

A vs. Blair

17.06.2014

Duration: 35 minutes

PASS

Spent the night in the nunnery, nice place and the best night's sleep I'd had in weeks.

Finally when it was time I went into the office at 12:45. Once in I had to wait until 13:25 because there was a delay. Then Blair came and got me, took me into the exam room and we started. I surprised myself with how nervous I felt for the first few questions and during one question I was stuttering the answer. I stopped, we both laughed and I continued more relaxed as he knew I was only human. For there on, I settled in and became a lot more confident in my answer.

I know I've forgotten some already but here are some of the questions:

What are the requirements for survival craft on passenger ships?

How would you launch a life raft? (make sure you mention that you would check over the side even if you are using canister retaining lines)

What inventory is in a life raft? Started off confident then struggled to get each one out without stuttering, stopped at 5 things and said it was all the inventory contained in a SOLAS pack A.

What is the difference between SOLAS pack A and B?

How would you indicate distress in a life raft?

How would you beach a life raft? Quoted what Mr Bradbury had taught us.

Pilot ladder requirements? Could only remember 4 things!

Why do you use manila rope?

Pilot tries to board the vessel without a lifejacket?

Pilot falls off the pilot ladder, your actions?

What signal would the vessel sound?

How would you carry out the planning stage of a passage plan?

What would you write on the chart?

Why would you write outside 3' and outside 12' on the chart?

Garbage requirements of MARPOL?

Sewage requirements of MARPOL?

You are going forward for anchoring what are your actions? (Thanks Pammy and Mr Ward for asking me this during my mock orals and the day before)

How would you set up your radar?

What does it get inputs from?

Why is the Doppler input important?

What is the difference between sea stab and ground stab?

Can you remove your heading marker on the radar?

East cardinal buoy

Preferred channel without a topmark? (Would need topmark to determine what buoy it is)

Preferred channel to starboard, leaving San Francisco, which side do you keep it on?

Sailing vessel on my starboard side, actions?

Sailing vessel on my starboard side in a TSS, action?

Towing vessel on my starboard side in a TSS action?

What is the day signal for a towing vessel? It was less than 200m (trying to catch me out!)

What is this? It was a fishing vessel either viewed from astern or with gear extending 150m

Overtaking situation asked what I would do?

Radar plot in restricted visibility, vessel on my starboard side with a relative vector towards me, actions?

Then he looked at the clock, and as I was answering the next question I saw him stamp my NOE. BEST FEELING EVER.

Have you read any reports on the Costa Concordia?

What do you think the reason for the incident was? Said a lot was due to human error, BRM was not carried out correctly.

Then he told me I had passed!

Final thing: Be aware of the MCA Office door, it requires expert skill to open especially when you're carrying all your stuff. Try pressing the button with your left hand and using your right leg to push the door open.

Thanks to everyone in the class for all the help over the last few weeks and all the laughs over the last 3 years. Thanks to Mr Ward and Mr Jowett for all the help they've given me as well.

Good luck to everyone still to go, may the odds be in your favour!