's stability
 - D. establish flooding boundaries and prevent further spread of flood water

Correct answer: D

41. 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. Leeward with the victim to windward
 - B. Windward with the victim to leeward
 - C. Approach with the wind on your starboard side
 - D. Approach with the wind on your port side

Correct answer: B

42. You are on watch at sea on course 090°T. A man falls overboard on your starboard side. You immediately start a Williamson Turn. Which action is NOT a part of a Williamson Turn?
- A. Shift the helm to left full rudder.
 - B. Stop the engines until clear of the man.
 - C. Come right full rudder until the vessel heads 150°T.
 - D. Continue with left rudder until on course 270°T.

Correct answer: B

43. When a helicopter is lifting personnel from a rescue boat, what should the other individuals in the boat do?
- A. Remove their lifejackets to prepare for their transfer to the helicopter
 - B. Remain seated inside to provide body weight for stability
 - C. Stand on the outside of the boat to assist the person being lifted
 - D. Enter the water in case the person being lifted slips from the sling

Correct answer: B

44. When transferring survivors from an enclosed lifeboat to a rescue vessel, personnel on board the boat should take which action?
- A. Climb on top of the boat while waiting for their turn to transfer to the rescue vessel
 - B. Remain seated inside and make the transfer one person at a time
 - C. Enter the water and swim over to the rescue vessel
 - D. Remove their life preservers to make it easier to climb on board the rescue vessel

Correct answer: B

45. You are on the beach and want to signal to a small boat in distress that your present location is dangerous and that they should land to the left. How would you indicate this?
- A. Fire a green star to the left
 - B. Send the code signal S followed by L
 - C. Place an orange signal to your left as you signal with a white light
 - D. Send the letter K by light and point to the left

Correct answer: B

46. Which is an advantage of an ABC dry chemical over a carbon dioxide extinguisher?
- A. Less damage to electrical components
 - B. Lack of toxicity
 - C. Greater multipurpose extinguishing ability
 - D. Burn-back protection

Correct answer: C

47. Radiation spreads a fire by _____.
- A. transferring heat across an unobstructed space
 - B. transmitting the heat of a fire through the ship's metal
 - C. burning liquids flowing into another space
 - D. heated gases flowing through ventilation systems

Correct answer: A

48. When a helicopter is lifting personnel from an enclosed lifeboat, what should the other individuals in the boat do?
- A. Remain seated inside to provide body weight for stability
 - B. Remove their life preservers to prepare for their transfer to the helicopter
 - C. Enter the water in case the person being lifted slips from the sling
 - D. Stand on the outside of the boat to assist the person being lifted

Correct answer: A

49. What is the most important reason for taking anti-seasickness pills as soon as possible after entering a liferaft?
- A. Prevents impaired judgment due to motion-induced deliriousness
 - B. Reduces appetite by decreasing nausea
 - C. To assist in sleeping
 - D. Prevents loss of body moisture due to vomiting

Correct answer: D

50. A galley grease fire on the stove may be extinguished using _____.
- A. water
 - B. fire dampers
 - C. foam
 - D. the range hood extinguishing system

Correct answer: D

51. You are fighting a fire in a cargo hold on your vessel. Which action is most important concerning the stability of the vessel?

- A. Shutting off electricity to damaged cables
- B. Draining firefighting water and pumping it overboard
- C. Maneuvering the vessel so the fire is on the lee side
- D. Removing burned debris from the cargo hold

Correct answer: B

52. How is the external flotation bladder of an immersion suit inflated?

- A. It inflates by seawater bleeding into the inflation bladder and reacting with a chemical.
- B. It is inflated by a small CO2 bottle that is automatically tripped when the front zipper is at the top of the zipper track.
- C. It is inflated by a small CO2 bottle that is manually tripped.
- D. It is inflated by blowing through an inflation tube.

Correct answer: D

53. According to the regulations, where is the capacity of a liferaft required to be marked?

- A. At the liferaft stowage location
- B. On the Certificate of Inspection
- C. On the Muster List ("Station Bill")
- D. In the Operations Manual

Correct answer: A

54. Which item is a safety feature provided on all inflatable liferafts?

- A. Built in seats
- B. Water stabilizing pockets
- C. Internal releasing hooks
- D. Overhead safety straps

Correct answer: B

55. When possible, what is the FIRST step in fighting an engine fuel-pump fire which results from a broken fuel line?

- A. Check the spread of the fire with foam.
- B. Cast the barge off the wharf.
- C. Close the fuel line valve.
- D. Secure all engine room doors, hatches, and vents.

Correct answer: C

56. When patching holes in the hull, how can pillows, bedding, and other soft materials be used?

- A. As shores
- B. As wedges
- C. As strongbacks
- D. As gaskets

Correct answer: D

57. The distress message of a ship should include considerable information which might facilitate the rescue. Which is TRUE concerning the information?
- A. The information is ALWAYS included in the initial distress message and repeated as required
 - B. The information should be transmitted as a series of short messages, if time allows
 - C. The message must be sent to a Coast Guard station FIRST
 - D. The distress message shall include the vessel's draft

Correct answer: B

58. On a class "B" fire, which portable fire extinguisher would be the LEAST desirable?
- A. Dry chemical
 - B. Water (stored pressure)
 - C. Foam
 - D. Carbon dioxide

Correct answer: B

59. Small quantities of flammable liquids needed at a work site should be _____.
- A. tightly capped and stowed with other tools near the job site when securing at the end of the day
 - B. in a metal container with a tight cap
 - C. used only under the supervision and direction of a ship's officer
 - D. used only when a pressurized fire hose is laid out ready for immediate use

Correct answer: B

60. 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 week
 - C. Twice a year
 - D. Once a year

Correct answer: A

61. How is the inside light in an inflatable liferaft activated?
- A. At night via photosensitive switch
 - B. With a switch near the boarding handle
 - C. Automatically as the liferaft inflates
 - D. By screwing the bulb in after the raft is inflated

Correct answer: C

62. Where a propeller shaft passes through the hull, which device prevents water from entering the hull?
- A. Stop-water
 - B. Propeller boss
 - C. Sea cock
 - D. Stuffing box

Correct answer: D

63. What is the flammable limit range of petroleum vapors mixed with air?

- A. 0% to 1%
- B. 1% to 10%
- C. 10% to 15%
- D. 12% to 20%

Correct answer: B

64. Which is TRUE concerning immersion suits and their use?

- A. They provide sufficient flotation to do away with the necessity of wearing a life jacket.
- B. Only a light layer of clothing may be worn underneath.
- C. They should be tight fitting.
- D. A puncture in the suit will not appreciably reduce its value.

Correct answer: A

65. In plugging submerged holes; why are rags, wedges, and other materials used in conjunction with plugs?

- A. To prevent progressive flooding
- B. To reduce the water leaking around the plugs
- C. To reduce the possibility of stress fractures
- D. To reduce the water pressure on the hull

Correct answer: B

66. 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. Throw excess weight overboard
- B. Shift weight to the bow
- C. Shift weight to the center of the boat
- D. Shift weight to the stern

Correct answer: D

67. What is one of the FIRST actions you should take after abandoning and clearing away from a vessel?

- A. Arrange watches and duties.
- B. Identify the person in charge.
- C. Prepare for arrival of rescue units.
- D. Gather up useful floating objects.

Correct answer: B

68. Which statement is TRUE concerning spare charges for portable fire extinguishers on unmanned tank barges?

- A. Spare charges shall be carried for at least 50 percent of each size and variety required on board.
- B. Spare charges shall be stowed in watertight containers on deck.
- C. Regulations concerning spare charges do not apply to unmanned barges.
- D. If the unit cannot be charged by the vessel's personnel, one spare unit shall be carried in lieu of spare charges.

Correct answer: C

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

Correct answer: B

70. What shall be conducted during a fire and boat drill?

- A. Fire pumps shall be started and all exterior outlets opened.
- B. All lifeboat equipment shall be examined.
- C. All watertight doors in the vicinity of the drill shall be operated.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: C