



INTRODUCTION TO SHIPPING

General comments:

The November 2023 paper was a comprehensive exam covering the core elements of the syllabus.

Many students made a reasonable attempt at the paper but time management across the cohort was weaker than the last sitting with some students running out of time. Some 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, the maritime geography questions were poorly done in this session. Overall the session was a fair performance.

Question 1:

Answer BOTH parts of the question.

a) Define derived demand in shipping.

b) In the dry bulk sector, identify the main categories of cargoes.

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This question was attempted by a large number of students.

Part a. was done fairly well with many students, defining derived demand and linking it to global GDP growth. Many students did well to identify the main categories of cargoes. A deeper discussion would have been useful for many students. This would permit them to demonstrate a solid understanding of the subject matter.

Question 2:

Define and briefly discuss FOUR of the following shipping terms.

- a) NOR
- b) Demurrage
- c) TEU
- d) LCL
- e) SHEX
- f) VLCC

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was a straightforward definition question aimed at assessing students ability to define and discuss key shipping terms. Many students were able to nail this question scoring high marks. But, many did not read the question which requires them to only do FOUR. Thus many wasted a lot of time doing five or six.

Question 3:

Answer BOTH parts of the question.

- a) **Discuss the main reasons a shipowner may wish to operate a geared container vessel.**
- b) **Identify the regions and trades it can serve.**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was one of the most popular questions attempted by students. Many students were able to cover geared ships are more versatile than a non-geared vessels, as it does not need shore cranes to work the cargo and thus rely on port side delays when no cranes are available.

Students need to be aware that such vessel still operate in ports in Asia, Caribbean, Latin America, South America, East and West Africa.

Question 4:

Answer BOTH parts of the question.

a) What elements are required for a contract to be legally binding?

b) Discuss the tort of negligence.

What was being looked for by the examiner:

Part a, Students are expected to provide an explanation on all the key elements of a contract: Offer – a specific expression of willingness to enter into a contract on specified terms. Acceptance – the offer must be accepted on the exact stated terms. This converts the offer into an agreement.

Consideration – for the agreement to become a contract there has to be a consideration. The person to whom the offer is made must give or promise to give something in return for the offer. Legality – to be valid a contract must also be legally enforceable; the persons must be of legal age and capacity to make the contract and the contract itself cannot relate to an activity that is not in itself lawful.

Part b) was much better done with many students defining tort correctly and providing examples such as negligence, trespass, defamation, conversion or deceit.

Question 5:

Answer BOTH parts of the questions.

a) Explain the role of Ship Classification Societies.

b) Identify FIVE Classification Societies, which are members of IACS.

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was the not a popular question, but many students provided a satisfactory answer.

Classification Societies play a critical role including carrying out regular safety and structural checks on the condition of a ship; to ensure its seaworthiness. They issues the Certificate of Class. The Society keeps full records of all ships it classifies, including surveys passed and the dates when they are due. The records list all repairs and recommendations for further repairs if required. Students should learn a bit more about Classification Societies including some of the major members under IACS.

Question 6:

Answer BOTH parts of the questions.

- a) Discuss port agents' main pre-arrival duties and responsibilities to shipowners.**
- b) Discuss FIVE costs to be included in a port disbursement account.**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was the least popular question and many students struggled with a correct answer. Students should have covered some point like, contact with shippers and consignees to determine where the ships is to berth, contact with shippers and consignees to arrange port labour and equipment and arrange pilot, tugs and boatmen for mooring in advance. Some cost that could have been added include, port and harbor dues, tug and pilot fees, landing charges and bunker cost.

Question 7:

Answer BOTH parts of the questions.

- a) Draw the supporting trade routes used for the carriage of crude oil, including TWO load and TWO discharge ports and the oceans, seas and waterways.**
- Use the world map provided to support your answer.**
- b) Identify and briefly discuss some key factors which may affect the supply and demand of crude oil.**

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 is a very important part of Introduction to Shipping. Some students drew the trade route over the land which is incorrect, as ships do not navigate over land. Many students successfully touched on the impact of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Question 8:

. Identify the following on the world map provided.

Lines of Latitude:

- i. Arctic Circle**
- ii. Tropic of Cancer**
- iii. Equator**
- iv. Tropic of Capricorn**

Water ways:

- v. Strait of Hormuz**
- vi. Bosphorus Strait**
- vii. Malacca Straits**
- viii. Gibraltar Straits**
- ix. Kiel Canal**
- x. Suez Canal**

Oceans and seas:

- xi. Atlantic Ocean**
- xii. Indian Ocean**
- xiii. Caribbean Sea**
- xiv. Baltic Sea**
- xv. Gulf of Mexico**

Major ports:

- xvii. Houston**
- xviii. Dalian**
- xix. Brisbane**
- xx. Mombasa**
- xxi. Rio de Janeiro**

What was being looked for by the examiner:

This was not a popular question. Many students incorrectly positioned the tropics of Cancer, Capricorn, Arctic Circle and the Seas. Unfortunately, others were unable to correctly position ports in the correct countries also. Overall, this was a poor than usual attempt by many students.