

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Deck Officer Endorsements  
Q300 Rules of the Road – Inland  
(Sample Examination)

**Choose the best answer to the following Multiple Choice Questions:**

**NO** reference materials are authorized for use on this exam.

- 1. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** While underway in fog, you hear a vessel ahead sound two prolonged blasts on the whistle. Which action should you take?
- ☐ (A) not sound any whistle signals until the other vessel is sighted
  - ☒ (B) sound only fog signals until the other vessel is sighted
  - ☐ (C) sound two blasts and change course to the left
  - ☐ (D) sound whistle signals only if you change course

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

- 2. INLAND ONLY** Which lights are required for a single barge being towed alongside?
- ☐ (A) Sidelights and a special flashing light
  - ☐ (B) Sidelights, a towing light, and a stern light
  - ☒ (C) Sidelights, a special flashing light, and a stern light
  - ☐ (D) Sidelights and a stern light

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

- 3. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are on watch in fog. Which vessel is "in sight"?
- ☒ (A) A vessel that you can see from the bridge
  - ☐ (B) A radar target of which you have determined the course and speed
  - ☐ (C) A vessel from which you can hear the fog signal
  - ☐ (D) All of the above

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

- 4. INLAND ONLY** Vessels engaged in fishing may show the additional signals as described in Rule 26 when they are in which of the following situations?
- ☒ (A) in close proximity to other vessels engaged in fishing
  - ☐ (B) trolling
  - ☐ (C) fishing in a traffic separation zone
  - ☐ (D) in a narrow channel

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

- 5. INLAND ONLY** Which of the following is indicated by a vessel displaying a flashing blue light?
- ☐ (A) A vessel transferring hazardous cargo
  - ☐ (B) A vessel engaged in a race
  - ☐ (C) A work boat
  - ☒ (D) A law enforcement vessel

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

**6. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Two power-driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision. Which statement is TRUE, according to the Rules?

- (A) The give-way vessel should keep the other vessel to her starboard.
- (B) If the give-way vessel takes action, she shall avoid changing course to starboard.
- (C) The vessel which has the other on her own port side shall keep out of the way.
- (D) If the stand-on vessel takes action, she shall avoid changing course to port.

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

**7. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which is TRUE of a stand-on vessel?

- (A) required to give-way in a crossing situation
- (B) required to sound the first passing signal in a meeting situation
- (C) required to maintain course and speed in a crossing situation but may take action to avoid collision
- (D) free to maneuver in any crossing or meeting situation as it has the right of way

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

**8. INLAND ONLY** You are on power-driven vessel "A" and power-driven vessel "B" desires to overtake you on the starboard side as shown in illustration D038RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?

- (A) Alter course to the left or right to give vessel "B" more sea room
- (B) Slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed
- (C) Alter course to the left
- (D) Hold course and speed

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

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

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

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

**10. INLAND ONLY** Your vessel is crossing a river on the Great Lakes System. A power-driven vessel is ascending the river, crossing your course from port to starboard. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) The other vessel must hold as necessary to allow you to pass.
- (B) Your vessel has the right of way, but you are directed not to impede the other vessel.
- (C) The vessel ascending the river has the right of way.
- (D) You are required to propose the manner of passage.

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

**11. INLAND ONLY** A power-driven vessel proceeding downstream in a narrow channel on the Western Rivers sights another power driven vessel moving upstream. Which vessel has the right of way?

- ☐ (A) The vessel located more towards the channel centerline
- ☐ (B) The vessel moving upstream against the current
- ☐ (C) The vessel sounding the first whistle signal
- ☒ (D) The vessel moving downstream with a following current

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

**12. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which is TRUE when a vessel uses any sound or light signals to attract the attention of another vessel?

- ☐ (A) The signal may be the continuous sounding of a fog horn
- ☒ (B) The signal cannot be mistaken for a signal authorized by the Rules
- ☐ (C) Special flashing yellow lights may be used to attract the attention of another vessel
- ☐ (D) White lights are not used to attract the attention of another vessel

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

**13. INLAND ONLY** A vessel engaged in public safety activities may display an alternately flashing red and yellow light. Which of the following vessels may exhibit this special light?

- ☐ (A) a vessel engaged in river bank protection
- ☒ (B) a vessel engaged in search and rescue
- ☐ (C) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- ☐ (D) a vessel not under command

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

**14. INLAND ONLY** Which term is NOT defined in the Inland Navigation Rules?

- ☒ (A) Vessel constrained by her draft
- ☐ (B) Seaplane
- ☐ (C) Restricted visibility
- ☐ (D) Underway

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

**15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which vessel must show an after masthead light, if over 50 meters in length?

- ☐ (A) A vessel at anchor
- ☒ (B) A vessel trawling
- ☐ (C) A vessel not under command
- ☐ (D) A vessel engaged in fishing

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

**16. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which statement is TRUE of a 30-meter sailing vessel underway?

- (A) She need not show a stern light if she is showing all-round lights on the mast.
- (B) She may show an all-round white light at the top of the mast.
- (C) If she is using propelling machinery, she shall show forward a shape consisting of two cones, apexes together.
- (D) She must show sidelights and a stern light in restricted visibility.

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

**17. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What would a vessel towing a barge show at the stern of the tow vessel?

- (A) only a stern light
- (B) two white lights in a vertical line
- (C) two towing lights in a vertical line
- (D) a towing light above the stern light

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

**18. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** In which situation do the Rules require both vessels to change course?

- (A) Two power-driven vessels crossing when it is apparent to the stand-on vessel that the give-way vessel is not taking appropriate action
- (B) Two power-driven vessels meeting head-on
- (C) Two sailing vessels crossing with the wind on the same side
- (D) All of the above

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

**19. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are on watch in the fog. Your vessel is proceeding at a safe speed when you hear a fog signal ahead of you. The Rules require you to navigate with caution and take which action if danger of collision exists?

- (A) Begin a radar plot
- (B) Slow to less than 2 knots
- (C) Slow to minimum that the vessel can be kept on course
- (D) Stop your engines

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

**20. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Risk of collision may exist \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (A) if you observe both sidelights of a vessel ahead for an extended period of time
- ☐ (B) if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does NOT appreciably change
- ☐ (C) even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly when approaching a vessel at close range
- ☒ (D) All of the above

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

**21. INLAND ONLY** Which of the following may be displayed by a law enforcement boat?

- ☐ (A) flashing amber light
- ☐ (B) flashing red light
- ☒ (C) flashing blue light
- ☐ (D) blue flag

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

**22. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Every vessel that is to keep out of the way of another vessel must take positive early action to comply with this obligation and must \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☒ (A) avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel
- ☐ (B) alter course to port for a vessel on her port side
- ☐ (C) avoid passing astern of the other vessel
- ☐ (D) sound one prolonged blast to indicate compliance

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

**23. INLAND ONLY** Two power-driven vessels are meeting in a narrow channel as shown in illustration D037RR below. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- ☐ (A) If agreement is reached by radiotelephone whistle signals must still be exchanged.
- ☒ (B) If agreement is reached by radiotelephone whistle signals are optional.
- ☐ (C) Whistle signals must be exchanged in all situations when passing within one half mile of each other.
- ☐ (D) None of the above

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

**24. INLAND ONLY** Two power-driven vessels are crossing within a half a mile of each other as shown in illustration D042RR below. Vessel "A" sounds one short blast on the whistle. What should Vessel "B" sound?

- ☐ (A) three short blasts
- ☒ (B) one short blast
- ☐ (C) two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts
- ☐ (D) two short blasts

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

**25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** When do the Rules state that risk of collision shall be deemed to exist?

- (A) if the bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change
- (B) whenever a vessel crosses ahead of the intended track of another vessel
- (C) if one vessel approaches another so as to be overtaking
- (D) whenever two vessels approach from opposite directions

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

**26. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are on vessel "A" and approaching vessel "B" as shown in illustration D015RR below. You are not sure whether your vessel is crossing or overtaking vessel "B". You should take which of the following actions?

- (A) consider it to be a crossing situation
- (B) consider it a crossing situation if you can cross ahead safely
- (C) consider it to be an overtaking situation
- (D) change course to make the situation definitely either crossing or overtaking

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

**27. INLAND ONLY** You are aboard the stand-on vessel in a crossing situation. You sound a one blast whistle signal. The give-way vessel answers with a two blast whistle signal. You are in doubt as to the other vessel's intentions, what action should you take after sounding five short and rapid blasts of the whistle?

- (A) Maintain course and speed as you are the stand-on vessel
- (B) Take precautionary action until a safe passing agreement is made
- (C) Come around sharply to port
- (D) Maneuver around the stern of the other vessel

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

**28. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which lights is a vessel not under command making way at night required to show?

- (A) anchor lights and sidelights
- (B) two all-round red lights in a vertical line, sidelights, and a stern light
- (C) two all-round red lights in a vertical line
- (D) two all-round white lights in a vertical line, sidelights and a stern light

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

**29. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which vessel sounds the same fog signal when underway or at anchor?

- ☐ (A) A vessel constrained by her draft
- ☒ (B) A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- ☐ (C) A vessel not under command
- ☐ (D) A sailing vessel

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

**30. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which lights is a vessel not under command, underway but not making way, required to exhibit?

- ☒ (A) two all-round red lights in a vertical line
- ☐ (B) sidelights
- ☐ (C) a stern light
- ☐ (D) All of the above

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

**31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which vessel, when anchored at night, is not required to show anchor lights?

- ☐ (A) A vessel engaged in survey operations
- ☐ (B) A vessel engaged on pilotage duty
- ☒ (C) A vessel engaged in fishing
- ☐ (D) A power-driven vessel

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

**32. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** A vessel shall slacken her speed, stop, or reverse her engines, if necessary, to \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (A) avoid collision
- ☐ (B) allow more time to assess the situation
- ☐ (C) be stopped in an appropriate distance
- ☒ (D) All of the above

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

**33. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** When in sight of another vessel and there is sufficient sea room, any action taken to avoid collision must \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☒ (A) not result in another close-quarters situation
- ☐ (B) be accompanied by sound signals
- ☐ (C) include a speed change
- ☐ (D) All of the above

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



**34. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What would be a "special circumstance" under the Rules?

- ☐ (A) Two vessels meeting
- ☒ (B) More than two vessels crossing
- ☐ (C) Speed in fog
- ☐ (D) Vessel at anchor

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

**35. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which vessel should not impede the navigation of a power-driven vessel?

- ☐ (A) A vessel engaged in fishing
- ☐ (B) A vessel not under command
- ☒ (C) A seaplane
- ☐ (D) A sailing vessel

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

**36. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Systems of inbound and outbound lanes to promote the safe flow of vessel traffic in certain areas around the world are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (A) Collision avoidance fairways
- ☒ (B) Traffic separation schemes
- ☐ (C) Restricted maneuverability channels
- ☐ (D) Merchant vessel reporting systems

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

**37. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** The steering and sailing rules for vessels in restricted visibility apply to vessels \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (A) only if they are showing special purpose lights
- ☒ (B) navigating in or near an area of restricted visibility
- ☐ (C) in sight of one another in fog
- ☐ (D) only if they have operational radar

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

**38. INLAND ONLY** Which is TRUE of a vessel downbound with a following current when meeting an upbound vessel on the Western Rivers?

- ☐ (A) She does not have the right of way, since the other vessel is not crossing the river.
- ☐ (B) Neither vessel has the right of way.
- ☐ (C) She must wait for a whistle signal from the upbound vessel.
- ☒ (D) She has the right of way only if she is power-driven.

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

**39. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are underway and hear a vessel continuously sounding her fog whistle. What is this vessel indicating?

- ☐ (A) The vessel is aground
- ☐ (B) The vessel desires a pilot
- ☒ (C) The vessel is in distress
- ☐ (D) The vessel desires to communicate by radio

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

**40. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** When is your vessel travelling at a "safe speed" as defined in the COLREGS?

- ☐ (A) when you can stop within your visibility range
- ☐ (B) when you are traveling slower than surrounding vessels
- ☒ (C) when you can take proper and effective action to avoid collision
- ☐ (D) when no wake comes from your vessel

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

**41. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** A vessel underway and fishing shall keep out of the way of which vessel?

- ☐ (A) vessel engaged on pilotage duty
- ☒ (B) vessel not under command
- ☐ (C) power-driven vessel underway
- ☐ (D) vessel sailing

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

**42. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What is required of a vessel navigating near an area of restricted visibility?

- ☐ (A) If she detects another vessel by radar, she shall determine if risk of collision exists.
- ☐ (B) A power-driven vessel shall have her engines ready for immediate maneuver.
- ☐ (C) She must sound appropriate sound signals.
- ☒ (D) All of the above

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

**43. INLAND ONLY** What whistle signal would a power-driven vessel overtaking another in a narrow channel, and wishing to pass on the other vessel's port side sound?

- ☐ (A) one short blast
- ☒ (B) two short blasts
- ☐ (C) two prolonged blasts followed by one short blast
- ☐ (D) two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts

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

**44. INLAND ONLY** What signal is a power-driven vessel, when leaving a dock or berth, required to sound?

- (A) one prolonged blast
- (B) four short blasts
- (C) one long blast
- (D) no signal is required.

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

**45. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** The masthead light may be displaced from the centerline on which of the following vessels?

- (A) a vessel of special construction
- (B) a power-driven vessel 12 meters in length
- (C) a vessel engaged in trolling
- (D) an air-cushion vessel in non-displacement mode

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

**46. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What is a "vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver"?

- (A) A vessel fishing with a bottom trawl that must remain on course
- (B) A vessel laying revetment mats to provide bank protection along a channel
- (C) A deep-draft vessel that can only navigate in a dredged channel
- (D) A large tanker that is being towed as a dead ship to dry dock

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

**47. INLAND ONLY** You are on a vessel that the Secretary has determined cannot comply with the spacing requirement for masthead lights. What is required in this situation?

- (A) The vessel's lights must comply as closely as possible.
- (B) The vessel must be altered to permit full compliance with the rules.
- (C) An all-round light should be substituted for the after masthead light and the stern light.
- (D) The vessel must carry only the lights that comply with the rules; the others may be omitted.

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

**48. INLAND ONLY** The term "Great Lakes", as defined by the Inland Rules of the Road, does NOT include which choice?

- (A) Saginaw Bay, Michigan
- (B) The St Lawrence River to Trois-Rivieres
- (C) Portions of the Chicago River
- (D) Portions of the Calumet River

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

**49. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are on a sailing vessel with the wind on the starboard side and are approaching another sailing vessel that has the wind on the port side. Which action should you take?

- ☐ (A) Reduce sail and hold course.
- ☐ (B) Any maneuver to avoid collision.
- ☐ (C) Alter course away from the other vessel.
- ☒ (D) Maintain course and speed.

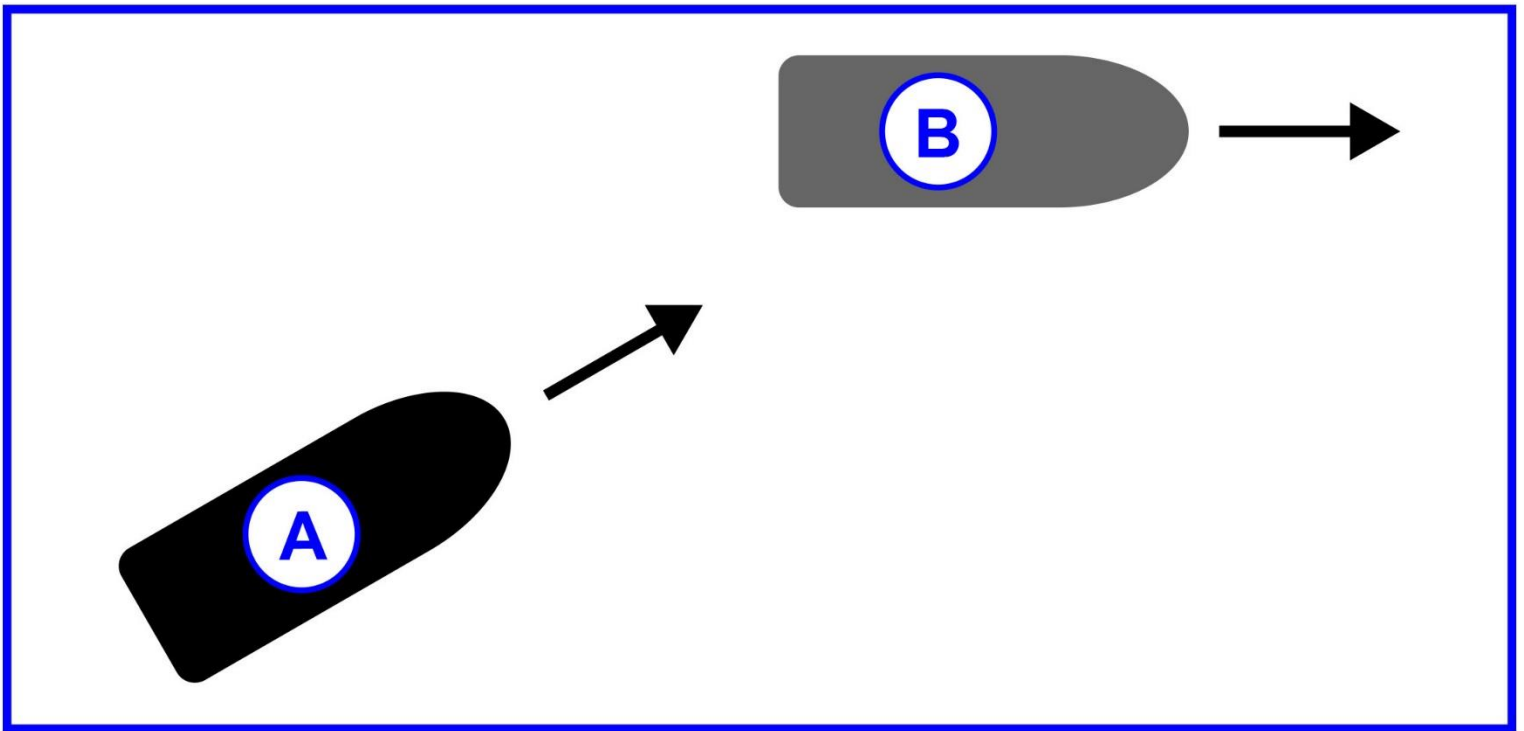
*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**50. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** When may a pilot vessel continue to sound an identity signal in fog?

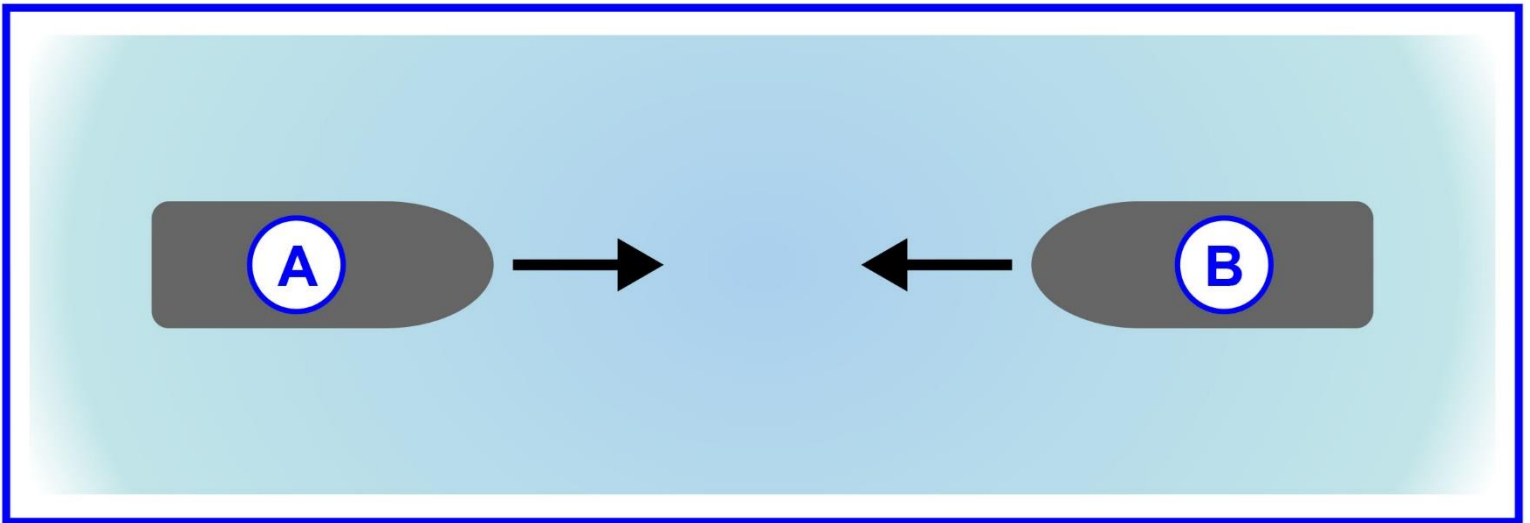
- ☒ (A) When at anchor
- ☐ (B) When not under command
- ☐ (C) When aground
- ☐ (D) When no longer on pilotage duty

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

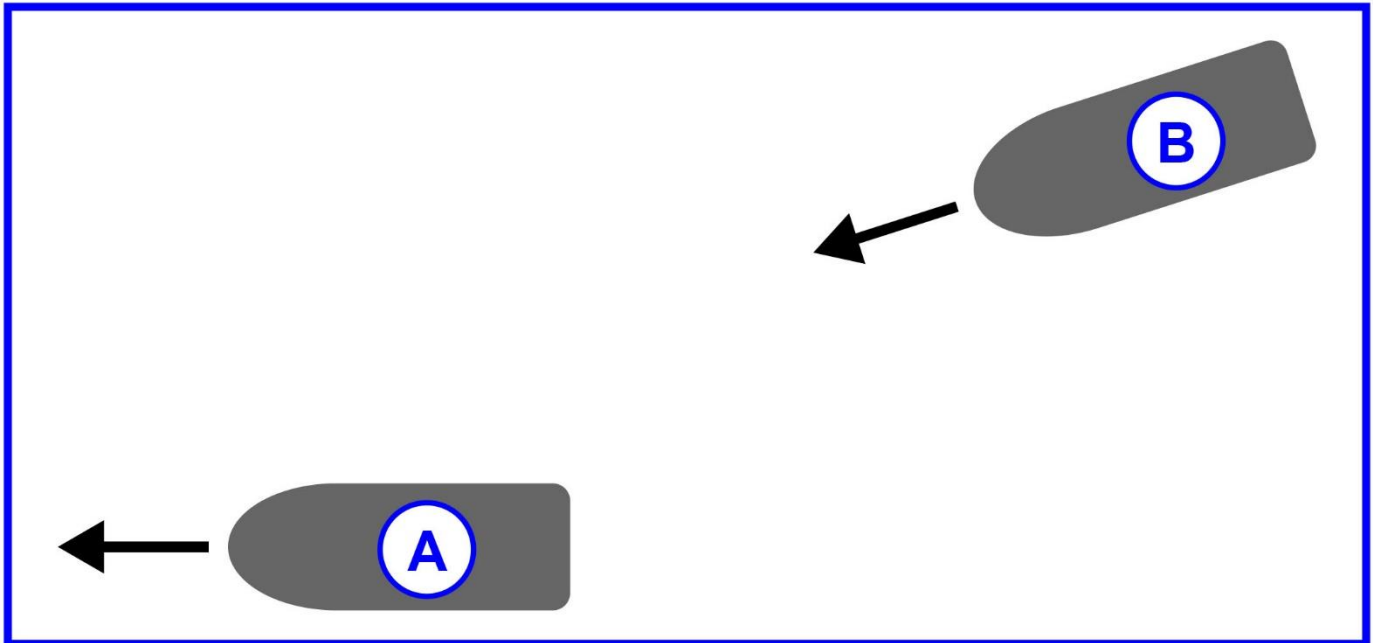
## D015RR



**D037RR**



## D038RR



**D042RR**

