

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. You are 15 feet off a pier and docking a vessel using only a bow breast line and stern breast line. Once the slack is out of both lines you begin to haul in on the bow breast line. What is the effect on the vessel?
- A. The bow and stern come in equally closer toward the pier.
 - B. The bow will come in and the stern will go out.
 - C. The stern will come in and the bow will remain the same distance off the pier.
 - D. The bow will come in and the stern will remain the same distance off the pier.

Correct answer: D

2. Which statement is TRUE when anchoring in calm water?
- A. Maintain headway on the vessel when letting go the anchor
 - B. Maintain slight sternway on the vessel while letting go the anchor
 - C. Let the anchor go with good headway on then go full astern until the vessel is stopped
 - D. Wait until the vessel is dead in the water before letting go the anchor

Correct answer: B

3. What effect does lifting the shank of a Stockless anchor that is set on the bottom have?
- A. The probability of fouling the chain decreases
 - B. The flukes will break free of the bottom
 - C. The flukes will dig deeper increasing the holding power
 - D. The probability of fouling the chain increases

Correct answer: B

4. Using a scope of five, determine how many shots of chain you should put out to anchor in 5 fathoms of water?
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 5

Correct answer: B

5. One shot of anchor chain is equal to how many feet (meters)?
- A. 6 (1.8 meters)
 - B. 15 (4.6 meters)
 - C. 45 (13.7 meters)
 - D. 90 (27.4 meters)

Correct answer: D

6. 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

Correct answer: B

7. In a following sea, a wave has overtaken your vessel and thrown the stern to starboard. To continue along your original course, which action should you take?
- A. Use more right rudder
 - B. Use more left rudder
 - C. Decrease speed
 - D. Increase speed

Correct answer: A

8. Which term defines when a vessel is swinging from side to side off course due to quartering seas?
- A. Yawing
 - B. Rolling
 - C. Pitchpoling
 - D. Broaching

Correct answer: A

9. While proceeding up a narrow waterway you observe a vessel berthed in the river with slack mooring lines. Which is the most prudent action to take FIRST?
- A. Call the US Coast Guard
 - B. Reduce the speed of your vessel
 - C. Give 5 short blasts on the whistle
 - D. Contact the moored vessel

Correct answer: B

10. Which is the root cause of wake damage to a vessel or structure in a narrow channel?
- A. Slack mooring lines
 - B. Trim of the vessel
 - C. Excessive speed
 - D. Improper steering of the vessel

Correct answer: C

11. Most of your vessel's superstructure is forward. How will the vessel lie when drifting with no way on?
- A. With the wind from ahead
 - B. With the wind off the port beam
 - C. With the wind from abaft the beam
 - D. With the wind off the starboard beam

Correct answer: C

12. How can you prevent the spread of fire by conduction?
- A. Close all openings to the area
 - B. Remove combustibles from direct exposure
 - C. Cool the bulkheads around the fire
 - D. Shut off all electric power

Correct answer: C

13. Ventilation systems connected to a compartment in which a fire is burning are normally closed to prevent the rapid spread of the fire by which method?

- A. Radiation
- B. Conduction
- C. Convection
- D. Spontaneous combustion

Correct answer: C

14. What is the normal percentage of oxygen in air?

- A. 16%
- B. 18%
- C. 21%
- D. 25%

Correct answer: C

15. Where would spontaneous combustion most likely to occur?

- A. In rags soaked in linseed oil
- B. In overloaded electrical circuits
- C. In partially loaded fuel tanks
- D. In dirty swabs and cleaning gear

Correct answer: A

16. Why should storage batteries be charged in a well-ventilated area?

- A. They emit hydrogen
- B. They recharge faster in a well-ventilated space
- C. Because of the toxic fumes they emit
- D. They generate heat

Correct answer: A

17. How can the accumulation of dangerous fumes generated by the storage batteries be prevented?

- A. Covering the batteries in a nonconducting, solid enclosure
- B. Mounting the batteries in a position as high as possible
- C. Securing the batteries to vibration reducing mounting brackets
- D. By natural or mechanical ventilation

Correct answer: D

18. A magnesium fire is classified as class _____.

- A. Class A
- B. Class B
- C. Class C
- D. Class D

Correct answer: D

19. A fire in a pile of linen is considered which class of fire?

- A. Class A
- B. Class B
- C. Class C
- D. Class D

Correct answer: A

20. Which statement is TRUE concerning carbon dioxide?

- A. It is used on class B and C fires.
- B. It is non-conductive.
- C. It is heavier than air.
- D. All of the above are true.

Correct answer: D

21. In order to discharge a CO₂ portable fire extinguisher, the operator must FIRST take which action?

- A. Invert the CO₂ extinguisher
- B. Open the discharge valve
- C. Squeeze the two trigger handles together
- D. Remove the locking pin

Correct answer: D

22. When dry chemical extinguishers are used to put out class B fires, why is there a danger of reflash?

- A. Dry chemical is not an effective agent on Class B fires
- B. Dry chemical dissipates quickly
- C. It is rapidly absorbed by the liquid
- D. Dry chemical agents do little or no cooling

Correct answer: D

23. Which is the most effective extinguishing action of dry chemical extinguisher?

- A. Shielding of radiant heat
- B. The CO₂ that is formed by heat
- C. Smothering
- D. Breaking the chain reaction

Correct answer: D

24. Which extinguishing agent is most effective on a mattress fire?

- A. Water
- B. CO₂
- C. Dry Chemical
- D. Halon

Correct answer: A

25. If you must enter water on which there is an oil fire, you should _____.

- A. protect your life preserver by holding it above your head
- B. wear very light clothing
- C. keep both hands in front of your face to break the water surface when diving headfirst
- D. enter the water on the windward side of the vessel

Correct answer: D

26. The vessel shown in illustration D025DG has broken down and you are going to take her in tow. The wind is coming from her starboard beam. You are making more leeway than she. Where should you position your vessel when you start running lines?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

Correct answer: A

27. A fuel line breaks, sprays fuel on the hot exhaust manifold, and catches fire. What should be your FIRST action?

- A. Start the fire pump
- B. Batten down the engine room
- C. Secure the fuel supply
- D. Apply carbon dioxide to the fire

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: C

29. 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. Enter and use a portable extinguisher
- C. Release the CO2 flooding system
- D. Secure the ventilation

Correct answer: D

- 30.** One of your crew members falls overboard from the starboard side. You should IMMEDIATELY take which action?
- A. Throw the crew member a life preserver
 - B. Position your vessel to windward and begin recovery
 - C. Apply left rudder
 - D. Begin backing your engines

Correct answer: A

- 31.** Which maneuver will return your vessel to a person who has fallen overboard in the shortest time?
- A. Make two 180° turns
 - B. A Williamson Turn
 - C. A single turn with hard rudder
 - D. Put the engine(s) crash astern, no turn

Correct answer: C

- 32.** What is NOT listed on the metallic name plate that is required to be attached to hand portable fire extinguishers according to uninspected vessel regulations?
- A. The name of the item
 - B. The hydrostatic test date of the cylinder
 - C. The rated capacity in gallons, quarts, or pounds
 - D. An identifying mark of the actual manufacturer

Correct answer: B

- 33.** Which uninspected vessel is required to carry an efficient daylight signaling lamp?
- A. 299 GT towing vessel on a coastwise voyage
 - B. 99 GT towing vessel on Inland Waters
 - C. 199 GT towing vessel on a coastwise voyage
 - D. 199 GT towing vessel on an international voyage

Correct answer: D

- 34.** Official proof of an American vessel's nationality is contained in which document?
- A. Certificate of Inspection
 - B. Official Log
 - C. Shipping Articles
 - D. Certificate of Documentation

Correct answer: D

- 35.** Which U.S. agency assigns an official number to a vessel?
- A. Coast Guard
 - B. Treasury Department
 - C. American Bureau of Shipping
 - D. Collector of Customs

Correct answer: A

36. Failure to notify the Coast Guard of an oil spill can carry a prison sentence of what duration?

- A. Not more than 1 year
- B. Not more than 2 years
- C. Not more than 3 years
- D. Not more than 5 years

Correct answer: D

37. When a vessel violates the oil pollution laws, who may be held responsible?

- A. Owners only
- B. Any individual connected with the vessel involved in the operation
- C. Master only
- D. Credentialed officers only

Correct answer: B

38. According to U.S. regulations, what vessels are required to have the "Discharge of Oil Prohibited" placard?

- A. Foreign vessels when engaged in noncommercial service
- B. Foreign vessels not in U.S. navigable waters
- C. U.S. vessels 26 feet or more in length
- D. U.S. vessels less than 26 feet in length

Correct answer: C

39. You are operating a non-ocean-going vessel, how much of the accumulated oily waste must you be able to retain on board?

- A. 25%
- B. 50%
- C. 75%
- D. 100%

Correct answer: D

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

Correct answer: A

41. What represents poor sanitary procedures?

- A. Locate potable (drinking) water tanks as low as possible in the bilge.
- B. Eliminate enclosed spaces in which trash, food particles, dirt may gather.
- C. Keep and use a separate filling hose for potable (drinking) water.
- D. After washing dishes with soap and warm water, sterilize them in water of at least 170°F (76.7°C).

Correct answer: A

42. Normally, where is the potable water systems directly connected to?

- A. A freshwater sanitary system
- B. The vessel's fire-main system
- C. The potable water tank
- D. The feed-water system

Correct answer: C

43. While underway, if you are required to have a radiotelephone, you must maintain a continuous listening watch on which of the following channels?

- A. 6 (156.3 MHz)
- B. 12 (156.6 MHz)
- C. 14 (156.7 MHz)
- D. 16 (156.8 MHz)

Correct answer: D

44. Which action should you take after sending a false distress alert on VHF?

- A. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-22A.
- B. Send a DSC cancellation message on Ch-70.
- C. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-13.
- D. Make a voice announcement to cancel the alert on Ch-16.

Correct answer: D

45. When should you use distress flares and rockets?

- A. Immediately upon abandoning the vessel
- B. When there is a chance of being seen by rescue vessels
- C. At one-hour intervals
- D. At half-hour intervals

Correct answer: B

46. Which is TRUE concerning the stowage of life jackets?

- A. They are always locked in watertight containers
- B. They are required to be stowed in a central location
- C. They must be stowed in readily accessible locations
- D. They are required to be stowed in messrooms

Correct answer: C

47. Which statement is TRUE concerning life preservers (Type I personal flotation devices)?

- A. Lightly stained or faded life jackets will fail in the water and should not be used.
- B. Buoyant vests may be substituted for life jackets.
- C. Life preservers must always be worn with the same side facing outwards to float properly.
- D. Life preservers are designed to turn an unconscious person's face clear of the water.

Correct answer: D

- 48.** 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. Steering will be more responsive in shallow water as opposed to deep water
 - B. There will be no difference in the steering of the vessel
 - C. Steering will be sluggish in shallow water as opposed to deep water
 - D. The steering is sluggish in deep water as opposed to shallow water

Correct answer: C

- 49.** 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

- 50.** You are proceeding in a channel; your vessel is requiring a significant amount of right rudder and your bow is still falling off to port. What can you conclude from this information?
- A. Your vessel's turn rate indicator requires calibration
 - B. Your vessel has lost a blade on the screw
 - C. Your vessel is in the deepest section of the channel
 - D. Your vessel is at the outer limits of the channel

Correct answer: D



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