

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Operator Uninspected Passenger Vessels  
Q356 Deck General – Safety  
(Sample Examination)

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

1. What is the minimum number of 20-B hand portable fire extinguishers required on board a 105 GT uninspected towboat built in 2017 with a 7500 B.H.P. plant (including the machinery space)?
- (A) 6
  - (B) 8
  - (C) 9
  - (D) 11

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

2. When picking up your mooring at the buoy, which is the correct method?
- (A) Approach the buoy with wind and sea abeam
  - (B) Approach the buoy with the wind and current ahead
  - (C) Approach the buoy with the wind and current astern
  - (D) Stop upwind and up current and drift down on the buoy

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

3. A fire starts on your vessel while refueling. Which action should you take FIRST?
- (A) Sound the general alarm
  - (B) Attempt to extinguish the fire
  - (C) Determine the source of the fire
  - (D) Stop the ventilation

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

4. Your vessel is preparing to proceed up a river. Which of the following is true concerning the handling of the vessel in shallow water?
- (A) The steering is sluggish in deep water as opposed to shallow water
  - (B) Steering will be more responsive in shallow water as opposed to deep water
  - (C) There will be no difference in the steering of the vessel
  - (D) Steering will be sluggish in shallow water as opposed to deep water

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

5. How long must the operator of each vessel engaged in a vessel-to-vessel oil transfer operation keep a signed copy of the declaration of inspection for?
- (A) 10 days
  - (B) 1 month
  - (C) 6 months
  - (D) 1 year

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

6. Which term describes the distance a vessel moves parallel to the original course from the point where the rudder is put over to any point on the turning circle?
- (A) Pivoting point
  - (B) Transfer
  - (C) Drift angle
  - (D) Advance

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

7. As a ship moves through the water, it drags with it a body of water called the wake. Which term defines the ratio of the wake speed to the ship's speed?
- (A) Speed of advance
  - (B) Wake fraction
  - (C) Wake distribution
  - (D) Propeller velocity

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

8. You are anchoring in a river where the current is from one direction only. Which is the BEST way to lay out two anchors?
- (A) On top of one another to increase weight and holding power
  - (B) So that their rodes form an angle
  - (C) Place both anchors directly in line with the bow
  - (D) Place them side by side, with their rodes on the port and starboard side

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

9. On uninspected vessels which statement is TRUE concerning work vests?
- (A) They need not be of an approved type.
  - (B) They must be stowed separately from approved life preservers.
  - (C) They may be worn during drills.
  - (D) They may be substituted for up to 10% of the required lifesaving gear aboard.

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

10. If the situation arose where it became necessary to tow a disabled vessel, which statement is TRUE concerning the towing line?
- (A) The towing line should be taut at all times between the vessels.
  - (B) There should be a catenary so the line dips into the water.
  - (C) The towing line between the two vessels should be clear of the water.
  - (D) None of the above.

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

**11.** Which is an advantage of a dry chemical over a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher?

- (A) Greater discharge range
- (B) Non corrosive
- (C) Cleanliness
- (D) All of the above

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

**12.** How is the inside light in an inflatable liferaft activated?

- (A) Automatically as the liferaft inflates
- (B) At night via photosensitive switch
- (C) With a switch near the boarding handle
- (D) By screwing the bulb in after the raft is inflated

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

**13.** You are making a sharp turn in a channel and using a buoy four points on the bow to gauge your rate of turn. If you observe the buoy moving forward relative to you, what should you do?

- (A) Decrease the rate of turn
- (B) Increase speed
- (C) Increase the rate of turn
- (D) Maintain a constant rate of turn

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

**14.** An important step in fighting any electrical fire is to take which action?

- (A) Stop the vessel
- (B) De-energize the circuit
- (C) Stop ventilation
- (D) Apply water to extinguish the fire

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

**15.** Which term defines when a boat turns broadside to heavy seas and winds, thus exposing the boat to the danger of capsizing?

- (A) Trimmed
- (B) Yawed
- (C) Broached
- (D) Pitchpoled

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

**16.** According to the U.S. regulations, what must be agreed upon by the person-in-charge of transfer operations, both ashore and on the vessel?

- (A) The status of the oily water separator
- (B) The identity of the product to be transferred
- (C) The size of the slop tank required under 155.330
- (D) Whether or not the transferring ship is a "Public Vessel of the United States"

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

**17.** Which action should be taken once fueling has been completed?

- (A) All hatches should be opened and all compartments should be ventilated
- (B) Open the fuel line and drain a small amount of gasoline into the bilge to clear the line of sediment
- (C) The fuel tank fill pipe should be left open to allow vapors to vent from the tank
- (D) The engine should be started immediately to prevent vapor lock in the fuel line

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

**18.** In general, how often are sanitary inspections of passenger and crew quarters made aboard passenger vessels in river service?

- (A) Once each day
- (B) Once each week
- (C) Once each month
- (D) Once each trip

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

**19.** Which statement about immersion suits is TRUE?

- (A) The wearer of the suit is severely restricted and requires twice the time to climb a ladder than without the suit.
- (B) The suit is flameproof and provides protection to the wearer while swimming through burning oil.
- (C) The immersion suit seals in body heat and provides protection against hypothermia for weeks.
- (D) Prior to abandonment, the suit allows body movement such as walking, climbing a ladder and picking up small objects.

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

**20.** Uninspected vessels must have one approved ring life buoy on board if the length is over how many feet?

- (A) 6 feet
- (B) 16 feet
- (C) 26 feet
- (D) 36 feet

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

**21.** The operator of the ship's radiotelephone, if the radiotelephone is carried voluntarily, must hold at least which of the following?

- (A) A restricted radiotelephone operator permit
- (B) A mate's license
- (C) A seaman's document
- (D) A second-class radio operator's license

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

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

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

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

**23.** On uninspected vessels, when may U. S. Coast Guard approved work vests be substituted for life jackets?

- (A) Only when aboard sailing vessels
- (B) Only when aboard towing vessels
- (C) Under no circumstances may they be substituted
- (D) Only when aboard work vessels

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

**24.** According to U.S. regulations what is the maximum allowable working pressure (MAWP) for each hose assembly used for transferring oil?

- (A) At least 600 psi (4.14 MPa)
- (B) At least four times the sum for the pressure of the relief valve setting
- (C) More than the maximum pump pressure when a relief valve is not installed
- (D) Be at least 1030 kPa gauge (approx. 150 psig)

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

**25.** The carburetor is placed on the engine to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) distribute the gasoline
- (B) mix the fuel and air
- (C) assist in priming the cylinders
- (D) properly lubricate the engine

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

**26.** How are fusible link fire dampers operated?

- (A) The heat of a fire melting the link
- (B) A break-glass and pull-cable system
- (C) Electrical controls on the bridge
- (D) A mechanical arm outside the vent duct

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

**27.** You operate a harbor craft on inland waters exclusively. If you regularly service or contact foreign flag vessels in the course of business, which statement is TRUE?

- (A) Your crew must have identification credentials.
- (B) All contacts with a foreign flag vessel must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- (C) A customs official must be on board when contacting a foreign flag vessel.
- (D) Your vessel must be inspected.

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

**28.** Normally, potable water systems are connected directly to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) freshwater sanitary system
- (B) fire-main system
- (C) potable water tank
- (D) feed-water system

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

**29.** The outlet at a fire hydrant may be positioned anywhere from horizontal to pointing in which direction(s)?

- (A) 45° upward
- (B) Vertically downward
- (C) Vertically upward
- (D) All of the above

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

**30.** Which of the following is part of the annual SOLAS required test on an EPIRB?

- (A) Verification that the unit lanyard is neatly stowed and properly secured to the vessel
- (B) Verification that the unit is stowed within five feet of survival craft
- (C) Verification that the unit has been maintained by a shore based maintenance provider
- (D) Verification that the battery voltage is within 20% of the design limits

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

**31.** What is the signal to guide vessels in distress, indicating, "This is the best place to land"?

- (A) Horizontal motion of a white flag
- (B) The letter K in Morse code given by light
- (C) Firing of a white star signal
- (D) The code flag S as a hoist

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

**32.** You are arriving in port and are assigned to anchor in anchorage circle B-4. It has a diameter of 550 yards and your vessel's LOA is 449 feet. If you anchor in 9 fathoms at the center of the circle, what is the maximum number of shots of chain you can use and still remain in the circle?

- (A) 6 shots
- (B) 5 shots
- (C) 4 shots
- (D) 3 shots

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

**33.** Which is TRUE for a vessel's Certificate of Documentation?

- (A) It must be carried on board
- (B) It may be retained by the owner at the home port OR kept on the vessel
- (C) It must be posted under transparent material in the pilothouse
- (D) It must be kept on file at the corporate offices of the owner or operator

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

**34.** How do the lights on the outside of the canopy on an inflatable liferaft operate?

- (A) By turning the globe clockwise
- (B) Automatically when the raft is inflated
- (C) By a light sensor
- (D) By a switch at each light

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



- 35.** A deck-stowed 40-foot container is giving off smoke, and one end is discolored from heat. The cargo is valuable and easily damaged by water. You want to extinguish the fire without further damage if possible. What action should you take?
- (A) Flood the container with water and disregard any cargo damage as the fire threatens the entire vessel.
  - (B) Cool the exterior of the container with water and close all vents; then keep it cooled until it can be off-loaded.
  - (C) Connect a portable line from the ship's fixed system and discharge CO<sub>2</sub> into the container.
  - (D) Pierce the container and discharge 6 or more portable CO<sub>2</sub>'s then add more CO<sub>2</sub> hourly.

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

- 36.** Who should inspect and test an inflatable liferaft?

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

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

- 37.** Which is the primary element to successfully rescuing a man overboard?

- (A) Good communication
- (B) A dedicated crew
- (C) Good equipment
- (D) Well-conducted drills

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

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

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

- 39.** You are coming to anchor in 8 fathoms of water. In this case, how should the anchor be deployed?

- (A) The anchor should be lowered to within 2 fathoms of the bottom before being dropped
- (B) The anchor should be lowered to the bottom then the ship backed and the remainder of the cable veered
- (C) The anchor may be dropped from the hawsepipe
- (D) The scope should be less than 3 times the depth of the water

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

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

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

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

**41.** How should the number "9" be pronounced when spoken on the radiotelephone?

- (A) NUM-BER-NINE
- (B) NO-VAY-NINER
- (C) OK-TOH-NINE
- (D) NEW-MER-AL-NINER

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

**42.** When should the external inflation bladder on an immersion suit be inflated?

- (A) After one hour in the water
- (B) Before you enter the water
- (C) After you enter the water
- (D) After you notice that your suit is losing buoyancy

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

**43.** An aluminum powder fire is in which fire classification category?

- (A) Class A
- (B) Class B
- (C) Class C
- (D) Class D

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

**44.** If a firefighting situation calls for low-velocity fog which action would you take?

- (A) Attach a low-velocity fog applicator with the nozzle shut down
- (B) Order the engine room to reduce pressure on the fire pump
- (C) Push the lever on an all-purpose fire nozzle all the way forward
- (D) Pull the lever on an all-purpose fire nozzle all the way back

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

**45.** In relation to the turning circle of a ship, which describes the term "advance"?

- (A) The distance moved sidewise from the original course when the rudder is first put over
- (B) The distance gained at right angles to the original course
- (C) The distance gained in the direction of the original course
- (D) The distance around the circumference of the turning circle

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

**46.** What will a sea anchor accomplish if deployed correctly?

- (A) increase your visibility
- (B) aid in recovering the liferaft
- (C) keep the liferaft from turning over
- (D) reduce the drift rate of the liferaft

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

**47.** CO2 cylinders must be recharged when the weight of the charge in the cylinder is less than what percent of the stamped full weight of the charge?

- (A) 80%
- (B) 85%
- (C) 90%
- (D) 95%

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

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

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

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

**49.** You are docking a vessel. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) You should go in with the current
- (B) You should go in against the current
- (C) You should pass a mooring line to the dock and let the crew pull the vessel to
- (D) You should approach the dock at a 90° angle

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

**50.** Who completes the Declaration of Inspection before loading a tank vessel?

- (A) The U.S. Coast Guard
- (B) The person(s) designated in charge
- (C) The manager of the shore facility
- (D) The American Bureau of Shipping

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