

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam
Any Deck Officer Endorsement
Q460 Auxiliary Sail Endorsement
(Sample Examination)

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

1. When is the VERY BEST time to cross a bar in rough weather?

- A. During the maximum ebb current
- B. During the slack just before the flood current
- C. During the tidal bore
- D. During the slack just before the ebb current

Correct answer: D

2. In illustration D001SL, what is the edge of the sail labeled "A" called?

- A. Headboard
- B. Luff
- C. Clew
- D. Leech

Correct answer: B

3. Which is TRUE about a sail when it has been reefed?

- A. The sail area is increased
- B. The sail area is widened
- C. The sail area remains unchanged
- D. The sail area is reduced

Correct answer: D

4. When would the sails normally be set in a wing and wing configuration?

- A. If the vessel is wearing
- B. When the vessel is tacking in a head wind
- C. If the vessel is close hauled
- D. If the vessel is sailing with the wind aft

Correct answer: D

5. A sailing vessel with the wind coming from 220° relative would be in which situation?

- A. On a broad reach
- B. Close hauled on the starboard tack
- C. Running before the wind
- D. Close hauled on the port tack

Correct answer: A

6. Your vessel is drifting with the wind broad on the port beam. The Marconi sail is set and flapping free. When is the maximum drive attained as you sheet in the sail?

- A. When it first takes the shape of an airfoil
- B. When it is filled with a slight flap at the leech
- C. When it is 45° from the apparent wind
- D. When it is at right angles to the true wind

Correct answer: A

7. Dacron sails, when not in use, may be damaged under which condition?

- A. If washed with soap
- B. When folded frequently
- C. If left in the sunlight
- D. When stowed wet

Correct answer: C

8. You are sailing on a close reach when a strong wind suddenly heels the vessel hard over. Which action should you take to reduce the heeling and yet maintain speed?

- A. Haul in on the mainsheet and steer more towards the wind
- B. Ease the mainsheet and bear more away from the wind
- C. Haul in on the mainsheet and ease the jib sheet
- D. Ease all sheets and bear more into the wind

Correct answer: B

9. You are running before a strong wind in a sloop. Which action should be attempted with extreme caution?

- A. Reef the mainsail
- B. Tack about
- C. Jibe
- D. Strike the jib

Correct answer: C

10. One of the sailboat's crew has just fallen overboard. Which is the most efficient way to stop the vessel to recover the victim?

- A. Head the vessel downwind
- B. Trim in the mainsheet
- C. Head the vessel into the wind
- D. Ease out the mainsheet

Correct answer: C

11. You are at the helm of a sailing vessel under sail on the starboard tack, close hauled, and you are instructed to "head up". Which action should you take?

- A. Turn the wheel to port if you are steering with a wheel
- B. Push the tiller to starboard if you are steering with a tiller
- C. Turn the wheel to starboard if you are steering with a wheel
- D. Hold a steady helm and allow the jib to luff

Correct answer: C

- 12.** Your vessel is sailing on a port tack when a sudden gust of wind heels the vessel sharply to starboard. Which action will reduce the heeling of the vessel?
- A. Ease the sheets to allow air flow to spill off the sail
 - B. Shift weight to the port side of the vessel
 - C. Attempt to sail the vessel closer to the wind
 - D. Any of the above

Correct answer: D

- 13.** Which statement is TRUE about a ketch type sailing vessel?
- A. A ketch has two masts: with the mizzen stepped abaft the rudder post
 - B. A ketch has two masts: with the mizzen stepped forward of the rudder post
 - C. A ketch has two masts: a foremast and a mainmast
 - D. A ketch has only one mast

Correct answer: B

- 14.** A sail plan should include the vessel's itinerary, name, number, and persons aboard. Who should this information initially be given to, prior to your departure?
- A. The U.S. Customs
 - B. A responsible person
 - C. The local Coast Guard RCC
 - D. The FAA

Correct answer: B

- 15.** Your 80-ton schooner is hove to on the starboard tack under storm trysail and fore-staysail in 45 knots of wind. Your heading is averaging about 000° true and the wind is from the northeast. There is a dangerous shoal bearing 270° true, range 5 miles. Which action would be appropriate?
- A. You should tack or jibe to the port tack and make all possible headway to the south.
 - B. You need only stay alert for changes, as your present drift will carry you away from the danger.
 - C. You should strike all sails and get underway under bare poles, making as much way as possible to the north.
 - D. You should set a reefed foresail and strike the jib.

Correct answer: A

- 16.** You are at the helm of a schooner-rigged sailing vessel under sail on the port tack, on a beam reach, with all appropriate sails set and properly trimmed. You are instructed to "bear off quickly". Which action will utilize your sails to assist with the turn?
- A. Slacken the main sheet
 - B. Slacken the fore-staysail sheet
 - C. Slacken the jib sheet
 - D. Slacken the foresail sheet

Correct answer: A

17. Which item is part of a vessel's standing rigging?

- A. The topping lift
- B. A sheet
- C. A downhaul
- D. The backstay

Correct answer: D

18. You are running before a rough sea and a strong wind. Your sailing vessel is yawing. Which term describes the situation if the wind should catch the mainsail on the reverse?

- A. Broach
- B. Tack
- C. Jibe
- D. Go in irons

Correct answer: C

19. What does a deep keel on a sailing vessel increase?

- A. Resistance to lateral movement
- B. Height of the center of gravity above the hull resulting in a more stable vessel
- C. Length-depth ratio resulting in a faster hull design
- D. Mast height to compensate for increased lateral resistance

Correct answer: A

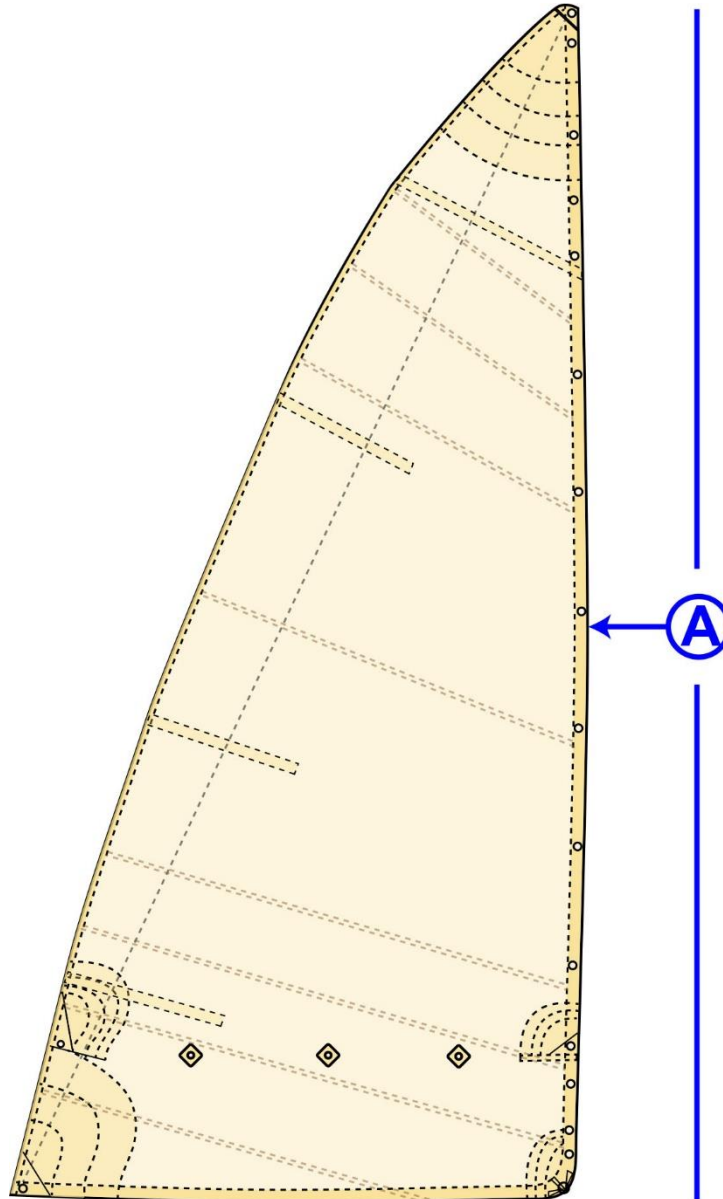
20. Which statement is TRUE concerning the gooseneck?

- A. It is a sailing maneuver which brings the vessel's head through the wind.
- B. It connects the boom to the mast and allows the boom to swing freely.
- C. It is a sailing condition where there is a loss of air flow over the sails.
- D. None of the above.

Correct answer: B



D001SL



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