U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Lifeboatman

Q445-Lifeboatman

(Sample Examination)
Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions.

1. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND If you saw flames aboard a vessel but could see the vessel was not on fire, what would this indicate?
   - (A) The vessel was attempting to attract the attention of a pilot boat
   - (B) The crew was trying to get warm
   - (C) The vessel required immediate assistance
   - (D) The vessel was being illuminated for identification by aircraft

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

2. Inflatable liferafts are provided with which item?
   - (A) A sail
   - (B) Canned milk
   - (C) A towing connection
   - (D) A Very pistol

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

3. How should the sea painter of a lifeboat be led?
   - (A) Forward and inside of all obstructions
   - (B) Up and down from the main deck
   - (C) Forward and outside of all obstructions
   - (D) To the foremost point on the ship

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

4. If water is rising in the bilge of a lifeboat, you should take which action FIRST?
   - (A) Check for cracks in the hull
   - (B) Check the bilge drain plug
   - (C) Abandon the survival craft
   - (D) Shift all personnel to the stern

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

5. What could happen if you are steering a lifeboat broadside to a rough sea?
   - (A) The boat will run smoother
   - (B) The boat could capsize
   - (C) The boat will run faster
   - (D) The boat will maintain a better course

   *If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
6. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which signal, other than a distress signal, can be used by a vessel to attract attention?

   o (A) Orange smoke signal  
   o (B) Continuous sounding of a fog signal apparatus  
   • (C) Searchlight beam  
   o (D) Burning barrel

   *If choice C is selected set score to 1.

7. Under normal conditions, how is a liferaft released from its cradle?

   o (A) By cutting the restraining strap  
   • (B) Pushing the plunger on the center of the hydrostatic release  
   o (C) Lifting one end of the raft  
   o (D) Unscrewing the turnbuckle on the back of the cradle

   *If choice B is selected set score to 1.

8. An emergency sea anchor may be constructed by using which item(s)?

   o (A) A boat bucket  
   o (B) An oar and canvas weighted down  
   o (C) An air tank filled with water  
   • (D) All of the above

   *If choice D is selected set score to 1.

9. Life jackets should be stowed in __________.

   o (A) messrooms  
   • (B) readily accessible locations  
   o (C) locked watertight containers  
   o (D) survival craft

   *If choice B is selected set score to 1.

10. The engine in a covered lifeboat is fueled with __________.

    o (A) unleaded gasoline  
    o (B) leaded gasoline  
    o (C) liquefied gas  
    • (D) diesel oil

    *If choice D is selected set score to 1.
11. 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

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

12. If more than one liferaft is manned after the vessel has sunk, which action will aid in your rescue?

- (A) Each raft should go in a different direction in search of land
- (B) The possibility of a search aircraft finding you is increased by spreading out
- (C) Tie each of the rafts together and try to stay in a single group
- (D) Reduce the number of liferafts by getting as many people as possible into as few rafts as possible

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

13. You will find a limit switch on which type of davit?

- (A) Sheath-screw davit
- (B) Liferaft cradle
- (C) Radial davit
- (D) Gravity davit

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

14. What does the air spaces in the floor of an inflatable liferaft provide protection against?

- (A) Loss of air in the sides of the raft
- (B) Asphyxiation from CO2
- (C) Cold water temperatures
- (D) Rocks when landing

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

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

- (A) Quadrantal
- (B) Radial
- (C) Sheath-screw
- (D) Gravity

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
16. A person is exhibiting signs of hypothermia and starts to shiver, what does this indicate?

- (A) The body is in the final stages of severe hypothermia
- (B) The body requires a rapid increase in core temperature
- (C) The body is trying to generate more heat
- (D) The body is dilating blood vessels to conserve heat

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. You are evacuating crew members from a survival craft that has been adrift in the North Atlantic for several days. What could occur if a person suffering from hypothermia is vertically lifted in a rescue sling to the helicopter?

- (A) A decrease in the symptoms of hypothermia
- (B) Temporary blindness from the altitude change
- (C) Severe shock or cardiac arrest
- (D) Frostbite on exposed areas

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

20. You board an inflatable liferaft that has been hand launched from a sinking vessel. What should you do FIRST after everyone is onboard the liferaft?

- (A) Ventilate the liferaft of CO2.
- (B) Operate the radio equipment.
- (C) Cut the painter.
- (D) Open the equipment pack.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
21. Using a sea anchor will accomplish which of the following?

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

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

22. Which of the following choices best defines EPIRB, ELT, PLBS?

- (A) Emergency radio transmitters
- (B) Radio receivers for distress signals
- (C) Devices to visually signal distress alerts
- (D) Emergency equipment replaced by GMDSS

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

23. Which statement is TRUE concerning gasoline vapors on board a vessel?

- (A) They should be vented into the wheelhouse.
- (B) They should be vented into the engine to improve combustion.
- (C) They are lighter than air and will settle in the highest part of the vessel.
- (D) They are heavier than air and will settle in the lowest part of the vessel.

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

24. Which statement is FALSE concerning precautions during small craft fueling operations?

- (A) All windows, doors, hatches, etc. should be closed.
- (B) A fire extinguisher should be kept nearby.
- (C) Fuel tanks should be topped off with no room for expansion.
- (D) All engines, motors, fans, etc. should be shut down when fueling.

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

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

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

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
26. In heavy seas how should the helmsman steer the motor lifeboat?

- (A) In a series of figure-eights
- (B) Broadside to the seas
- (C) In the same direction as the seas
- (D) Into the seas slightly off the bow

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

27. What is the purpose of air tanks in a lifeboat?

- (A) To keep the boat afloat if flooded
- (B) To provide a stowage place for provisions
- (C) To make the boat float higher
- (D) To add strength to the boat

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

28. What is the purpose of the tricing pendants?

- (A) They provide suspensions for the manropes
- (B) They control the fore and aft motion of a lifeboat during lowering
- (C) They hold a lifeboat next to the embarkation deck while loading
- (D) They control the outboard swing of a lifeboat during lowering

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

29. In launching a lifeboat, when should the tricing pendants be released?

- (A) Before the boat is lowered from the stowage position
- (B) After all people have been embarked
- (C) As soon as the boat-fall blocks clear the davit head
- (D) After the limit switch is activated

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

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

- (A) 13
- (B) 22
- (C) 12
- (D) 2

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
31. A SART unit is used for which of the following?

- (A) To transmit a visual location signal to the Rescue Coordination Center
- (B) To transmit location signals that can be received on an X-band radar
- (C) To transmit a satellite location signal via the Rescue Coordination Center
- (D) To transmit location signals at a range greater than 1,000 miles

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

32. 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

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

33. Which sequence is correct when launching a lifeboat stowed in gravity davits?

- (A) Release gripes, lift brake, release tricing pennants
- (B) Operate limit switches, release gripes, lift brake
- (C) Release tricing pennants, turn on emergency disconnect switch, release frapping lines
- (D) Release gripes, turn on emergency disconnect switch, release frapping lines

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

34. In illustration D014SA below, what number is the sea painter?

- (A) 1
- (B) 12
- (C) 16
- (D) 18

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

35. Which statement is TRUE concerning life jackets?

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

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
36. Your vessel is conducting helicopter evacuation operations for an injured crew member. Which of the following statements is true concerning the hoisting line?

- (A) A tag line is required to be attached to the hoist cable for securing
- (B) As a safety measure wrap the line around the patient before attaching it to the basket
- (C) Allow the line to touch the deck to discharge the static electricity
- (D) Secure the graining line to the deck railings

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

37. 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

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

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

- (A) Radial
- (B) Sheath-screw
- (C) Gravity
- (D) Quadrantal

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

39. Your vessel has 3 lifeboats on each side. The aftermost boat on the port side is designated as which boat number?

- (A) 5
- (B) 3 PORT
- (C) 3
- (D) 6

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

40. 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) Repair tape
- (D) Sealing clamps

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
41. While reading the muster list you see that "3 short blasts on the whistle and three short rings on the general alarm" is the signal for __________.

- (A) fire and emergency
- (B) abandon ship
- (C) man overboard
- (D) dismissal from fire and emergency stations

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

42. Limit switches are used on which davits?

- (A) Sheath-screw davits
- (B) Radial davits
- (C) Quadrantal davits
- (D) Gravity davits

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

43. If you reach shore in a liferaft, the first thing to do is __________.

- (A) get the provisions out of the raft
- (B) drag the raft ashore and lash it down for a shelter
- (C) set the raft back out to sea so someone may spot it
- (D) find some wood for a fire

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

44. If you must enter water on which there is an oil fire, you should __________.

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

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

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

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

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
46. You are proceeding to a distress site and expect large numbers of people in the water. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) You should stop to windward of the survivors in the water and only use the ship's boats to recover the survivors.
- (B) An inflatable liferaft secured alongside can be an effective boarding station for transfer of survivors from the boats.
- (C) Survivors in the water should never be permitted alongside due to the possibility of injury from the vessel.
- (D) If the survivors are in inflatable rafts you should approach from windward to create a lee for the survivors.

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

47. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A man aboard a vessel is signaling by raising and lowering his outstretched arms to each side. What does this indicate?

- (A) The vessel is anchored
- (B) All is clear, it is safe to pass
- (C) A distress signal
- (D) Danger, stay away

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

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

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

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

49. When using a handheld smoke signal in a liferaft, at which location should you activate the signal?

- (A) On the downwind side of the liferaft
- (B) On the upwind side of the liferaft
- (C) Inside the liferaft
- (D) At the stern of the liferaft

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

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

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

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