U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Able Seaman Unlimited, Limited, Special, Special OSV, Sail, Fishing Industry

Q450 Navigation General - Rules of the Road

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

1. You are underway on course 328°T when you sight a buoy broad on your port bow. Which would indicate that you are in the best navigable water?
   - (A) The buoy is painted yellow on the top half and black on the bottom
   - (B) The buoy has a topmark of two cones with points down
   - (C) The buoy is a western quadrant buoy
   - (D) The buoy exhibits a light with the characteristic of VQ(3)5s

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

2. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which is a light signal authorized by the Secretary of the Navy as an additional navigational light for a ship of war?
   - (A) Intermittent flashing amber (yellow) beacon for submarines
   - (B) Green masthead and yardarm lights indicating mineclearance operations
   - (C) Yellow flares indicating torpedo firing exercises
   - (D) Red-white-red lights in a vertical line for a carrier, launching aircraft

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

3. What does a white buoy with an orange rectangle on it indicate?
   - (A) Danger
   - (B) General information
   - (C) A controlled area
   - (D) An exclusion area

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

4. Which topmark shown in illustration D023NG below identifies an isolated danger?
   - (A) A
   - (B) B
   - (C) C
   - (D) D

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

5. When entering a channel from seaward, Which is TRUE concerning the numbers on buoys?
   - (A) The numbers are the same as their Light List number
   - (B) The numbers decrease with the odd numbers to starboard
   - (C) The numbers increase with the even numbers to starboard
   - (D) They are marked in 6 inch figures with retro-reflective material

   *If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
6. Which would be the characteristic of an occulting light?

- (A) 4 sec. flash, 2 sec. eclipse, 3 sec. flash, 2 sec. eclipse
- (B) 5 sec. flash, 5 sec. eclipse
- (C) 6 sec. flash, 6 sec. eclipse
- (D) 1 sec. flash, 2 sec. eclipse, 1 sec. flash, 5 sec. eclipse

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

7. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which requirement must be met in order for a stand-on vessel to take action to avoid collision?

- (A) There are no requirements to be met. The stand-on vessel may take action anytime.
- (B) The vessels must be within half a mile of each other.
- (C) Risk of collision must exist.
- (D) The give-way vessel must have taken action first.

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

8. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You see a red sidelight bearing NW (315°). That vessel may be heading in which direction?

- (A) east (090°)
- (B) west (270°)
- (C) southwest (225°)
- (D) northwest (315°)

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

9. Which buoy may be odd numbered?

- (A) Mid-channel buoy
- (B) Unlighted nun buoy
- (C) Lighted green buoy
- (D) All of the above

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

10. INLAND ONLY What MAY be used to indicate the presence of a partly submerged object being towed?

- (A) Two all-round yellow lights at each end of the tow
- (B) The beam of a searchlight from the towing vessel shown in the direction of the tow
- (C) A black cone, apex upward
- (D) All of the above

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
11. What does a white diamond daymark with an orange border indicate?

- (A) special mark
- (B) safe water mark
- (C) lateral aid on the intracoastal waterway
- (D) information or regulatory mark

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

12. What action should the helmsman take when hearing the command “ease the rudder”?

- (A) Move the rudder slowly in the direction of the most recent rudder command
- (B) Steer the course which is your present heading
- (C) Decrease the rudder angle
- (D) Bring the rudder amidships

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

13. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway in a narrow channel and are being overtaken by a vessel astern. The overtaking vessel sounds a signal indicating her intention to pass you on your starboard side. If such an action appears dangerous, which signal are you required to sound?

- (A) Five short and rapid blasts
- (B) One prolonged, one short, one prolonged, and one short blast in that order
- (C) Three short and rapid blasts
- (D) One prolonged followed by one short blast

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

14. What is the compass course of a vessel heading SSW?

- (A) 202.5°
- (B) 225.0°
- (C) 247.5°
- (D) 270.0°

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

15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What is the optional whistle signal which may be sounded by a vessel at anchor?

- (A) Two prolonged followed by one short blast
- (B) One short, one prolonged, followed by one short blast
- (C) One short followed by two prolonged blasts
- (D) Four short blasts

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
16. The nominal range of a light may be accurately defined as the maximum distance at which a light may be seen __________.

   o (A) under existing visibility conditions
   o (B) with ten miles visibility
   o (C) under perfect visibility
   o (D) with fifteen miles visibility

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

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

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

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

18. INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside on the Western Rivers (above the Huey P. Long Bridge on the Mississippi River at mile 106.1) shall exhibit which of the following configurations?

   o (A) one masthead light, sidelights, and stern light
   o (B) two masthead lights, sidelights, and two towing lights
   o (C) sidelights and two towing lights
   o (D) two masthead lights, sidelights, and stern light

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

19. In the IALA Maritime Buoyage System, what is a red and white vertically-striped buoy used to indicate?

   o (A) Isolated danger
   o (B) A special mark not primarily used for navigation
   o (C) Preferred channel
   o (D) Safe water

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

20. What does the helm command "Left twenty" mean?

   o (A) Put the rudder hard left for the first twenty degrees of swing
   o (B) Put the rudder left twenty degrees and then ease back as the vessel starts swinging
   o (C) Change course twenty degrees to the left
   o (D) Put the rudder left twenty degrees

   *If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
21. Which is TRUE concerning magnetic compass deviation?
   o (A) It is published on the compass rose on most nautical charts
   • (B) It is the angular difference between magnetic north and compass north
   o (C) It is the angular difference between geographic and magnetic meridians
   o (D) It varies depending upon the bearing used

   If choice B is selected set score to 1.

22. As you enter a U.S. channel from seaward, which is TRUE concerning the numbers on the buoys?
   o (A) increase in channels going to the north or west, and decrease in channels going to the south or east
   • (B) increase with the can buoys being odd numbered
   o (C) increase with the can buoys being even numbered
   o (D) decrease with the can buoys being even numbered

   If choice B is selected set score to 1.

23. You are standing the wheel watch on entering port and the Master gives you a rudder command which conflicts with a rudder command from the Pilot. What should you do?
   • (A) Obey the Master.
   o (B) Bring the rudder to a position midway between the two conflicting positions.
   o (C) Obey the Pilot.
   o (D) Ask the Pilot if he relinquishes control.

   If choice A is selected set score to 1.

24. What does the helm command “Steady as you go” mean?
   o (A) Steer the course when the swing stops
   o (B) Maintain the rate of swing
   o (C) Don’t allow the vessel to swing off course so much
   • (D) Steer the course you are on now

   If choice D is selected set score to 1.

25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The rules require that a stand-on vessel SHALL take action to avoid collision when she determines that __________.

   o (A) the other vessel is not taking appropriate action
   o (B) the other vessel will cross ahead of her
   o (C) risk of collision exists
   • (D) collision cannot be avoided by the give-way vessel’s maneuver alone

   If choice D is selected set score to 1.
26. How are buoys which mark isolated dangers are painted?

- (A) Alternating red and black bands
- (B) Alternating green and white bands
- (C) Alternating red and white stripes
- (D) Alternating green and black bands

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

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

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

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

28. INLAND ONLY When power-driven vessels are in sight of one another, when shall passing signals be sounded?

- (A) meeting or crossing at any distance
- (B) meeting within one mile of each other
- (C) meeting or crossing within half a mile of each other
- (D) crossing within one mile of each other

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

29. INLAND ONLY You are the stand-on vessel in an overtaking situation. The other vessel is showing an alternately flashing red-and-yellow light. What action should you take?

- (A) Give-way
- (B) Heave to
- (C) Alter course to assist
- (D) Stand-on

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

30. What is the compass course of a vessel heading NW?

- (A) 274.5°
- (B) 292.5°
- (C) 315.0°
- (D) 337.5°

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
31. Which is TRUE of a nun buoy in the IALA Region B system of buoyage?

- (A) It will be green in color
- (B) It will be left to port when entering from seaward
- (C) It will be cylindrical in shape
- (D) It will have an even number

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

32. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which describes a head-on situation?

- (A) Seeing two forward white towing lights in a vertical line on a towing vessel directly ahead
- (B) Seeing one red light of a vessel directly ahead
- (C) Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly off your starboard beam
- (D) Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly ahead

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

33. INLAND ONLY Two power-driven vessels, "A" and "B", are meeting on a river as shown in illustration D041RR below and will pass about 1/4 mile apart. What action should the vessels take?

- (A) Both vessels should continue on course and pass without sounding any whistle signals.
- (B) The vessels should exchange two blast whistle signals and pass starboard to starboard.
- (C) The vessels should exchange one blast whistle signals and pass starboard to starboard.
- (D) The vessels should pass starboard to starboard and must sound whistle signals only if either vessel changes course.

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

34. Deviation in a compass is caused by which of the following?

- (A) The earth's magnetic field
- (B) The influence of the magnetic materials of the vessel
- (C) The vessel's geographic position
- (D) The vessel's heading

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

35. Which buoy may be odd numbered?

- (A) An unlighted can buoy
- (B) A spherical buoy
- (C) A yellow buoy
- (D) A red buoy

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
36. Which navigational mark may only be lettered?

- (A) A port side day-shape
- (B) A red buoy
- (C) An unlighted, green, can buoy
- (D) A spherical buoy

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

37. Which is a feature of a special daymark?

- (A) A green square
- (B) A yellow diamond
- (C) A red-and-white octagon
- (D) A daymark with a yellow stripe on it

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

38. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND While underway in fog, you hear a signal of one prolonged blast followed by three short blasts. Which vessel shall sound this fog signal?

- (A) A manned vessel being towed
- (B) An unmanned vessel being towed
- (C) A towing vessel
- (D) A vessel at anchor

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

39. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND At night, the lights shown in illustration D076RR would indicate a vessel engaged in which of the operations?

- (A) laying submarine cable
- (B) trawling
- (C) towing astern
- (D) dredging

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

40. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel towing astern is severely restricted in its ability to maneuver. Which lights shall it exhibit while underway?

- (A) sidelights, stern light and towing light
- (B) the masthead lights for a towing vessel
- (C) the lights for a vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
41. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are overtaking a vessel at night and you see a yellow light showing above the stern light of the overtaken vessel. Which is TRUE of the vessel being overtaken?

- (A) towing astern
- (B) underway and dredging
- (C) pushing ahead or towing alongside
- (D) a pilot vessel

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

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

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

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

43. Where are buoys and day beacons exhibiting a yellow triangle or square painted on them used?

- (A) In minor harbors where the controlling depth is 10 feet (3 meters) or less
- (B) Only at particularly hazardous turns of the channel
- (C) On isolated stretches of the ICW to mark undredged areas
- (D) Locations where the ICW and other waterways coincide

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

44. When steering a vessel, which of the following will an effective helmsman do?

- (A) Apply rudder to move the compass card towards the lubbers line when off course
- (B) Repeat back to the watch officer any rudder commands before executing them
- (C) Use as much rudder as possible to keep the vessel on course
- (D) Keep the rudder amidships except when changing course

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

45. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel is "underway" within the meaning of the Rules?

- (A) A vessel drifting with the engine stopped
- (B) A vessel tied to an offshore mooring buoy
- (C) A vessel aground with the engine turning
- (D) A vessel at anchor with the engine turning

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
46. Which of the buoys listed below could be used to mark an anchorage?

- (A) White buoy with a green top
- (B) Yellow buoy lettered "N"
- (C) White buoy with orange bands
- (D) White buoy numbered "3"

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

47. You are steaming along the coast of Ireland in the Irish Sea. You sight a lighted buoy with a white flashing light showing a group of two flashes. The buoy indicates you should take which action?

- (A) You must pass north of the buoy
- (B) You must pass south of the buoy
- (C) You should pass well clear on either side of the buoy
- (D) You must pass the buoy close to starboard

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

48. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When shall a proper look-out be maintained?

- (A) only at night
- (B) at night and during restricted visibility
- (C) only during restricted visibility
- (D) at all times

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

49. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel may exhibit lights other than those prescribed by the Rules as long as the additional lights __________.

- (A) do not interfere with the keeping of a proper look-out
- (B) do not impair the visibility or distinctive character of the prescribed lights
- (C) cannot be mistaken for the lights specified elsewhere in the Rules
- (D) All of the above

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

50. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When does the rule regarding look-outs apply?

- (A) in restricted visibility
- (B) in heavy traffic
- (C) between dusk and dawn
- (D) All of the above

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