

MAY 2017 - ICS Examiners Report

PORT & TERMINAL MANAGEMENT

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Overall Comments Guidelines

The overall standard for the Port & Terminal management exam in May 2017 was exceptionally high. Students displayed an excellent technical knowledge of the port facilities and infrastructure over a wide range of trades. The students also displayed in depth knowledge on port ownership, finance, economics and health & safety.

Overall Comments

The questions were chosen from a wide range of subjects within the syllabus. Port ownership, marketing, health and safety, port economics, investment appraisals and operational ratios were all subjects covered in the examinations.

Question 1

Marketing – Container client.

The technical information provided on the ports facility, navigable channel berth and container equipment was excellent. However, many answers did not show the ability to discuss financial costs, trading terms and conditions and potential incentives.

A general trend was for students to overlook the commercial aspect of the question and focus solely on the operational aspects. This question needed answers that display knowledge of commercial knowledge and skills.

Question 2

Grain Terminal Facilities.

This question was well handled by students, most students were able to discuss the berth, navigable access, but what was particularly well handled was discussion on the hinterland of the loading berth, where grain is generally stored in silos and conveyed to the loading terminal via conveyor belts.

Also some good in depth discussions on the loading equipment at the berth.

Question 3

Cruise Investment.

Another answer that was well handled. The format was generally good. Some good points were made on the benefits to the port area, but what was particularly impressive was where some students were able to point out the wider benefits to the local community and industry.

Question 4

HSE-Ro/ Pax.

The students tended to discuss the general concepts such as HASAWA, which had its place, but was general not specific. Some students were able to break down and discuss the two separate component parts of the terminal, namely freight and passengers.

The students needed to show in their answers, the differing HSE needs of both departments.

Question 5

Abbreviations.

This question was generally well handled with most students able to give a full description and examples of the abbreviations.

Question 6

Trade developments.

This question was generally well handled as students were able to discuss the development of ship sizes in the tanker, and container trades and link this effectively to discuss how smaller ports may become marginalized in the future, and economies of scale may favour port which can cope with the mega carriers.

Students could have enhanced their answers by giving more examples of the actual shipping lines.

Question 7

Ratios.

Students seemed very comfortable with the various management ratios that can be used to assess berth and stevedoring throughput.

Students were able to offer numerous examples in their answers.

Question 8

Investment Appraisal.

Only a few students attempted this question. But those that did were able to offer an in depth response on the two main forms of investment appraisal NPR and IRR.