



ICS Examiners Report

Introduction to Shipping 2011

Overall Comments

The trend with Introduction to Shipping was a higher pass rate, a result of candidates submitting higher quality work than in previous years. Pleasingly very few candidates failed to attempt the required FIVE questions. Better scores would have been obtained if some candidates had taken the time to properly read ALL of the question and answered each part accordingly.

Question One

The unpopularity of this question was really surprising, especially considering the continuing press coverage given to this topic. Many of the answers received a poor score due to the candidates NOT reading the question properly. This question is a classic example where a few words in the introduction in the form of question analysis, would have provided both a structure for the answer and a discipline for answering each different section. Whilst most answers gave some positive effects of possible changes, very few examined the adverse side; for example, the result of rising water levels.

Question Two

The most popular question with the detailed answers reflecting general awareness of the situation. Comments were knowledgeable and included the effects upon freight rates, insurance premiums, deviation from the established voyage routes and the effect upon those countries neighbouring the 'Horn of Africa'. Principal criticism focuses upon failure to mention of the International Maritime Board's role and the global effect upon world trade. Several answers gave interesting accounts concerning the root causes of piracy.

Question Three

Another unpopular question interpreted by many as requiring a longitudinal section; however, in fairness, many answers gave both the required CROSS-section and a LONGDITUDINAL section. The correct answers were pleasingly well illustrated and described, although there was much confusion between bulk carriers and tankers/container ships: perhaps this is a possible reflection upon the number of students who are employed in the Liner Trades.

Question Four

The comparatively few answers to this question were answered in a knowledgeable and informative way, demonstrating some interesting opinions upon, 'Choosing their own Judges' Action through the courts was described with particular reference to the 'Appeals Process'.

Question Five

A relatively popular question, which considering the threshold nature of this paper, produced well informed answers, making them more interesting through reading the various approaches to financial control systems throughout the global student locations. A main problem was the lack of detailed comment upon variance analysis and the implementation of the necessary remedial action.

Question Six

The third most popular question and quite well answered. There was a definite bias towards providing information on the Liner Agents, which was expected with such a high number of students being involved in Liner Trades; however, there was a good grasp of the Port Agents' duties, contrasted with those of the Liner Agent. A criticism must be levelled against those who totally ignored the second part of the question, asking how the Agents are paid: many of those who did comment were mistakenly under the impression that both Agent types were remunerated with a percentage of freight. Another criticism has unfortunately to be made against those candidates who gave short answers suggesting that the duties of both Agents were similar.

Question Seven

This question was reasonably well answered, with rather pleasingly, most answers demonstrating that students had analysed the question and answered the constituent parts. There was quite a variety of 'Political Events', supplemented by those actually occurring in the examination centres' countries. Whilst plenty was written about the advantages and disadvantages of introducing their own flag fleet, regrettably this requirement was very often confused with the advantages and disadvantages of flying a flag of convenience. Flag discrimination also featured prominently as a 'Political Event'.

Question Eight

Popular and very well answered with good sketches, descriptions and voyage patterns, many of which were depicted upon outline world maps for which a bonus was given. Judging by the detail, students spent considerable time answering this question, which was reflected by the high marks awarded. The only criticism is some confusion between tankers and container ships.