U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Master or Mate Less than 200 Gross Registered Tons

Q461 Assistance Towing Endorsement

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

1. Instead of whipping an end of a line, which knot can be used as a temporary means of preventing the line from unraveling?
   - (A) Blackwall hitch
   - (B) Square knot
   - (C) Becket bend
   - (D) Figure-eight knot

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

2. In astern towing, what is the function of a tow span, also called the "tow bar" or "towing arch"?
   - (A) To prevent fouling of the hawser on deck gear located on the stern of the towing vessel
   - (B) To insure that the hawser leads directly aft as it passes over the stern of the towing vessel
   - (C) To increase the stability of the towing vessel by raising the hawser off the deck
   - (D) To reduce chafing of the towing hawser

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

3. To overcome the effects of static forces between two vessels of vastly different tonnages that may potentially part a line, which is the best action to take?
   - (A) Commence tow at a slow bell and increase speed incrementally
   - (B) Rig a bridle at both the bow of the disabled vessel and stern of the towing vessel
   - (C) Pay out extra towline and increase speed rapidly to "jump start" disabled vessel
   - (D) At slow bell alter course 30 degrees to both sides of disabled tow

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

4. While towing, what is the principal danger in attempting to swing a barge on a short hawser in order to slow the barge's speed?
   - (A) Dangerous wakes may result from the swinging barge and capsize the tug.
   - (B) The barge may girt the tug
   - (C) The barge may capsize from the sharp turn.
   - (D) Free surface effect of liquid inside the barge may rupture the barge bulkheads when turning too quickly.

   *If choice B is selected set score to 1.*
5. 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.

6. How should natural fiber rope be stowed in order to help protect it from rotting?

   - (A) Dried, and stowed in a place with adequate ventilation
   - (B) Stowed in any compartment
   - (C) Stowed in a hot, moist compartment for warmth
   - (D) Stowed on deck at all times

   If choice A is selected set score to 1.

7. You are heading into the sea during rough weather. What may happen if there is too much weight forward in your small boat?

   - (A) The craft will rise rapidly over the wave
   - (B) The craft will list severely
   - (C) The craft will broach
   - (D) The craft may plunge into the wave

   If choice D is selected set score to 1.

8. Which is usually the most gentle way of riding out a severe storm on a larger vessel?

   - (A) Hove to
   - (B) Rig a sea anchor
   - (C) Running before the seas
   - (D) Head into the seas at slow speeds

   If choice C is selected set score to 1.

9. You would NOT secure a line to which item?

   - (A) Caval
   - (B) Stand pipe
   - (C) Button
   - (D) Timber head

   If choice B is selected set score to 1.
10. You are using tackle number 2 as shown in illustration D029DG below to lift a weight of 100 lbs. If you include 10 percent of the weight for each sheave for friction, what is the pull on the hauling part required to lift the weight?

- (A) 50 lbs.
- (B) 55 lbs.
- (C) 60 lbs.
- (D) 110 lbs.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

11. When you have a tow alongside, why should your stern extend aft of the tow?

- (A) It will provide a better lead for your lines
- (B) To let the barge deflect floating objects from your propeller
- (C) To avoid obscuring your stern light
- (D) To obtain better steering control

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

12. If the situation arose where it became necessary to tow a disabled vessel, which statement is TRUE concerning the towing line?

- (A) There should be a catenary so the line dips into the water.
- (B) The towing line between the two vessels should be clear of the water.
- (C) The towing line should be taut at all times between the vessels.
- (D) None of the above.

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

13. 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.

14. What is an advantage in the use of a towing hook?

- (A) To prevent the tug from becoming tripped
- (B) To quickly connect or release a tow, especially a sinking tow
- (C) To facilitate berthing maneuvers
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.
15. In illustration D024DG below what does item "A" represent?

- (A) drag wire
- (B) lashing
- (C) scissor wire
- (D) tandem wire

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

16. Which knot in illustration D030DG below represents a timber hitch?

- (A) E
- (B) F
- (C) N
- (D) U

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

17. When tandem tug towing, where should the more powerful of the two tugs be placed?

- (A) It should be behind the lead tug
- (B) It should be the lead tug
- (C) It should be towing at a right angle to the smaller tug
- (D) It should be breasted to the tow

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

18. One reason a tug's towing bitts are located forward of the rudders is because __________.

- (A) it makes it easier to hook up the towing hawser
- (B) this is where the towhook is located
- (C) it is traditional
- (D) this allows more responsive steering

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

19. When working with any synthetic line, you should keep well clear of which situation?

- (A) When lines that are coiled down
- (B) When a line is being eased out under control
- (C) When a line is under a heavy strain
- (D) None of the above are correct

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*
20. How is wire rope used in the towing industry?

- (A) For face wires or jockeys when pushing ahead
- (B) For back up wires and main towing hawsers
- (C) As stern wires when pushing ahead
- (D) All of the above

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