

This exam is designed to test your understanding of safe boating. It has 60 multiple choice questions. Your answers will be recorded on an answer sheet. Read each exam item carefully. Choose the best answer and mark your answer on the answer sheet. When you have answered all the questions, place the answer sheet into the envelope provided and mail for grading and processing. If you pass the exam, a certificate will be mailed to the address listed on the exam form.

Answer Sheet Guidelines

- An answer sheet is provided in the packet along with a self-addressed envelope for mailing the completed form to the Division of Boating and Waterways for scoring.
- Remove the answer sheet and clearly print your name and address in the spaces provided.
- Fill in the corresponding letters and numbers in each column.
- Make only one mark per column.
- Erase completely to make any changes.



1. **Under which condition is a person at greatest risk of developing hypothermia?**
 - A. sitting in the sun for a long time
 - B. dehydration from lack of liquid
 - C. prolonged exposure to cold air
 - D. being immersed in cold water

2. **How will a boat perform if it is loaded beyond its capacity?**
 - A. it will be easier to stop
 - B. it will create little wake
 - C. it will be difficult to control
 - D. it will be substantially faster

3. **A life jacket on your vessel should be sized for which person on board?**
 - A. the largest person
 - B. the smallest person
 - C. average sized person
 - D. its intended wearer

4. **On a 15-foot boat, which object is required to be on-board?**
 - A. a working VHF radio or cell phone
 - B. a copy of the Navigation Rules Book
 - C. at least ten feet of extra line
 - D. one Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person

5. **When is it good advice for adults to wear Coast Guard-approved life jackets?**
 - A. when in bad weather
 - B. during the night time
 - C. at all times when aboard
 - D. only when boating alone

6. **What should be done with a badly discolored Coast Guard-approved life jacket with a torn strap?**
 - A. discard and replace it
 - B. dye it to restore its color
 - C. keep it and buy a new one
 - D. mend or replace the strap
7. **Which safety precaution should be taken first by a boat operator when boating in stormy weather?**
 - A. close all the windows, doors and hatches
 - B. broadcast a “MAYDAY” call on the radio
 - C. immediately ask the Coast Guard for help
 - D. make sure all aboard are wearing life jackets
8. **Motorboats under 26-feet with installed fuel tank(s) are required to have which type of fire extinguisher on-board?**
 - A. Type A
 - B. Type B
 - C. Type C
 - D. Type D
9. **Which are Coast Guard-approved visual distress signals?**
 - A. cellular telephones
 - B. red meteor flares
 - C. white-striped red flags
 - D. halon fire extinguishers
10. **If too much weight is placed on a hitch, what affect can it have on the tow vehicle?**
 - A. focus of the headlights is lowered so the road is not properly illuminated
 - B. front end will lift and make the vehicle difficult to control
 - C. gas mileage will be reduced
 - D. wider turns will be required
11. **To stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species, when is the best time to clean your boat?**
 - A. before you leave home
 - B. when you get back home
 - C. before you leave the ramp area
 - D. prior to launching at a different waterway
12. **What do a red, green, and white light indicate when seen together at night?**
 - A. it is the bow of another vessel heading straight toward you
 - B. it is the port side of another vessel crossing your bow
 - C. it is the starboard side of another vessel crossing your bow
 - D. it is the stern side of another vessel that you are overtaking
13. **When operating a boat near other boats or when entering a congested area, why should you watch your wake?**
 - A. it may be used to estimate boat speed
 - B. it may cause personal injury or damage
 - C. it should not be more than three inches high
 - D. it can be used to judge clearance from other boats

14. Which is a common first indicator of an approaching thunderstorm?
- A. a decrease in wind speed
 - B. a glassy sheen on the water surface
 - C. threatening clouds such as thunderheads
 - D. the development of a fog bank
15. Which of the following is recommended as part of the annual maintenance program for a gasoline-powered boat?
- A. examination of thru-hull fittings for signs of leakage or corrosion
 - B. calibration and re-installation of an automotive-type fuel pump
 - C. drain and check bilge along with topping off the anti-freeze level
 - D. change the spark plugs with automotive plugs and check spark distance
16. What is the main reason operators are involved with collisions with reefs/shoals or submerged hazards?
- A. overloaded with too many passengers
 - B. have poorly maintained safety equipment
 - C. did not check for local hazards prior to launch
 - D. experience sudden lightning and thunderstorms
17. Who has the primary responsibility for the safety of all persons aboard a recreational boat?
- A. boat operator
 - B. rental agency
 - C. insurance company
 - D. boat manufacturer
18. What is the cause of most fatal boating accidents?
- A. bad weather
 - B. operator error
 - C. poor boat design
 - D. equipment defects
19. In what part of the boat are gasoline fumes most likely to accumulate?
- A. bow
 - B. stern
 - C. bilge
 - D. cockpit
20. Under the Department of Homeland Security, what action should boat operators take to ensure the safety of everyone on the nation's waterways?
- A. take photos and video of military ships
 - B. operate in commercial port operation areas
 - C. anchor under bridges and highway overpasses
 - D. report suspicious activities to the proper authorities
21. What is the main danger of teak surfing, body surfing or platform dragging?
- A. the participant could hit a rock or a snag
 - B. the operator might become distracted
 - C. exposure to lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide
 - D. the participant would not be visible to other boaters

- 22. How does alcohol use affect boat operators or passengers?**
- A. depth perception becomes sharper
 - B. reasoning ability becomes quicker
 - C. physical reactions become slower
 - D. balance and sense of direction improve
- 23. Under the influence of alcohol, what happens to a person's reasoning ability?**
- A. it becomes quicker
 - B. it becomes stronger
 - C. it becomes clearer
 - D. it becomes weaker
- 24. How does drinking alcohol while boating effect other conditions related to being out on the water?**
- A. minimizes the wind burn
 - B. increases feelings of fatigue
 - C. reduces exposure to the sun
 - D. keeps the body hydrated
- 25. What is a boat operator required to do at all times while the boat is underway?**
- A. maintain a proper lookout
 - B. use the running lights
 - C. stay seated or kneeling
 - D. monitor the VHF radio
- 26. When can a Navigation Rule be overlooked?**
- A. when operating less than 50-feet off shore
 - B. in good visibility during the day
 - C. if necessary to avoid immediate danger
 - D. during clear weather and in calm water
- 27. Maintaining a proper lookout using human sight and hearing applies to boats under what circumstances?**
- A. commercial boats that lack radar
 - B. all boats at all hours
 - C. all boats during times of poor visibility
 - D. private boats when acting as commercial vessels
- 28. What should you do first if a passenger falls overboard while your boat is at anchor?**
- A. raise the anchor and start the motor
 - B. send one of the crew into the water to help
 - C. immediately call the Coast Guard for assistance
 - D. throw a Type IV Coast Guard-approved life jacket to the passenger
- 29. Which is the most important factor in determining a safe vessel speed on any given day?**
- A. horsepower rating
 - B. traffic density
 - C. vessel length
 - D. engine temperature

- 30. According to the Navigation Rules, a risk of imminent collision exists in which situation?**
- A. boats are operating in open waters less than 40-feet from each other
 - B. a vessel is exiting an area of commercial vessels
 - C. a vessel is operating in a marine sanctuary
 - D. the course of an approaching vessel does not change
- 31. When a power-driven vessel is being overtaken by a sailboat, which is the stand-on vessel?**
- A. the power-driven vessel
 - B. the sailboat, if under sail
 - C. the sailboat, if under power
 - D. neither; both are give-way vessels
- 32. According to the navigation rules, what factor should be considered in determining a safe speed?**
- A. the amount of fuel
 - B. the state of visibility
 - C. the maximum speed of the vessel
 - D. the number of passengers
- 33. What immediate action should you take when operating a boat if you hear the fog signal of another boat you cannot see?**
- A. sound a danger signal
 - B. slow to minimum speed
 - C. consult your radar.
 - D. post additional lookouts
- 34. In U.S. coastal waters, what color are cone-shaped, even-numbered nun buoys?**
- A. yellow
 - B. red
 - C. green
 - D. orange
- 35. Regulatory and informational markers are easily identified through which features?**
- A. vertical black and white striping
 - B. triangular shape and red lettering
 - C. yellow square or rectangular symbol
 - D. white color with orange geometric shapes
- 36. What is the main factor to consider when planning your vessel's approach to a dock where you intend to tie up?**
- A. strength of the wind or current
 - B. length of the vessel's anchor line
 - C. braking capacity of the vessel
 - D. overnight weather forecast
- 37. What is the proper method for lowering an anchor?**
- A. over the stern
 - B. from the bow
 - C. over the port side
 - D. from the starboard quarter

- 38. Which is the best precaution against carbon monoxide poisoning?**
- A. install a battery-operated smoke alarm
 - B. keep fresh air flowing through the vessel
 - C. run the engine blower when underway
 - D. stay in the stern area of the vessel when underway
- 39. What is the primary responsibility for a vessel operator assisting a boat in distress?**
- A. notifying the Coast Guard of the situation
 - B. finding fault with the operator of the distressed boat
 - C. operating the radio on the distressed boat
 - D. keeping his/her vessel and him/herself out of danger
- 40. What should you do if your boat capsizes?**
- A. begin to swim for the closest shore
 - B. stay with the boat and climb on top of it
 - C. swim toward the last vessel you passed
 - D. tread water to reduce the risk of hypothermia
- 41. Where should you aim a fire extinguisher's stream when extinguishing a fire?**
- A. at the top of the fire and use little motion
 - B. toward the center of the fire and use a circular motion
 - C. near the edge of the fire and use a rapid motion
 - D. at the base of the fire and use a sweeping motion
- 42. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, what are the leading causes of recreational boating fatalities?**
- A. swamping and sinking
 - B. collisions with other boats
 - C. mechanical errors
 - D. capsizing and falling overboard
- 43. Which of the following poses the greatest risk of serious injury to a person in the water near a powerboat?**
- A. getting burned by hot exhaust
 - B. being struck by a moving propeller
 - C. becoming snagged by a fishing line
 - D. trying to re-board over the side
- 44. Which term is used to describe a vessel that touches the bottom and gets stuck?**
- A. flooded
 - B. swamped
 - C. grounded
 - D. foundered
- 45. While water-skiing, what is the preferred form of communication between the skier and the observer?**
- A. hand signals
 - B. verbal commands
 - C. rope movements
 - D. ski positions

46. **Which can create a hazard in jet drive boats?**
- A. excessive hull vibration may compromise steering
 - B. water in the jet drive system may cause corrosion
 - C. jet propulsion boats may slow reaction time
 - D. debris may be caught in the drive intake area
47. **Which is a characteristic of personal watercraft maneuverability?**
- A. they stop quickly when the throttle is released
 - B. they stop quickly when the engine is shut off
 - C. they steer well at idle speed
 - D. they allow for little steering control at idle
48. **Who has primary responsibility for preventing a PWC accident?**
- A. the PWC operator
 - B. the Coast Guard
 - C. the PWC manufacturer
 - D. the passenger(s)
49. **Which is the most stable position for canoe paddlers?**
- A. standing
 - B. kneeling
 - C. sitting
 - D. crouching
50. **When can a PWC be operated at night in California?**
- A. always
 - B. never
 - C. spring and summer seasons
 - D. if the boat has navigation lights
51. **Which agency must receive a boating accident report within 10 days if an accident involves more than \$500 in damage?**
- A. Department of Motor Vehicles
 - B. Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - C. California Division of Boating and Waterways
 - D. Coast Guard's Accident Reconstruction Unit
52. **According to California law, at what blood alcohol concentration level is a person considered to be "under the influence" when operating a recreational boat?**
- A. .04 percent or more
 - B. .06 percent or more
 - C. .08 percent or more
 - D. .10 percent or more
53. **According to California law, at what blood alcohol concentration level is it illegal for a person younger than 21 to operate a vessel?**
- A. .01 percent or more
 - B. .04 percent or more
 - C. .08 percent or more
 - D. .10 percent or more

54. **What is the minimum unsupervised age for operating a motorboat of more than 15 horsepower?**
- A. 12
 - B. 16
 - C. 18
 - D. 21
55. **People who hunt or fish from a boat should follow the boating safety rules and practices established by which organization(s)?**
- A. the Association of Insurance Underwriters
 - B. the Coast Guard and applicable state boating agencies
 - C. boat manufacturers and dealers
 - D. national hunting and fishing clubs
56. **Which vessels must be registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles?**
- A. documented motorboats and auxiliary powered sailboats
 - B. undocumented motorboats and sailboats more than 8 feet long
 - C. trailerable motorboats and auxiliary powered sailboats
 - D. undocumented sailboats and motorboats of all sizes
57. **If jumping another boat's wake, what must a personal watercraft operator do?**
- A. stay at least 100 feet away from the other vessel
 - B. increase speed so that the personal watercraft is not thrown off course
 - C. slow down to reduce the danger of capsizing
 - D. turn off the engine and wait for the wake to pass
58. **On a recreational boat, the location of emergency equipment such as life jackets, fire extinguishers, visual distress signals and the radio should be reviewed before departure with which persons?**
- A. all non-swimmers
 - B. paid crew members
 - C. everyone aboard
 - D. adults over age 21
59. **You may not exceed 5 miles per hour when operating within how many feet of a swimmer?**
- A. 100 feet
 - B. 200 feet
 - C. 300 feet
 - D. 500 feet
60. **If a vessel is stopped by law enforcement for observed teak surfing activity, who could be cited?**
- A. the teak surfer
 - B. the observer on board
 - C. the vessel operator
 - D. each person on board