

## 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. The MINIMUM acceptable size for a towing bridle would be that size in which the safe working load (SWL) of each leg of the bridle is equal to which of the following?
- A. One-half the SWL of the main towing hawser
  - B. That of the main towing hawser
  - C. Twice that of the main towing hawser
  - D. Three-fourths the SWL of the main towing hawser

Correct answer: B

2. What is the effect of releasing the towline in a tripping situation?
- A. It disconnects the capsizing force and allows the tug to recover from its list.
  - B. There is no effect other than relief.
  - C. Yawing
  - D. It frees the tug from its towing responsibilities.

Correct answer: A

3. How do the height and location of a tug's towing bitts relate to the danger of tripping?
- A. The further forward and closer to amidships the more readily the tug will trip.
  - B. The height and position of towing bitts has no significance.
  - C. Placement further aft permits more effective pulling, better steering and eliminates the danger of tripping.
  - D. Installing the bitts down low lowers the center of gravity.

Correct answer: A

4. A situation has occurred where it becomes necessary for you to be towed. What action should be taken to prevent your vessel from yawing?
- A. Shift weight to the stern
  - B. Shift weight to the center of the boat
  - C. Throw excess weight overboard
  - D. Shift weight to the bow

Correct answer: A

5. Your vessel is running in a following sea. Which term defines the motion your vessel is experiencing?
- A. Yawing
  - B. Heaving to
  - C. Pounding
  - D. Reduced speed

Correct answer: A

6. You are attempting to take a dead ship in tow. All lines have been passed and secured. How should you get underway?
- A. Gradually apply power until catenary almost breaks the water, but keep the catenary in the water.
  - B. Order minimum turns until the towing hawser is taut and then continue at that speed until towing speed is attained.
  - C. Order minimum turns until the towing hawser is just clear of the water, then reduce speed to that necessary to keep the line clear of the water.
  - D. If the towline is properly adjusted and weighted you can order slow or dead slow and the towline will act as a spring to absorb the initial shock.

Correct answer: A

7. When running before a heavy sea, what will moving weights aft on the vessel accomplish?
- A. Increase the yawing of the vessel
  - B. Increase the rolling of the vessel
  - C. Reduce the yawing of the vessel
  - D. Reduce the rolling of the vessel

Correct answer: C

8. Fairleads perform the same function as which item?
- A. Deadeyes
  - B. Doublers
  - C. Bollards
  - D. Chocks

Correct answer: D

9. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "W"?
- A. Barrel hitch
  - B. Clove hitch
  - C. Square knot
  - D. Stopper knot

Correct answer: C

10. Which is an advantage of nylon rope over manila rope?
- A. Can be stored on decks exposed to sunlight
  - B. Can be used in conjunction with wire or spring-lay rope
  - C. It gives an audible warning of overstress whereas manila does not
  - D. Can hold a load even when a considerable amount of the yarns have been abraded

Correct answer: D

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

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

Correct answer: D

12. Which term is used to describe the dip in a towline that acts as a shock absorber?

- A. Bight
- B. Step
- C. Catenary
- D. Shock dip

Correct answer: C

13. Which is one advantage of chain over wire rope for a tow bridle?

- A. Resists damage from chafing
- B. Transfers towing forces better
- C. Handles more easily
- D. It is better suited for inland towing

Correct answer: A

14. What does "Hanging a barge off" refer to?

- A. To remove a barge while locking through
- B. Towing an empty barge astern
- C. To remove and deliver a loaded barge from a multiple tow
- D. Mooring a barge to the bank and leaving it there

Correct answer: D

15. 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

Correct answer: C

16. When towing, what is the main reason for using a chain bridle on a wire hawser?

- A. It does not chafe.
- B. It gives a spring effect to cushion the shock.
- C. It makes for an easy connection.
- D. It eliminates the necessity of a swivel.

Correct answer: B

17. What is the name of a small light tackle with blocks of steel or wood that is used for miscellaneous small jobs?

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

Correct answer: D

18. Of which type of material may a towing hawser be constructed?

- A. Polyester
- B. Wire rope
- C. Nylon
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

19. Which term is given to the placing a lashing across a hook to prevent a fitting from slipping out of the hook?

- A. Mousing
- B. Flemishing down
- C. Worming
- D. Faking

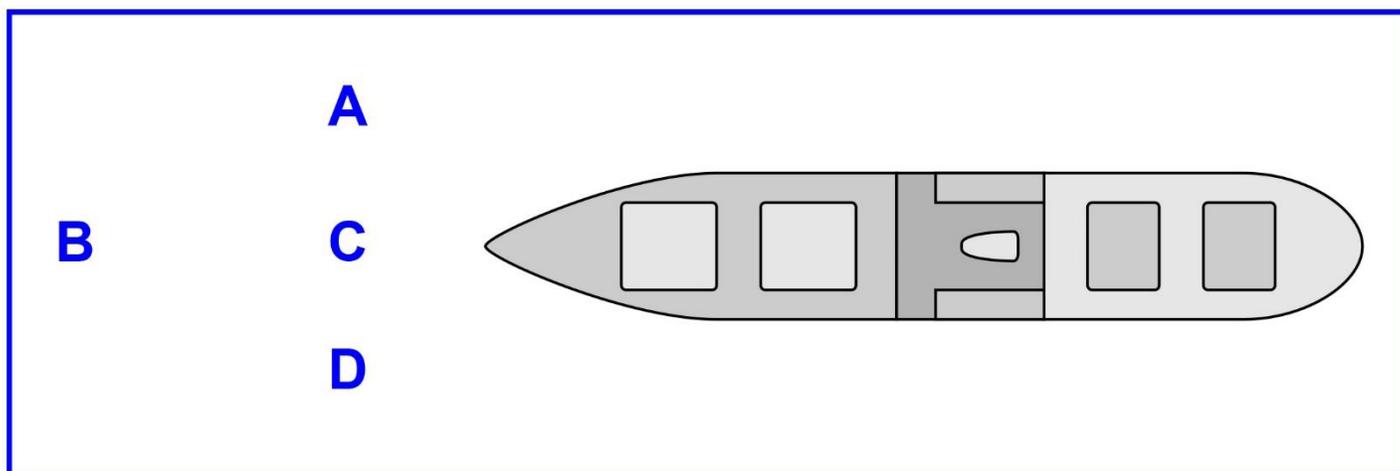
Correct answer: A

20. When making up a long, large coastwise tow, which of the following procedures is INCORRECT?

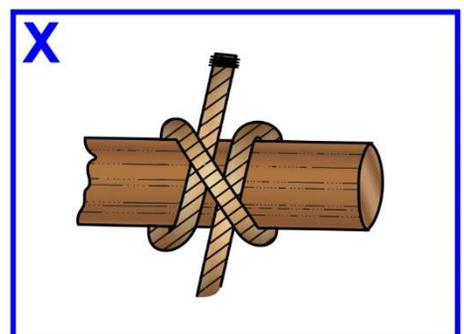
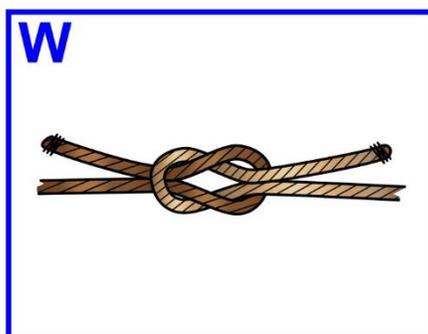
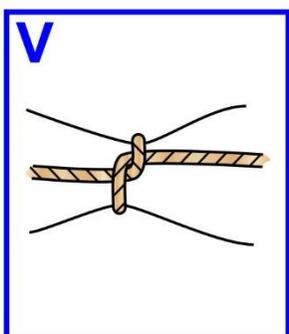
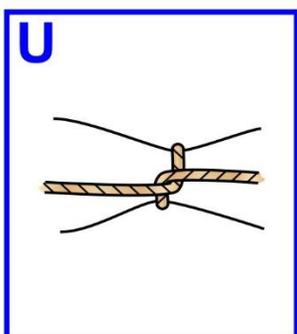
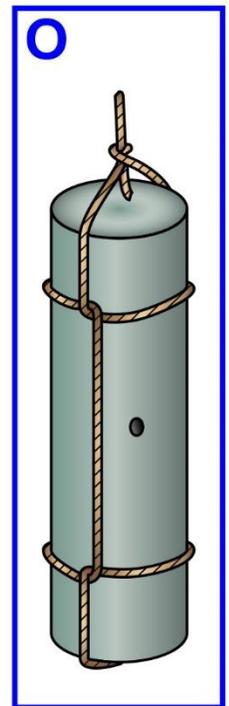
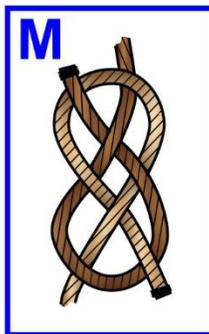
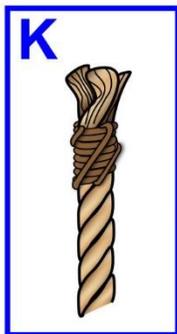
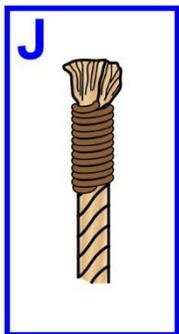
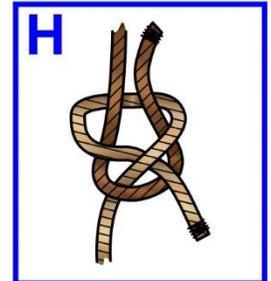
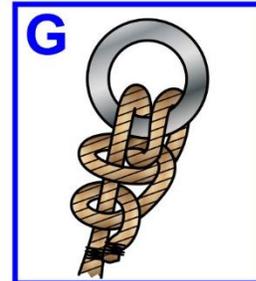
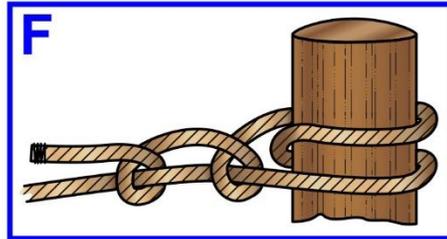
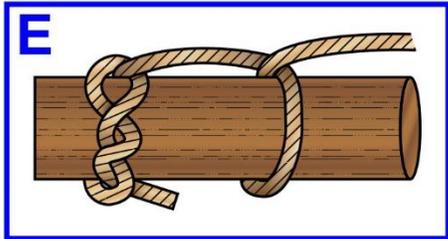
- A. Rig tripping ropes (retrieving lines)
- B. A chain towing bridle is generally preferred
- C. Safety shackles should be used when connecting to the fishplate
- D. Backup wires are left slack

Correct answer: D

## D025DG



## D030DG



Adapted for testing purposes only from NOEL, Knight's Modern Seamanship, 17<sup>th</sup> edition  
Copyright © 1984 by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company Inc.  
Further reproduction prohibited without permission