

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. What could be used as fairleads on a towed vessel?

- (A) Roller chocks
- (B) Double bits
- (C) Chocks
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

2. Why is the effect of ocean current usually more evident on a tug and tow than on a tug navigating independently?

- (A) The towline catches the current
- (B) The current causes yawing
- (C) The current will offset the tow
- (D) The speed of the tug and tow is less

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

3. Fairleads perform the same function as which item?

- (A) Bollards
- (B) Deadeyes
- (C) Doublers
- (D) Chocks

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

4. When should you conduct a visual inspection of your towline?

- (A) Whenever its serviceability is in doubt.
- (B) At least once a month.
- (C) In accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.
- (D) All of the above

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

5. Your vessel is broken down and rolling in heavy seas. How can you reduce the danger of capsizing?

- (A) Move all passengers to the stern
- (B) Rigging a sea anchor
- (C) Move all passengers to one side of the boat
- (D) Constantly shifting the rudder

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

6. What action should you take if your tow sinks in shallow water?
- (A) Shorten cable to keep it off the bottom
 - (B) Pay out cable until it's on the bottom and place a buoy on the upper end
 - (C) Release it immediately
 - (D) Attempt to beach it before it goes under

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

7. To lead the towing hawser over the center of the stern when not under a strain you could take which action?
- (A) Fairlead it through a stern roller chock
 - (B) Lead it through the Norman pins
 - (C) Hold it in the median position by a gob rope
 - (D) All of the above if the vessel is so equipped

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

8. Which knot in illustration D030DG below should be used to secure a line to a spar when the pull is parallel to the spar?
- (A) G
 - (B) F
 - (C) P
 - (D) Q

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

9. Which best describes a "fishplate" used in towing?
- (A) A circular piece of heavy steel with three holes forming an equilateral triangle
 - (B) A rectangular-shaped piece of heavy steel plate with four holes
 - (C) A steel plate in the shape of a flat fish
 - (D) A triangular-shaped heavy steel plate with a round hole inset from each corner

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

10. You are attempting to take a dead ship in tow. All lines have been passed and secured. How should you get underway?

- (A) Order minimum turns until the towing hawser is taut and then continue at that speed until towing speed is attained.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Gradually apply power until catenary almost breaks the water, but keep the catenary in 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.

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

11. 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) Becket bend
- (C) Square knot
- (D) Figure-eight knot

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

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

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

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

13. What is the mechanical advantage of tackle number 7 as shown in illustration D029DG below?

- (A) 0.0
- (B) 0.5
- (C) 1.0
- (D) 2.0

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

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

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

15. On a long ocean tow, the bridle should be made up of two equal lengths of which material?

- (A) Wire
- (B) Nylon
- (C) Polyester
- (D) Chain

If choice D is selected set score to 1.

16. 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.

17. Which is an advantage of nylon rope over manila rope?

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

If choice C is selected set score to 1.

18. A tow of 9 barges is made up three abreast and three long. The towboat is faced up to the center string. What is the name of this string?

- (A) Main string
- (B) Push string
- (C) Power string
- (D) Face string

If choice B is selected set score to 1.

19. Which synthetic rope has the greatest breaking strength?

- (A) Polyethylene
- (B) Polyglycine
- (C) Polyester
- (D) Polypropylene

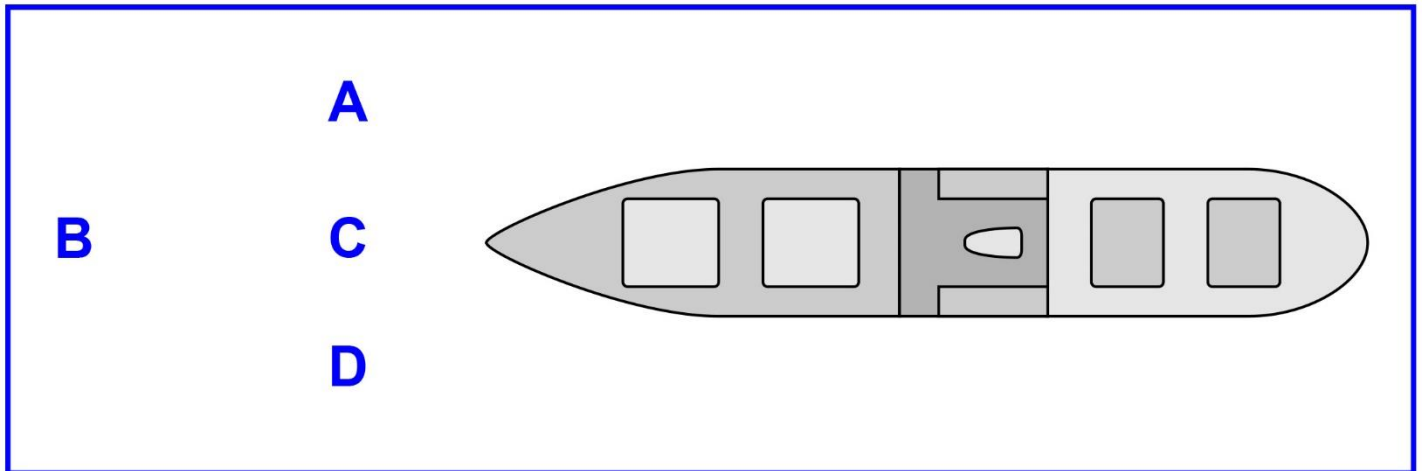
If choice C is selected set score to 1.

20. The vessel shown in illustration D025DG has broken down and you are going to take her in tow. The wind is coming from her starboard beam. You are making more leeway than she. Where should you position your vessel when you start running lines?

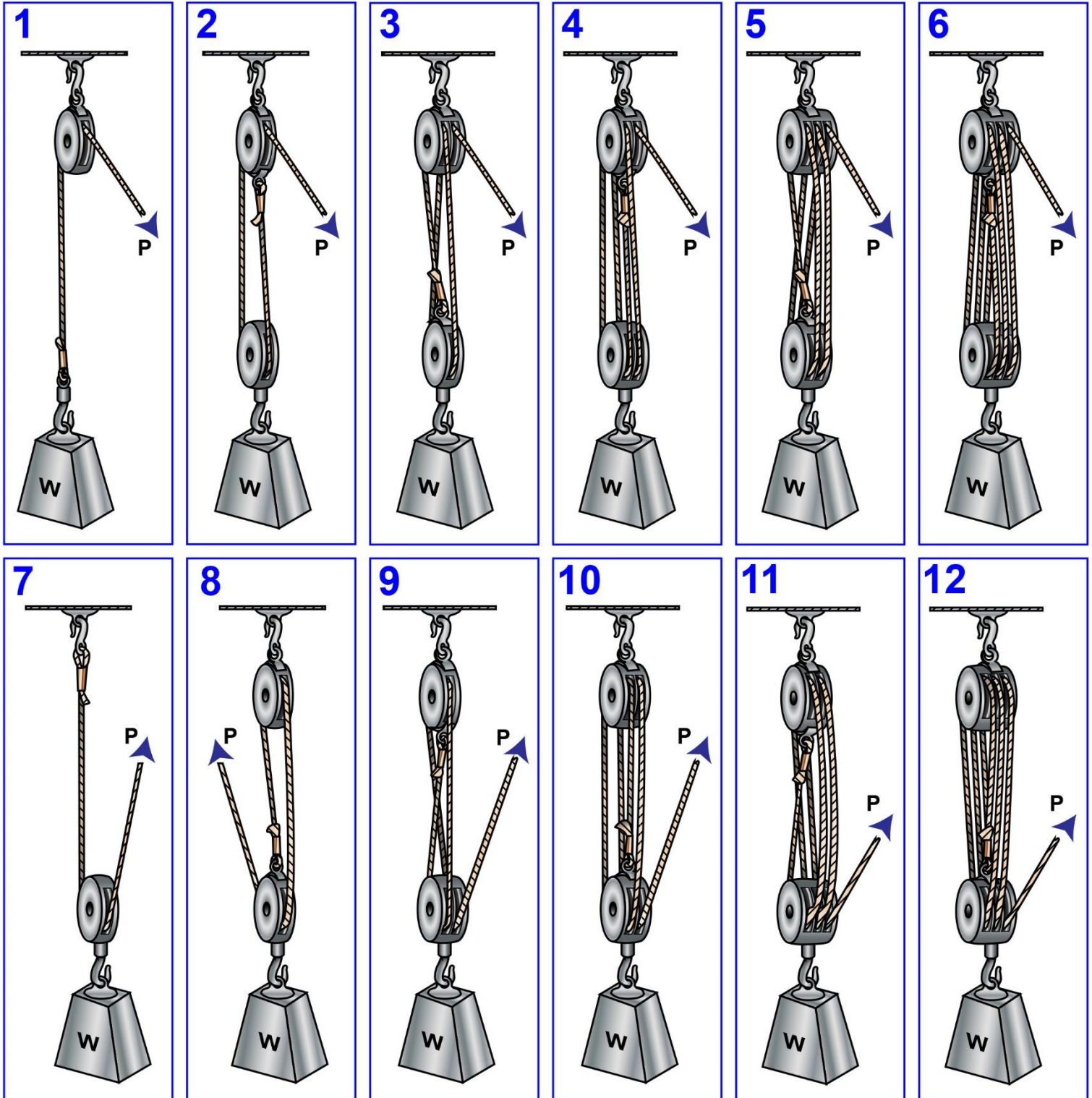
- (A) A
- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

If choice A is selected set score to 1.

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