

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Lifeboatman

Q445 Lifeboatmen

(Sample Examination)

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

1. Which is the most common type of davit found on ocean service merchant vessels today?

- A. Sheath-screw
- B. Quadrantal
- C. Radial
- D. Gravity

Correct answer: D

2. Your vessel has 3 lifeboats on each side. The middle lifeboat on the port side is designated as which boat number?

- A. 2
- B. 2 PORT
- C. 3
- D. 4

Correct answer: D

3. Which of the following is considered the normal operational range from a SART unit to a surface vessel?

- A. 5-10 miles
- B. 50-75 miles
- C. 75-100 miles
- D. unlimited

Correct answer: A

4. What is the primary advantage of using a sea anchor with the survival craft?

- A. It keeps the survival craft from turning over
- B. It reduces your drift rate
- C. It increases your visibility
- D. Aids in recovering the survival craft

Correct answer: B

5. When rendering assistance to personnel in the water a SAR helicopter utilizes a rescue sling for most extractions. In which case would the use of a litter be preferred?

- A. When the person is suffering from fatigue
- B. When the person is suffering from hypothermia
- C. When the person has a pacemaker and static discharge is a concern
- D. When the person is not trained in the use of the rescue sling

Correct answer: B

6. When using a handheld smoke signal in a liferaft, at which location should you activate the signal?
- A. Inside the liferaft
 - B. On the upwind side of the liferaft
 - C. At the stern of the liferaft
 - D. On the downwind side of the liferaft

Correct answer: D

7. 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. Repair tape
 - C. Sail twine and vulcanizing kit
 - D. Sealing clamps

Correct answer: D

8. An emergency sea anchor may be constructed by using which item(s)?
- A. An air tank filled with water
 - B. A boat bucket
 - C. An oar and canvas weighted down
 - D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

9. All inflatable liferafts have which item?
- A. Safety straps from the overhead
 - B. Releasing hooks at each end
 - C. Water stabilizing pockets
 - D. Built in seats

Correct answer: C

10. If an inflatable liferaft is overturned, it may be righted by which action?
- A. Filling the stabilizers on one side with water
 - B. Standing on the inflating cylinder and pulling on the righting straps
 - C. Releasing the CO2 cylinder will automatically upright the craft
 - D. Pushing up from under one end

Correct answer: B

11. You will find a limit switch on which type of davit?
- A. Radial davit
 - B. Liferaft cradle
 - C. Sheath-screw davit
 - D. Gravity davit

Correct answer: D

12. What location on a liferaft must the life line be connected?

- A. At the stern
- B. In the middle of the craft
- C. At the bow
- D. All around the perimeter

Correct answer: D

13. How should the sea painter of a rescue boat be led?

- A. Vertically up and down from the main deck
- B. Forward and outboard of all obstructions
- C. To the foremost point on the vessel
- D. Forward and inboard of all obstructions

Correct answer: B

14. What is TRUE concerning frapping lines?

- A. They are normally attached to the davit span.
- B. They are used to clear the puddings.
- C. They are needed only on radial davits.
- D. They are used to steady a lifeboat when lowered.

Correct answer: D

15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which of the signals, other than a distress signal, can be used by a vessel to attract attention?

- A. The vessel's searchlight
- B. A red star shell
- C. An orange smoke signal
- D. A burning barrel

Correct answer: A

16. You are involved in an emergency landing of a helicopter on the water. When should you inflate your life jacket?

- A. Prior to reaching the water
- B. After exiting clear of the helicopter
- C. After reaching the water, but prior to exiting the helicopter
- D. Upon entering the helicopter

Correct answer: B

17. When is it recommended that the external flotation bladder on an immersion suit be inflated?

- A. Before entry into the water
- B. Upon entry into the water
- C. Only after four hours in the water
- D. Only after two hours in the water

Correct answer: B

18. If you find an inflatable liferaft container with the steel bands still in place around its case, which action should you take?

- A. Remove the bands yourself
- B. Inform the Mate so they can be cut loose
- C. Leave the bands in place
- D. Tell the Master immediately

Correct answer: C

19. In illustration D012SA below, what is the mechanism that will release the tricing pendant?

- A. The fore and aft gripes
- B. A 3/4" screw pin shackle
- C. The McCluny hook
- D. A quick release lever

Correct answer: C

20. The operating cord on an inflatable liferaft also serves as which item?

- A. Lifeline
- B. Painter
- C. Drogue
- D. Marker

Correct answer: B

21. If an inflatable liferaft inflates upside down, you can right it by taking which action?

- A. Standing on the CO2 bottle, holding the bottom straps, and throwing your weight backwards
- B. doing nothing; it will right itself after the canopy supports inflate
- C. Pushing up on one side of the raft
- D. Getting at least three or four men to push down on the side containing the CO2 cylinder

Correct answer: A

22. In each inflatable liferaft, what equipment is provided to make quick, emergency, temporary repairs to large holes in the raft?

- A. Self-adhesive rubberized canvas patches
- B. Glue and rubber patches
- C. No equipment is provided.
- D. Several various-sized sealing clamps

Correct answer: D

23. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You hear the firing of a gun at one minute intervals from another vessel. What does this signal indicate?

- A. All is clear and it is safe to pass.
- B. All vessels are to clear the area.
- C. The gun is being used to sound passing signals.
- D. The vessel is in distress.

Correct answer: D

24. You abandoned ship in the North Atlantic and one of the crew members is hypothermic. During a SAR helicopter extraction which lifting device should be avoided when hoisting this patient to the aircraft?

- A. The rescue sling
- B. The rescue net
- C. The rescue basket
- D. The rescue litter

Correct answer: A

25. Each vessel in ocean and coastwise service must have an approved EPIRB. An EPIRB _____.

- A. is a device that transmits a radio signal
- B. must be stowed in a manner so that it will float free if the vessel sinks
- C. must be stowed where it is readily accessible for testing and use
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

26. When launching a lifeboat, when should frapping lines be rigged?

- A. Before the gripes are released
- B. When the boat is at the embarkation deck
- C. Before the boat is moved from the davits
- D. Only after the boat is in the water

Correct answer: B

27. If, for any reason, it is necessary to abandon ship while far out at sea, it is important that the crew members should _____.

- A. immediately head for the nearest land
- B. separate from each other as this will increase the chances of being rescued
- C. remain together in the area because rescuers will start searching at the vessel's last known position
- D. get away from the area because sharks will be attracted to the vessel

Correct answer: C

28. What is the name given to the bottom row of plating next to the keel of a lifeboat?

- A. Sheer strake
- B. Bilge strake
- C. Keel rib
- D. Garboard strake

Correct answer: D

29. Inflatable liferafts are provided with a _____.

- A. towing connection
- B. knife
- C. lifeline
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

30. What is the function of the lifeboat davit limit switches?

- A. To cut off power to the winch when the lifeboat nears the final stowed position
- B. To cut off power to the winch when the lifeboat reaches the davit bumpers
- C. To control the descent rate of a lifeboat
- D. To control the ascent rate of a lifeboat

Correct answer: A

31. Prior to lowering the lifeboat, which is the most important item to check?

- A. Life preservers
- B. Oars
- C. Sail
- D. Boat plug

Correct answer: D

32. The steering oar in a lifeboat is usually referred to as the _____.

- A. bumpkin oar
- B. becket oar
- C. stroke oar
- D. sweep oar

Correct answer: D

33. In illustration D014SA below, which item number correctly identifies the ballast bags?

- A. 22
- B. 2
- C. 12
- D. 13

Correct answer: D

34. What is the purpose of the hydrostatic release on an inflatable liferaft?

- A. To test the rafts hydrostatically
- B. To inflate the raft automatically
- C. To release the raft from the cradle automatically as the ship sinks
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: C

35. If water is rising in the bilge of a lifeboat, you should take which action FIRST?

- A. Abandon the survival craft
- B. Check for cracks in the hull
- C. Shift all personnel to the stern
- D. Check the bilge drain plug

Correct answer: D

36. On a lifeboat equipped with Rottmer-type releasing gear, what does turning the releasing lever release?

- A. the after boat fall only if the boat is waterborne
- B. the painter
- C. both falls at the same time only if the boat is waterborne
- D. both falls at the same time even if the boat has not reached the water

Correct answer: D

37. Which represents the appropriate time for setting off distress flares and rockets?

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

Correct answer: B

38. What is the name given to the lines that are passed around the falls to hold the boat and prevent it from swinging violently?

- A. Life lines
- B. Tricing lines
- C. Tripping lines
- D. Frapping lines

Correct answer: D

39. Which davit type may be operated by one person?

- A. Gravity
- B. Sheath-screw
- C. Quadrantal
- D. Radial

Correct answer: A

40. 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

41. Your vessel has 3 lifeboats on each side. What is the designated boat number of the aftermost boat on the starboard side?

- A. 6
- B. 5
- C. 3
- D. 3 STARBOARD

Correct answer: B

42. How is the sea painter secured in an open lifeboat?

- A. An eye splice placed over one of the hooks of the releasing gear
- B. A bowline knot around a thwart
- C. A turn around a forward thwart with a toggle pin thru the eye
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: C

43. Which of the following is one of the most important safety procedures that should be adhered to prior to starting a gasoline engine on a motorboat?

- A. The gasoline tank is full
- B. You have fresh water on board
- C. The bilges, cabins, etc. are thoroughly ventilated
- D. Each of the above is followed

Correct answer: C

44. What would be the result of physical exertion on the part of a person who has fallen into cold water?

- A. It will increase the water temperature between the body and layers of clothing
- B. It will increase the rate of heat loss from the body
- C. It will decrease exposure of the body surface to cold water
- D. It will increase survival time in the water

Correct answer: B

45. Where should the life jackets be stowed?

- A. In each of the messrooms
- B. Locked in watertight containers
- C. Only in the survival crafts
- D. In readily accessible locations

Correct answer: D

46. What is the maximum length of time that distress flares are approved for?

- A. 1 and 1/2 years
- B. 2 years
- C. 3 and 1/2 years
- D. 5 years

Correct answer: C

47. After having thrown the liferaft and stowage container into the water, how is the liferaft inflated?

- A. Forcing open the container which operates the CO2
- B. Using the hand pump provided
- C. Pulling on the painter line
- D. Hitting the hydrostatic release

Correct answer: C

48. Before you start an engine in a compartment, it's MOST important to _____.

- A. check the flame arrester
- B. check the battery
- C. ventilate the bilges
- D. check the fuel tank

Correct answer: C

49. If there are a number of survivors in the water after abandoning ship, which action should they take?

- A. Form a small circular group to create a warmer pocket of water in the center of the circle
- B. Tie themselves to the unit so they won't drift with the current
- C. Send only the strongest swimmer to shore for assistance
- D. Form a raft by lashing their life preservers together

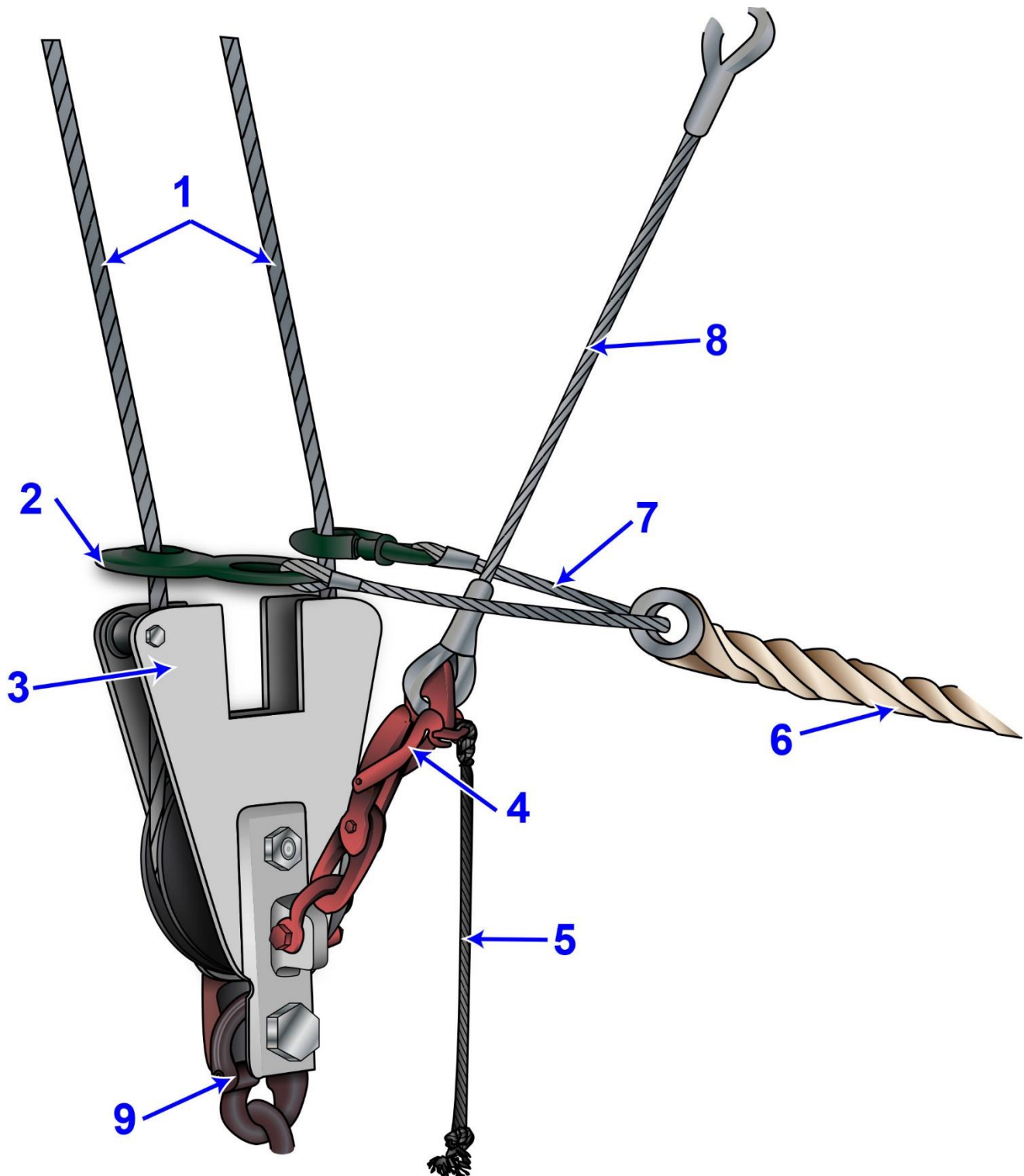
Correct answer: A

50. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What does the continuous sounding of a fog whistle by a vessel indicate?

- A. A vessel is broken down and drifting
- B. A vessel is in distress
- C. That the vessel is anchored
- D. A request that the draw span of a bridge to be opened

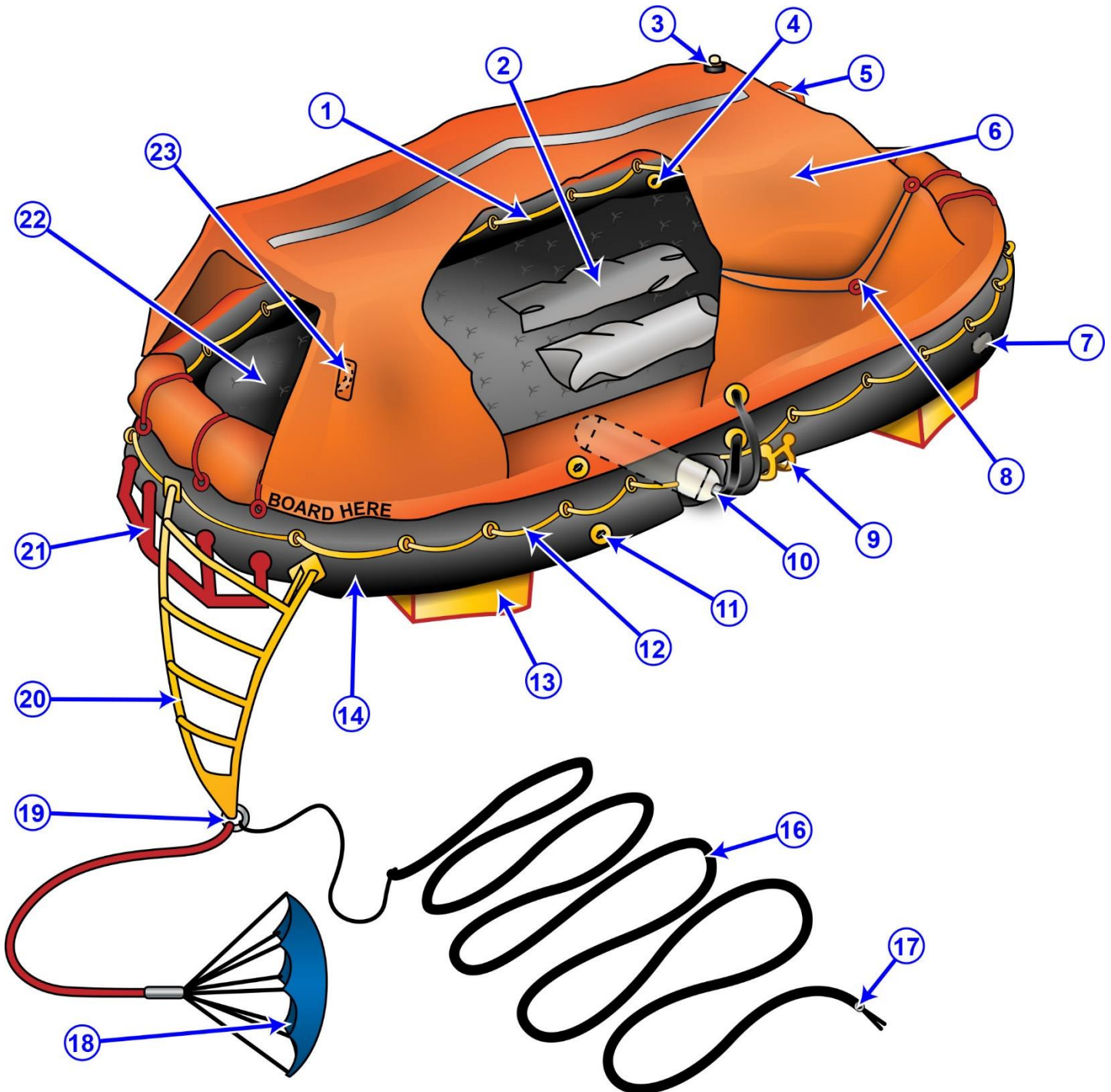
Correct answer: B

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