U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Able Seaman Unlimited, Limited, Special,
Special OSV, Sail, Fishing Industry
Q451 Deck General – Safety
(Sample Examination)
Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions.

1. While taking on fuel oil, the transfer hose leaks causing a sheen on the water. What action should you take?
   - (A) Repair the leak with duct tape
   - (B) Reduce the rate of transfer
   - (C) Shut down operations
   - (D) Apply dispersants to the sheen

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

2. Which device is designed to automatically hold the load if power should fail to an electric winch?
   - (A) Motor controller
   - (B) Electromagnetic brake
   - (C) Pneumatic brake
   - (D) Hand brake

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

3. Which part of the patent anchor performs the same function as the stock of an old fashioned anchor; that is, forces the flukes to dig in?
   - (A) Shank
   - (B) Arm
   - (C) Tripping Palm
   - (D) Bill or pea

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

4. What should be given, as a minimum, to personnel who are involved in crane cargo handling?
   - (A) Protective head gear, gloves, and steel-toed safety shoes
   - (B) A life preserver for going aloft to work on the crane
   - (C) A survival suit for work on the stern or side port
   - (D) All of the above

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

5. Life jackets should be stowed in __________.
   - (A) readily accessible locations
   - (B) locked watertight containers
   - (C) survival craft
   - (D) messrooms

   *If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
6. In any major injury, first aid includes the treatment for the injury and what secondary condition?
   - (A) For traumatic shock
   - (B) Administration of oxygen
   - (C) Application of CPR
   - (D) Removal of any foreign objects

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

7. Who has the authority to grant an alternate procedure for oil transfer operations?
   - (A) The Area Commander
   - (B) The Captain of the Port
   - (C) The Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection
   - (D) The nearest Coast Guard office

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

8. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "U"?
   - (A) Plain whipping
   - (B) Half hitch
   - (C) Becket bend
   - (D) Round knot

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

9. Pollution of the waterways may result from the discharge of which item(s)?
   - (A) An oily mixture of one part per million
   - (B) Sewage
   - (C) The galley trash can
   - (D) All of the above

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

10. What is a grapnel?
    - (A) A device for securing a chain topping lift
    - (B) A type of clam bucket used for discharging bulk cargo
    - (C) A device used to drag for a submerged cable or line
    - (D) A hook to prevent the anchor cable from slipping

    *If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
11. Which is a precaution you should take before bunkering?

- (A) Plug the scuppers
- (B) Close the lids on the vents
- (C) Plug the sounding pipes
- (D) Plug the vents

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

12. Which should you check before letting the anchor go?

- (A) The wildcat is disengaged
- (B) The chain is clear
- (C) The anchor is clear of obstructions
- (D) All of the above

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

13. Which of the knots, bends, or hitches shown in illustration D030DG below would you use to properly secure a bosun’s chair to a gantline?

- (A) I
- (B) P
- (C) R
- (D) X

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

14. What happens when the handle of an all-purpose nozzle is pushed into the forward position?

- (A) The nozzle will produce a straight stream
- (B) The nozzle will produce high-velocity fog
- (C) The nozzle will shut off the water
- (D) The nozzle will produce low-velocity fog

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

15. Which would be considered pollution under the U.S. water pollution laws?

- (A) Hazardous substances
- (B) Garbage
- (C) Oil
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
16. Which of the following is considered "discharge" as it applies to the pollution regulations?

- (A) leaking
- (B) pumping
- (C) spilling
  - (D) All of the above

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

17. How is the size of wire rope is determined?

- (A) The number of wires in each strand
- (B) The number of strands
- (C) The circumference
  - (D) The diameter

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

18. CO₂ mainly extinguishes a fire by which of the following?

- (A) chemical action
  - (B) smothering
- (C) cooling
- (D) All of the above

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

19. At what distance from shore may plastic material may be thrown overboard from a vessel?

- (A) 25 miles from shore
- (B) 12 miles from shore
- (C) 3 miles from shore
  - (D) None of the above are correct.

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

20. What is the proper name for the fitting that allows a boom to move freely both vertically and laterally?

- (A) Lizard
- (B) Swivel
- (C) Spider band
  - (D) Gooseneck

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
21. All of the following are part of the fire triangle EXCEPT __________.

- (A) heat
- (B) electricity
- (C) oxygen
- (D) fuel

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

22. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "E"?

- (A) Stopper hitch
- (B) Timber and half hitch
- (C) Bowline on a bight
- (D) Blackwall hitch

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

23. The wire rope used for cargo handling on board your vessel has a safe working load of eight tons. It shall be able to withstand a breaking test load of __________.

- (A) 32 tons
- (B) 40 tons
- (C) 48 tons
- (D) 64 tons

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

24. You are preparing to lubricate standing rigging on your vessel. Which is TRUE when rigging a bosun's chair on a stay with a shackle?

- (A) Connect the shackle to the bosun's chair with a hook
- (B) Run the gantline through the shackle and then make fast to the bosun's chair
- (C) Tie the bitter end of the gantline to the shackle before shackling it to the bosun's chair
- (D) Never allow the shackle pin to ride on the stay

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

25. Which statement(s) is/are TRUE concerning crane cargo operations?

- (A) Lifting points on all equipment need not be checked prior to commencing a lift.
- (B) Cargo loaded into vehicles and/or containers prior to lifting need not be secured.
- (C) Never exceed crane manufacturer's limits concerning the safe working loads of cargo jibs.
- (D) All the above

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
26. Which should NOT be a treatment for a person who has received a head injury and is groggy or unconscious?

- (A) Treat for shock.
- (B) Elevate his head.
- (C) Stop severe bleeding.
- (D) Give a stimulant.

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

27. Electric cargo winches have an overload safety device which normally cuts the current to the winch motor _________.

- (A) when the line pull reaches the breaking strength of the fall
- (B) before the safe working load of the fall is reached
- (C) after torque causes line pull to exceed the rated capacity of the winch
- (D) before the line pull reaches the rated capacity of the winch

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

28. A vessel to which Annex V to MARPOL 73/78 applies is located 10 nautical miles from the nearest land. Which type of garbage is prohibited from being discharged?

- (A) Rags ground to less than 1”
- (B) Food waste, not comminuted or ground
- (C) Paper ground to less than 1”
- (D) All of the above

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

29. Your vessel is to dock bow in at a pier without the assistance of tugboats. Which line will be the most useful when maneuvering the vessel alongside the pier?

- (A) Stern breast line
- (B) Inshore head line
- (C) Bow spring line
- (D) Bow breast line

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

30. You are anchoring in 16 fathoms of water. On a small to medium size vessel, which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The anchor should be lowered to within 2 fathoms of the bottom before being dropped
- (B) The anchor may be dropped from the hawsepipe
- (C) The scope should always be less than 5 times the depth of the water
- (D) The scope should always be at least ten times the depth of the water

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
31. Which is the best method of protecting that portion of a fiber anchor line nearest the anchor from chafing on the bottom?
   - (A) Using a small scope ratio
   - (B) Using a synthetic line
   - (C) Replacing that portion with a short length of chain
   - (D) Using a hockle to keep that portion of the anchor line off the bottom

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

32. The most likely time for oil pollution while bunkering is when __________.
   - (A) final topping off is occurring
   - (B) hoses are being blown down
   - (C) first starting to receive fuel
   - (D) hoses are disconnected and being capped

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

33. “Herringbone” is a term associated with which activity?
   - (A) Mooring
   - (B) Anchoring
   - (C) Sewing
   - (D) Splicing

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

34. On stud-link anchor chain, how much does the addition of the stud increases the strength of the link?
   - (A) 10%
   - (B) 15%
   - (C) 20%
   - (D) 50%

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

35. You have a large, broken-down vessel in tow with a wire rope and anchor cable towline. Both vessels have made provision for slipping the tow in an emergency; however, unless there are special circumstances __________.
   - (A) the vessel towed should slip first
   - (B) they should slip simultaneously
   - (C) the towing vessel should slip first
   - (D) either vessel may slip first

   *If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
36. In a racetrack turn, to recover a man overboard, the vessel is steadied for the SECOND time after a turn of how many degrees from the original heading?

- (A) 60°
- (B) 135°
- (C) 180°
- (D) 360°

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

37. Which rope is the lightest in weight?

- (A) Nylon
- (B) Dacron
- (C) Manila
- (D) Polypropylene

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

38. You should NOT use a power tool if which condition exists?

- (A) The power source is alternating current
- (B) The insulation of the power wires is worn
- (C) Hand tools can be used instead
- (D) It has a three-prong plug

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

39. The vessel shown in illustration D025DG has broken down and you are going to take her in tow. The wind is on her starboard beam. Both vessels are making the same amount of leeway. Where should you position your vessel when you start running lines?

- (A) A
- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

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

40. If ignited, which material would be a class B fire?

- (A) Diesel Oil
- (B) Paper
- (C) Magnesium
- (D) Wood

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*
41. What is the name of a small light tackle with blocks of steel or wood that is used for miscellaneous small jobs?

- (A) Handy-billy
  - (B) Threefold purchase
  - (C) Chockablock
  - (D) Snatch block

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

42. The scuppers had been plugged as required at the time a small oil spill occurs on deck from a leaking dresser coupler. After shutting down the transfer, the engine room should first be informed and then which action should be taken?

- (A) Remove the plugs from the scuppers
- (B) Rig a fire hose to wash down the deck
- (C) Spread an absorbent material, such as sawdust
- (D) Sound the general alarm

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

43. What can be done to prevent small oil spills on deck from going overboard?

- (A) Driving wooden plugs into the vents
- (B) Closing the lids on the vents
- (C) Plugging the sounding pipes
- (D) Plugging the drains and scuppers

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

44. Which statement concerning an accidental oil spill in the navigable waters of the U.S. is TRUE?

- (A) The person in charge must report the spill to the Coast Guard.
- (B) The Department of Interior is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.
- (C) A warning broadcast must be made by radiotelephone.
- (D) The Corps of Engineers is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.

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

45. Which extinguishing agent is most effective for combating wood fires?

- (A) Carbon dioxide
- (B) Dry powder
- (C) Dry chemical
- (D) Water

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*
46. What is the name of tackle number 2 as shown in illustration D029DG below?

- (A) Onefold purchase
- (B) Gun tackle
- (C) Whip
- (D) Single purchase

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

47. In what direction should you coil a left-hand laid rope?

- (A) A counter-clockwise direction only
- (B) Either a clockwise or a counter-clockwise direction
- (C) A clockwise direction only
- (D) An alternating clockwise and counter-clockwise direction

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

48. Which of the following may result from improperly coiling manila line?

- (A) Increase deterioration of the line
- (B) Number of fishhooks
- (C) Kink in the line
- (D) 50% loss of efficiency of the line

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

49. Where are the transfer procedures for oil products required to be posted or available during transfer operations?

- (A) In the upper pumproom flat
- (B) Where they can be easily seen and accessible
- (C) In the pilothouse of the vessel
- (D) In the officer's and crew's lounges

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

50. When oil is accidentally discharged into the water, what should you do after reporting the discharge?

- (A) Throw sand on the water to sink the oil.
- (B) Throw chemical agents on the water to disperse the oil.
- (C) Obtain your permit from the Corps of Engineers
- (D) Contain the oil and remove as much of it as possible from the water.

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