



INTRODUCTION TO SHIPPING

General comments:

The November 2022 paper was a wide-ranging exam covering the major elements of the syllabus.

Most students made a reasonable attempt at the paper with improved time management across the cohort. Students were able to complete most questions with a clear discussion using industry examples. The element of structure is still weak for some students, have a clear introduction, discussion and conclusion is a critical part of exam technique. Unfortunately, some students made errors on the definition questions and the maritime geography questions which could have been better done. Overall the session was a satisfactory performance given a comprehensive Introduction to Shipping paper.

Question 1:

Answer BOTH parts of the question.

- a) Identify and explain the factors of production**
- b) Discuss the concept of absolute advantage**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This question was attempted by a large number of students.

Part a. Many students were unable to identify all the factors of production correctly. The size and capacity of the tankers were incorrect. Land, Labour, Capital and Enterprise should have been discussed and simple examples could have been used to illustrate the answer. Many students did not explain the concept of absolute advantage while others left part b unanswered. The concept of absolute advantage is a key element of the Introduction to Shipping syllabus and is thus highly examinable.

Question 2:

Define and briefly discuss FOUR of the following shipping terms.

- a. **MARPOL**
- b. **ISM**
- c. **STCW**
- d. **SOLAS**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was a straightforward definition question aimed at assessing students ability to define and discuss key IMO conventions. Many students were able to nail this question scoring high marks. But, some did struggle with the STCW. These are critically important international conventions used in the shipping industry and students should be aware of and familiar with them in the future.

Question 3:

3. Discuss the role and functions of ship managers.

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was one of the most popular questions attempted by students. Unfortunately all students were unable to mention all the functions of a ship manager. Also, some provided a lack of detail in their reply. Some students confused the technical and operational management. Overall, this was a really well-done question in spite of the weaker attempts.

Question 4:

Answer BOTH parts of the question:

- a. **Discuss the main sources of revenue and the cost of operating for Port Agents.**
- b. **Explain how Port Agents could best manage their cash flow.**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was one of the least popular questions, and generally was not well answered. Many students were unable to discuss the importance and management of cash flow. Students were expected to discuss that Port Agents have a variety of sources of income from operations and these may include agency fees (specifying services that will be provided) pre-arrival/ operations while vessel is in port and post departure services. It is very important to identify that Agents also receive revenue for husbandry, cost of crew change, delivery of ship spares, cash to master and other services the owner may require while at port.

Question 5:

7. Answer ALL parts of the question.

Define:

- a. Displacement tonnage**
- b. Light displacement**
- c. Deadweight**
- d. Beam**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was the most popular question, with many students giving a satisfactory answer. Ship dimensions is a fundamentally important part of Introduction to shipping. Some students were able to define 'beam', but very few recognised that 'beam' referred to the maximum width of the vessel. Some students confused displacement tonnage and light displacement. A good understanding of these dimensions is very important at this stage.

Question 6:

Answer both parts of the question:

- a. Using the map of the World, show the areas that are subject to Tropical Revolving Storms.**
- b. Give their names, naming the oceans and seas they affect, and the time of year they are most likely to occur.**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was the least popular question and many students struggled with a correct answer. In many cases the SW Indian Ocean was not listed in their answers as an area of tropical storms, and the where Tropical Revolving Storms 's occur, were omitted such as the Arafura Sea, the Timor Sea, or the Mozambique Channel.

Students were expected to identify the regions and dates of hurricanes, typhoon, cyclone as follows:

1. Hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea/ Gulf of Mexico. June to November.
2. Typhoons in NW Pacific. June to November.
3. Cyclones in SW Pacific. December to April.
4. Typhoons in the China Sea / Far East. June to November.
5. Cyclones in the West Indian Ocean)/ Mozambique Channel. November to April.

It is recommended that students spend a bit of time to cover this area in more detail during revision.

Question 7:

Answer both parts of the question:

- a. Using the map of the world, identify two load and two discharge grain ports.**
- b. Using the map of the world draw the supporting trade routes used for the carriage of grain, including the load and discharge ports and the oceans, seas and waterways.**
- c. Identify and discuss two factors which may affect the demand and supply of Grain**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was a popular question attempted by students, but some students did not show the correct trade routes and did not always position the ports correctly. Load, discharge ports and trade routes are a very important part of Introduction to Shipping. Unfortunately, some students omitted the seas and waterways. Some students did not fully answer part (b), and very few used the example of South Africa, which is sometimes a net importer of grain depending on the climate. Many students successfully touched on the impact of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on the market given they are two of the major grain suppliers globally.

Question 8:

Identify ALL of the following on the world map:

Lines of Latitude and longitude:

1. Arctic Circle
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Equator
4. Tropic of Capricorn
5. Greenwich (Meridian)

Water ways:

1. Bosphorus – Turkish strait
2. Gibraltar Straits
3. Panama Canal
4. St Lawrence Seaway
5. Suez Canal

Seas:

1. Caribbean Sea
2. South China Sea
3. Red Sea
4. Black Sea
5. Baltic Sea

Ports:

1. Buenos Aires
2. Hamburg
3. Ras Tanura
4. Vancouver
5. Hong Kong

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was another popular question with the potential to earn full marks with some students coming very close. However, many students incorrectly positioned the tropics of Cancer, Capricorn, Greenwich and the Arctic Circle. Unfortunately, others were unable to correctly position ports and some of the waterways. Overall, this was a solid attempt by many students. Well done.