

DF Orals Report

Examiner- Alec Keep

19/Nov/15 @ 10:45

Exam time: 40 minutes

Result- Pass

We arrived the night before and stayed at Crosby Leisure Centre, its about 2 miles from the exam centre and a very nice place to stay, they do dinner the night before and breakfast is included in the morning.

I was sat in the in the waiting room of the exam centre for about 10 minutes after signing in and was called into the exam room by my examiner, Keep started off by asking for my discharge book, passport and TRB. First thing he did was flick through my passport and discharge book and asking me about the ships I was on and the ports that I joined and disembarked from. He noticed that I joined my first ship in San Francisco and kept coming back to this throughout the exam.

He started the exam by taking out SOLAS and flicked though the chapters asking me questions on them as he went.

-What certificates are required to be carried on board?

-How often do these certificates need to be renewed?

-How would you determine the centre of gravity of a ship? It took me a while to remember this but it was by doing an inclining experiment,

-On a passenger ship weight could be accumulated over time. How would you know the centre of gravity hasn't changed? I couldn't figure this out I just told him by doing another inclining experiment but he told me it's done my removing everything carried on the ship and reading the drafts, I think he said if there's a 20cm increase then another inclining experiment should be done

-What's the minimum GM that a ship can have?

-Your ship had vertical subdivisions below the main bulkhead deck. How did you get through these bulkheads? What's the horizontal distance between the fire zones?

-If you open the watertight door and then take your hand of the handle would the door automatically start to close?

-What means are there of opening watertight doors?

-How many fireman suits are there on a passenger ship?

-How is this different from a cargo ship?

-You see a fire in a cabin with the door cracked open. Action?

-What is different on passenger ships with fire hydrants? He was looking for each hydrant had to have a hose and nozzle connected and the fire pump must start automatically,

-How many rescue boats did you have on your last ship?

-What's the difference between a rescue boat and a fast rescue boat?

- How many abandon ship and fire drills must be carried on a passenger ship? How is this different from a cargo ship?
  - Stated to read a regulation "ships must carry out an abandon ship and fire drill within 24h of leaving port... When?... 25% crew change
  - What sea area was your last ship equipped to sail in with GMDSS equipment? I said A4 but I've only ever been in A3
  - Where is sea area A4? What's different about this area?
  - You have to carry emergency handheld GMDSS radios. What's special about these?
  - What do I understand by ships routeing? I said about the routeing guide and TSS. How would I navigate in a TSS?
  - Where could I find more information in dangerous goods in packaged form?
  - What classes can you remember? How is the DG marked on the container? How many sides is it marked on?.. For this I said 2 but he told me it was 4.
  - Asked about how to use segregation tables?
  - What does an inert gas system do? Where does it get the inert gas from?
  - Why is there no chapter about tankers in SOLAS? What convention is there that
  - How do you start the emergency generator?
  - What methods do you have of position fixing?
  - Gave me a synoptic chart and asked me what weather would I expect in the Irish sea? There was a storm over Northern Ireland.
  - Actions on entering restricted vis?
  - Gave me a radar plot, relative vectors overtaking a vessel on my starboard bow. He gave me a true vector to indicate my speed. I quoted rule 19 then said I would come to starboard, he said that's not what I just told him so I said I could also come to port because I was overtaking.
  - Power driven vessel 5° abaft my starboard beam. Actions? When would it become overtaking?
  - Same vessel crossing on my starboard bow. Im now in a TSS
  - Then took away the masthead lights and just left the red light and said what's the difference now, still in a TSS.
  - Fishing vessel crossing from port. Day signal? Action?
  - How would I know if a vessel is CBD when I am 12 miles away and can't see the lights or shapes he is displaying?
  - CBD on port side
- He never asked to see my Nav and Ops workbooks and was very helpful and explained anything that I didn't know. All the questions were short answer questions and I was never speaking about anything for more than a minute.

Big thanks to all the lecturers who helped us over the last few weeks especially to Mr Ward! You've all been a massive help and put in loads of time to help us pass!

Best of luck to everyone still to go!