



# ICS Examiners Report Template

**Subject: Port Agency May 2017**

**Examiner: John Watt**

## Overall Comments Guidelines

The overall standard for the Port Agency examination in May 2017 was of reasonably high. It was noticeable that the students' geographical knowledge had been improved, and there were some strong answers on the shipping abbreviation questions.

Of greater concern were constant difficulties students have with the concept of insurance cover for their role as a transport intermediary.

## Overall Comments

The questions were chosen from a wide range of subjects within the syllabus including lay-time, operational questions, disbursements, marketing, vessel types.

## Question One

### Laytime

The question on laytime created certain problems for students this year, especially in terms of the interpretation of weekend working.

A number of students did however obtain full marks for the question, and the majority of students that attempted the question gained a reasonable mark.

## Question Two:

### General Average

This produced a disappointing response from students. A large number of students completely overlooked that this was a general ( of particular) average situation, and choose to simply focus on the husbandry, and logistics of port operations.

Given the students were informed that the ship had declared GA this was a very disappointing response

### Question Three

#### Cruise Handling and Added value

This question was well handled by the students who gave a some reasonable amounts of information of the company, its history, and the general services it provides.

There were some thoughtful comments on added value services and some really good examples given, that were wholly relevant to the cruise industry.

### Question Four

#### Disbursement payment

This produced modest returns at best from the students; many went off at tangents and suggested arresting the vessels. This was missing the point; the students were expected to offer negotiated agreements and compromise settlements with the ship-owners over the terms and conditions of payment.

Some students came up with solutions, but on the whole this was poorly handled.

### Question Five

#### Conflict of interests

This was generally well handled by the students. Most gave rational explanations and offered a solution moving forward on a professional and ethical basis.

### Question Six

#### Vessel types

This was very well handled this year by the students. Most students chose the tanker and handy-sized bulk carrier options. The majority of students who used the map did well and selected relevant load and discharge ports and were aware of ocean routes.

Some students did however completely overlook using the map, and or only chose one vessel to discuss.

### Question Seven

#### P and I Cover

Students just seem to have a mental block on this question. Despite in appearing on an annual basis, a large number of students have little or no concept on the liabilities of the ships agent, but wrote in great depth on the requirements of the ship-owner.

### Question Eight

#### Shipping Abbreviations

These were generally well handled by the student; good depth of knowledge was portrayed, although students' answers would have been further enhanced by the use of examples.