

Examiners' Report

November 2016

Port & Terminal Management

General Comments

Overall Guidelines

The overall standard for the Port & Terminal Management examination in November 2016 was high. Students displayed an in depth knowledge of the topic and seemed very comfortable with the topic.

Question 1

Your port has been approached by an oil and gas energy company who are looking to create a supply base within your port. Write a formal proposal outlining the full range of services that your port can offer to this specific market sector.

This question had the intention to exam the students knowledge of the offshore industry, however the vast majority of the students interpreted the question differently and answered it from the view of an oil and gas energy trader. The question highlights the danger of potentially ambiguous questions.

Most students who answered from the perspective of an oil and gas terminal gave excellent answers covering heavy lift facilities, offshore supplies and the availability of bunkers.

Question 2

Using a port of your choice, analyse the major environmental changes that could threaten its long term viability.

The question allowed for an open answer. Some students gave good answers on how environmental changes can threaten a port's long term viability.

But a number of students answered this question poorly, and discussed a number of different scenarios such as changes in trading patterns and the development of ships sizes particularly in the container trade.

Question 3

Discuss the concept of a port being 'demand driven'.

Generally this was well answered and the students could give some good examples of where ports are derive demand driven.

Examiners' Report

November 2016

Port & Terminal Management

Question 4

Define and explain FOUR of the following abbreviations:

- i. AGV
- ii. VTS
- iii. ILO.
- iv. PFSP v.
- v. PMSC
- vi. IMO

The majority of the abbreviations were very well handled. Some students did struggle with ILO and PMSC but otherwise students scored well on this question.

Question 5

Using a port of your choice, discuss the role and responsibilities of Port State Control.

Port State Control was widely understood and the students were able to broadly discuss the roles and responsibilities in the different ports around the world. Students should be familiar with key international conventions covered under Port State Control inspections in their chosen port. Answers also should include the options available to inspectors when a defect is discovered and the consequences of these options.

Question 6

You are the Chief Financial Officer for a port of your choice. You understand that the owners of a vessel berthed within your port have been declared bankrupt. You have checked with the harbour master who advises you that the vessel is due to sail imminently. Discuss your actions.

An unusual operational-financial question, and the students gave a mixed response to this question. Students should be able to show their understanding of the role of the port authority and their financial exposure to the shipowners.

The correct answer was to maintain some surety by not allowing the ship to sail. Worryingly some students offered credit to the shipowner.

Examiners' Report

November 2016

Port & Terminal Management

Question 7

Discuss the major security risks associated with operating a cruise terminal, and how to mitigate them.

Students gave varied answers to this question with the more prudent students highlighting security measures to minimise the risk of terrorist attacks or stowaways boarding the vessel.

Students showed their understanding of the ISPS regulations and how ship and shore security officers work together.

Question 8

Using a port of your choice, discuss the four major commercial and financial types of planning processes used by port and terminal operators.

Port planning was really well handled by the students, with most students being able to discuss the four specific aspects of planning – operational, annual, medium term and long term or master planning, and the exceptional answers could then align relevant examples to each.