

28th November 2014

HK Vs Captain Ian Blair

Result : PASS

Time: 1 Hour and 20 minutes

I'll get straight to it. Here we go

As soon as I sat down he asked me if I knew the previous candidate, I said yes. He then said I assume you were on a fully ECDIS ship then, ' So lets start with paper charts.'

He placed in front of me the entrance to Liverpool.

1. What's the Variation in the area

*Just read it off and worked it out*

2. What is Variation?

*Angular measurement between Magnetic and True North's*

3. What is deviation? Why do you use it? Where would you find out about the deviation?

4. North Cardinal Mark on the chart. Colour, Rhythm light, Actions?

5. Pointed at a reporting point and Pilot, What is it?

6. Is this chart up to date?

*I told him it was, and he asked where would you look if there was new issue of this chart. Weekly Notice Section 2, (Charts Affected)*

7. What is in the Weekly Notice and Cumulative Notice?

*Reeled off all the sections of the Weekly, and told him how section 8 was used on board as we had digital products.*

5. What position fixing methods would you use in this area?

*I said radar ranges and bearing, he then said from what. I said from conspicuous points of land. He later pointed out to me that the coast was sandy and a slope like topography. I then realised that I would not get a good return from a radar off such an obstruction.*

*He then asked me what I would do if I was sailing past Dover. I realised immediately that I would get a good return off the cliffs. I explained the principle of Radar to explain myself.*

6. What other means of position fixing would you use?

*GPS and he asked for the errors, briefly described all of them.*

*Transits, for the life of me I couldn't find any transits off the land, he then pointed towards the bottom left of the chart, and I noticed the wind farm.*

7. What's PI's

*I told him how our ships had a big windage area so we used PIs to keep us on track.*

8. What ECDIS alarms do you have?

*I related this question back to the last one, I would get an cross track alarm, when I moved off course*

*by 2 cables (On my last ship)*

*Safety Depth, Safety Contour, waypoint approaching*

9. How would you passage plan on ECDIS?

*I avoided the whole APEM, but related to them as much as I could.*

10. What's the disadvantages of X band Radars?

*Weather*

11. How would you use an EPRIB?

12. What has to happen every three months for LSA?

*I said every lifeboat had to be lowered and manoeuvred in the water, I knew what the next question was at this point.*

13. How do you lower the boat for that operation?

*I explained the whole procedure, as I got to 1m above the water I COMPLETELY FORGOT I HAD FPD'S in, and I gave the order for lowering into the water. As soon as I said release the hooks I remembered my FPD were in. I told him I would take out the FPD's at 1m, he smiled and moved on.*

14. Markings on a lifeboat?

15. Requirements for Fall Wire inspection?

*I told him the requirements for end for end and renewal. He then threw a curve ball and asked me what is the difference in construction between, a wire for the provisions crane and the wire for the fall wire. I didn't know. he then said what would it mean to you if I said 8X36. I said 36 mm in diameter. Dont know if that was right **this is 36 wires in eight strands ie extra flexible wire jw***

11. What is Squat? Symptoms? and rectifying actions?

*Stock answer*

12. What is the IMDG Code?

*Explained what's in both volumes and supplement, mentioned the segregation table and the EMS schedule. I related this to MARPOL annexe 3, so that he would ask me about marpol however he was having none of my 'leading him on' trying to play to my strengths.*

13. Bridge Departure Checks?

*Mentioned everything, he didnt ask me to do steering or set up radar. as I mentioend a brief explanation within the checks.*

14. I receive a DSC alert VHF 70, Actions?

*I asked him what sea area I was in, he asked does it matter, I said yes, because depending where I have received it, I can ascertain if a Coast station will. He told me I was in A3. I then explained what I would have done.*

*As soon as I said I'd relay the message, he asked me what I would say over RT.*

*He then said what I would say to the ship in distress. THANK YOU MR TAYLOR. I remembered 'Mayday Recieved'*

15. Once you've proceeded to the area in concern (GMDSS) what are you going to do?

THANK YOU MR ANWAR, *Would carry out a Sector Search, as I know the datum. He was more than happy.*

15. What's the difference between a Rescue Boat and Fast Rescue Boat?

*I couldn't think of a good answer for this, nor did I read anything about this. But I remembered a port state inspection we had onboard and the staff captain talking about, a certain speed a rescue boat has to do to be called that. So I mentioned it.*

16. What is an MSN?

*I told him what it was and a vague description of a Statutory Instrument. He wanted to know how an MSN comes about. He then asked me what MSN's do you know, I mentioned the Health and safety work act, or some sort of vague name, he started smiling and said, all of you know this one dont you? (Talking about AV's answer)*

17. He asked me about the construction of Fall wires ????

I was clueless, then he asked me how is a fall wire different to your provisions crane wire. I said I dont know. Then he said, if you cut it in half how would it look like. I said its would be so constructed like a spiral and it had some sort of heart. He then said what would does it mean to you if I said 8x36. I went its 36mm diameter....he wasn't too impressed. **As above normally 6 x 36 or 7 x 17**

ROR and Buoyage

18. Towing vessel more than 50m and length of tow less than 200m stbd aspect, he then passed me the smarty board and told me to put it on the board.

Once I did it, he put it behind the models and said you are crossing a TSS, and the towing vessel is operating in the lane, actions.... crossing situation, I am Stand on with caution

19. CBD on my port side crossing, shapes and spacing of lights, actions? Define Safe passage? Actions and obligations of both vessels.?

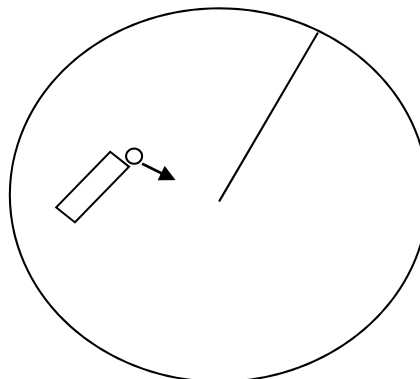
20. Trawler stbd side underway making way, on my port side, actions? shapes? Fog Signal?

21. Vessel aground 100m in length. Fog Signal

22. Buoyage?

He said I was in a channel and he put a starboard hand lateral preferred channel to port in front of me with a red spar buoy on the port side. He then asked what top mark will the spar have. and what the direction of buoyage was.

Radar Plot Restricted Visibility



As soon as I explained what was happening and I would alter course to starboard, he said now you HEAR A PROLONGED BLAST OF A FOG SIGNAL FORWARD OF YOUR BEAM. I then just quoted the last part of Rule 19, and said I would reduce my speed to a minimum so that I can be kept safely on my course.

He then took his seat and said Mr Kadir Well done You've Passed !!!

Guys, all the hard work you put in, all the long nights and early mornings, will be all worth it as soon as those words come out of his mouth. There were more questions than this but I cant seem to remember anymore !

A wholehearted thank you goes out to the whole class, for the continued support during the past 3 years. And to all the lecturers, especially Mr Ward, for the time and effort he puts in for us to pass the most challenging task to date.