

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Lifeboatman

Q445 Lifeboat Operator

(Sample Examination)

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

1. Your ship is sinking rapidly. A container containing an inflatable liferaft has bobbed to the surface upon functioning of the hydrostatic release. Which action should you take?
- A. Cut the painter line so it will not pull the liferaft container down.
 - B. Swim away from the container so you will not be in danger as it goes down.
 - C. Take no action because the painter will cause the liferaft to inflate and open the container.
 - D. Manually open the container and inflate the liferaft with the hand pump.

Correct answer: C

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

Correct answer: C

3. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which is TRUE when a vessel uses any sound or light signals to attract the attention of another vessel?
- A. The signal cannot be mistaken for a signal authorized by the Rules
 - B. White lights are not used to attract the attention of another vessel
 - C. The signal may be the continuous sounding of a foghorn
 - D. Special flashing yellow lights may be used to attract the attention of another vessel

Correct answer: A

4. Which represents the appropriate time for setting off distress flares and rockets?
- A. Immediately upon abandoning the vessel
 - B. At one-hour intervals
 - C. At half hour intervals
 - D. Only when there is a chance of their being seen by rescue vessels

Correct answer: D

5. 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 battery voltage is within 20% of the design limits
 - C. Verification that the unit has been maintained by a shore based maintenance provider
 - D. Verification that the unit is stowed within five feet of survival craft

Correct answer: C

6. What statement about immersion suits is TRUE?

- A. Immersion suits should be worn while performing routine work on deck.
- B. Any tear or leak will render the suit unserviceable and it must be replaced.
- C. During the annual maintenance, the front zipper should be lubricated using light machine oil or mineral oil.
- D. No stowage container for immersion suits may be capable of being locked.

Correct answer: D

7. 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 two hours in the water
- D. Only after four hours in the water

Correct answer: B

8. When using the lifeboat compass, you must be careful to _____.

- A. set it on the centerline of the boat
- B. keep metal objects away from it
- C. apply the correction for compass error
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: D

10. Upon completion of fueling a gasoline driven vessel it is necessary to perform which task?

- A. Ventilate before starting engine
- B. Keep ports, doors, windows, and hatches closed
- C. Start the engines immediately
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: A

11. What is TRUE concerning frapping lines?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: B

13. 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 crew was trying to get warm
- B. The vessel was being illuminated for identification by aircraft
- C. The vessel required immediate assistance
- D. The vessel was attempting to attract the attention of a pilot boat

Correct answer: C

14. 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

15. As a vessel sinks to a depth of 15 feet, the hydrostatic trip releases the liferaft container from its cradle by _____.

- A. releasing the CO2 canister
- B. releasing the tie-down strap
- C. pulling the operating cord
- D. breaking the weak link

Correct answer: B

16. What is the function of the hand holds or straps on the underside of an inflatable liferaft?

- A. For crewmen to hang on to
- B. To right the raft if it capsizes
- C. To hang the raft for drying
- D. To carry the raft around on deck

Correct answer: B

17. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which of the following is TRUE of a distress signal?

- A. Is used to indicate doubt about another vessel's intentions
- B. Consists of 5 or more short blasts of the fog signal apparatus
- C. Consists of the raising and lowering of a large white flag
- D. May be used separately or with other distress signals

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: A

19. What is the approximate length of the painter of the inflatable liferaft?

- A. 25 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 400 feet

Correct answer: B

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

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

Correct answer: A

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Correct answer: A

23. Puncture leaks in the lower tubes or bottom of an inflatable liferaft should FIRST be stopped by using which item(s)?

- A. Sail twine and vulcanizing kit
- B. A tube patch
- C. Sealing clamps
- D. Repair tape

Correct answer: C

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

Correct answer: B

- 25.** Which is TRUE concerning a certified lifeboat operator assigned to command a lifeboat?
- A. Must drain the hydraulic pressure before lowering the craft
 - B. Must have a list of the persons assigned to the lifeboat
 - C. They should be the first individual to board the craft
 - D. Must be the brakeperson actually lowering the boat

Correct answer: B

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

Correct answer: C

- 27.** Where would the number 2 lifeboat on a tanker be located?
- A. Aft no.1 lifeboat starboard side
 - B. The forwardmost boat on the starboard side
 - C. Aft no.1 lifeboat port side
 - D. The forwardmost boat on the port side

Correct answer: D

- 28.** A motor lifeboat shall carry sufficient fuel to operate continuously for a period of which duration?
- A. 12 hours
 - B. 18 hours
 - C. 24 hours
 - D. 36 hours

Correct answer: C

- 29.** 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

30. 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. At the stern of the liferaft
- C. Inside the liferaft
- D. On the upwind side of the liferaft

Correct answer: A

31. 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

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

Correct answer: C

33. Which statement is TRUE concerning distress signals in a survival craft?

- A. If hand-held rocket-propelled parachute flares are provided, they are the only distress signals required.
- B. Handheld flares and orange smoke signals are required.
- C. Two hand-held smoke signals shall be provided.
- D. A Very pistol with twelve flares is required.

Correct answer: B

34. When using a handheld smoke signal aboard a survival craft, how should you activate the signal?

- A. At the stern of the craft
- B. On the upwind side of the craft
- C. On the downwind side of the craft
- D. Inside the craft

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: C

37. Provided every effort is used to produce, as well as preserve body moisture content by avoiding perspiration, how long is it normally possible to survive without stored quantities of water?

- A. Up to 3 days
- B. 8 to 14 days
- C. 15 to 20 days
- D. 25 to 30 days

Correct answer: B

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

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

Correct answer: A

39. Limit switches are used on which davits?

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Correct answer: C

41. You have abandoned ship in tropical waters. Which procedure(s) should be used during a prolonged period in a raft?

- A. Get plenty of rest.
- B. Keep the entrance curtains open.
- C. Wet clothes during the day to decrease perspiration.
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: B

43. Which statement concerning satellite EPIRBs is TRUE?

- A. The coded signal identifies the nature of the distress situation.
- B. The coded signal only identifies the vessel's name and port of registry.
- C. Once activated, these EPIRBs continuously send up a signal for use in identifying the vessel and for determining the position of the beacon.
- D. If the GMDSS Radio Operator does not program the EPIRB, it will transmit default information such as the follow-on communications frequency and mode.

Correct answer: C

44. When transferring survivors from an enclosed lifeboat to a rescue vessel, personnel on board the boat should take which action?

- A. Climb on top of the boat while waiting for their turn to transfer to the rescue vessel
- B. Remove their life preservers to make it easier to climb on board the rescue vessel
- C. Remain seated inside and make the transfer one person at a time
- D. Enter the water and swim over to the rescue vessel

Correct answer: C

45. If an inflatable liferaft is overturned, it may be righted by which action?

- A. Standing on the inflating cylinder and pulling on the righting straps
- B. Pushing up from under one end
- C. Filling the stabilizers on one side with water
- D. Releasing the CO₂ cylinder will automatically upright the craft

Correct answer: A

46. What is the purpose of the tricing pendants?

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

Correct answer: D

47. 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. Pushing up on one side of the raft
- C. doing nothing; it will right itself after the canopy supports inflate
- D. Getting at least three or four men to push down on the side containing the CO₂ cylinder

Correct answer: A

48. How should the sea painter of a lifeboat be led?

- A. Forward and inside of all obstructions
- B. To the foremost point on the ship
- C. Up and down from the main deck
- D. Forward and outside of all obstructions

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: C

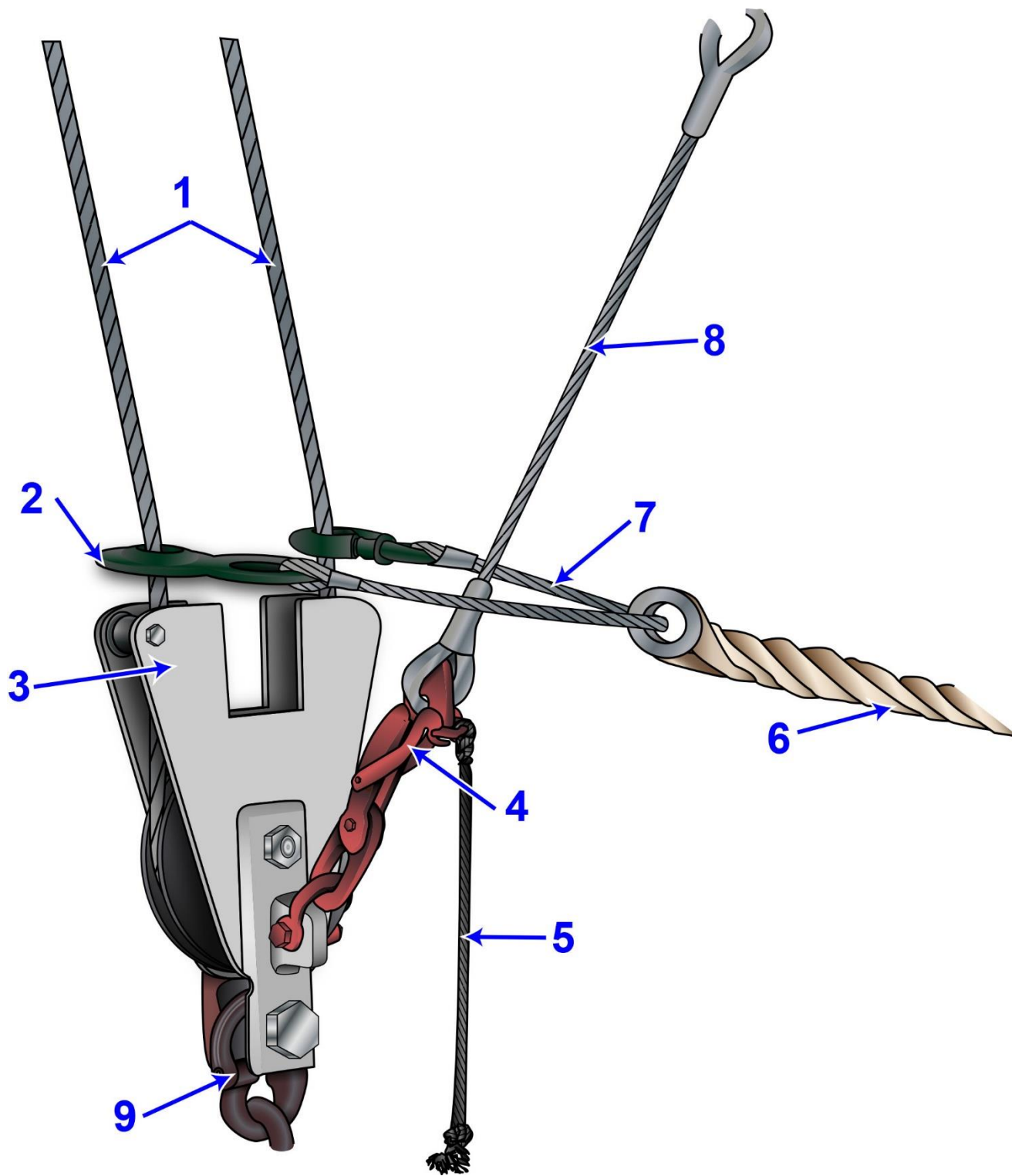
50. An emergency sea anchor may be constructed by using which item(s)?

- A. An oar and canvas weighted down
- B. An air tank filled with water
- C. A boat bucket
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D



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