

Assessment for the Competency of Boatmen

The competency assessment shall, whenever possible, be carried out in the boat to be used by the boatmen and the emphasis of the examination shall be placed on the local knowledge of boat handling.

1. Local Knowledge.

- Local signals and traffic regulations.
- Local sea marks, to include, lights, leading lights and marks.
- Local dangers to navigation. Minimum and maximum depths over banks or obstructions, currents and abnormal tidal streams. Local safe landing places in differing weather conditions. A general knowledge of the times and heights of spring and abnormal tides.
- Safe compass courses in and out of local harbours.
- Any other items of local knowledge which the examiners may consider to be necessary.

2. Emergencies.

Procedures and instructions to passengers in the following cases:-

- Man overboard.
- Fire.
- Engine breakdown.
- Beaching or stranding.
- Collision.
- Abandoning ship or sinking, i.e. use of L.S.A.

3. International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea.

Candidates should demonstrate a practical knowledge of the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

4. Distress Signals.

A candidate should have a knowledge of the operation and use of distress signals carried in the boat or boats for which the candidate is being examined.

5. Compass

The candidate should be required to demonstrate his ability to steer a compass course and take a rough bearing. He should have an elementary knowledge of the effects of iron, steel and/or magnetised metal in the vicinity of the compass.

6. Use of the Sea Anchor.

7. Weather Reports.

When and where applicable.

8. Buoyage.

Candidates should demonstrate a working knowledge of the system.

9. Meaning of Common Chart Symbols.

10. Knots, Hitches, Bends and Splices in General Use.

11. A knowledge of the distress and rescue section of the Annual Notices to Mariners, including the use of Breeches Buoy.

12. Boat Handling Instruction.

Where instruction is necessary, it should be given by properly qualified persons.

13. Engine Knowledge.

Basic knowledge of day to day engine and battery checks,. The requirement for servicing and routine maintenance of propulsion and auxiliary machinery.

14. Passenger Safety.

Safety briefing.

15. Basic Sea Survival/Water Safety.

16. Communications.

Note – reference may be made to the syllabus for the DTp Boatmaster's Licence Grade 3 (see M.Notice 1525).