

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

First Class Pilot

Q373 Chart – Mississippi River

(Sample Examination)

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

1. The following questions (1-10) are based on the Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Maps (Cairo to the Gulf) and the Light List.

AHP = Above Head of Passes
LMR = Lower Mississippi River
UMR = Upper Mississippi River
OHR = Ohio River
ACOE = Army Corps of Engineers

At 2345, on 25 December, you depart Memphis Harbor, McKellar Lake (mile 726.0 AHP - LMR) enroute to the Petroleum Fuel & Terminal Co. (144.6 AHP) in Angelina, LA, with a tow of eight full gasoline barges.

If your vessel is making turns for 7.5 mph with an estimated average current of 1.5 mph, what is your ETA at the dock in Angelina, LA?

- A. 0516, 28 Dec
- B. 1621, 28 Dec
- C. 0516, 29 Dec
- D. 1621, 29 Dec

Correct answer: B

2. The highest point on your towboat is 67 feet above the water, and the Helena Gage reads +22.3 feet. What is the vertical clearance when you pass under the A-span of the Helena Highway Bridge?

- A. 49.8 feet
- B. 74.7 feet
- C. 30.1 feet
- D. 52.4 feet

Correct answer: C

3. Which of the following statements are TRUE?

- A. All aids to navigation with lights have lateral significance.
- B. Oil well structures are listed in the Light List.
- C. On the Western Rivers, crossing marks may exhibit white lights.
- D. All of the above.

Correct answer: C

4. At 0509, on 26 December, you pass under the Helena Highway Bridge (mile 661.7 AHP). What has been the average speed of the current since departing Memphis Harbor, McKellar Lake, if you have been making turns for 7.5 mph?

- A. 1.8 mph
- B. 2.1 mph
- C. 4.4 mph
- D. 5.6 mph

Correct answer: C

5. What is the distance in river miles, from the new mouth of the White River to the Petroleum Fuel & Terminal Co. (144.6 AHP)?
- A. 437 miles
 - B. 384 miles
 - C. 370 miles
 - D. 454 miles

Correct answer: D

6. The Platte River empties into which river?
- A. Missouri
 - B. Tennessee
 - C. Mississippi
 - D. Ohio

Correct answer: A

7. You are downbound, passing by Warfield Point Lt. (mile 537 AHP), when you observe on your Mississippi River map several black lines extending into the river from the bank. What do these lines indicate?
- A. Dikes
 - B. Fleeting areas
 - C. Weirs
 - D. Revetments

Correct answer: A

8. As you pass under the Vicksburg Bridges, you estimate the current as 3.0 mph. What is the speed over the ground, if your vessel is making turns for 10.5 mph?
- A. 10.5 mph
 - B. 7.5 mph
 - C. 16.5 mph
 - D. 13.5 mph

Correct answer: D

9. As you approach Buckridge Light (mile 412.5 AHP), which type of daymark would you see on the light structure?
- A. Red triangle
 - B. Red diamond
 - C. Green square
 - D. Green diamond

Correct answer: C

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10. As you approach mile 225 AHP, you notice on the map a black broken line crossing the river at mile 224.2 AHP. What does this line indicate?

- A. Ferry crossing
- B. Gas pipelines
- C. Pipeline Submarine
- D. Overhead power lines

Correct answer: D