



ICS Examiners Report

Port and Terminal Management

Overall Comments Guidelines

The overall standard for the Port and Terminal examination in May 2025 was of a very high standard. Students were able to answer all eight of the questions. The only question that caused concern for the students was Question Two, which pertained to intermodalism, port planning, and competition. Historically, ports have struggled with the concept of multiple-part questions, and this was no different, with students able to answer parts of the question; however, few were able to answer the question in its entirety.

Overall Comments

The questions were chosen from a wide range of subjects within the syllabus. Cruise liner terminals, intermodal concepts, port ownership models, relevant trade abbreviations, health and safety, freeports, management ratios, and operational and strategic planning.

Question one Cruise Liner Terminal

The question on the Cruise Liner Terminal was well handled. The majority of students were able to give a good overview of the requirements of the terminal building to be able to handle a significant amount of passengers and baggage at check in. Facilities such as bars, restaurants, and toilets would be required for the passengers, as well as office space for statutory Governmental bodies.

The students who scored the highest marks went on to discuss intermodal transport links to and from the terminal, safe access and egress to and from the terminal/vessel, and a number of added-value services.

Question Two: Intermodal concepts

This multi part question proved to be quite challenging for students. The majority of students were able to discuss the concept of intermodal transport within a port of their choice. The question also asked to link this aspect to port planning and port competition.

Historically students have struggled to answer multi part questions successfully, this was no different as the majority of students failed to link intermodalism to planning and competition.

Question Three- Port ownership models

The question asked students to compare and contrast the two separate models of port ownership: state and private ownership.

This was a favoured question for the students, and the majority of students who attempted the question were able to supply the salient differences between the two different port ownership models

Question Four Abbreviations

The question on abbreviations was handled very well, with the majority of students able to discuss C-TPAT, ITF, and PMSC in some depth.

The question on PFSO and BOOT was less popular and caused a few issues for students who attempted to understand these abbreviations.

Question Five Health and Safety

This question on health and safety within a grain terminal was very well handled by students. The normal health and safety standard requirements, PPE, toolbox talks, safe lighting, and safe walkways were generally well discussed, but it was impressive that most students aligned their answer to the question and discussed in depth the issues related to grain handling, such as dust inhalation, possible fire risk, working at height, and working in restricted spaces. This was very impressive.

Question Six Freeports

The question on freeports was very well handled, with students being able to provide good examples of the positive aspects (creates growth, creates jobs) of freeports, as well as some of the negative aspects (distorts trade, can be open to criminal interference, loss of governmental revenues).

Students seemed very comfortable with the concept of freeport, and those who chose this question tended to score highly.

Question Management Ratios

The question on management ratios was well handled. The majority of students were able to provide several examples of management ratios, including cargo handling, vessel turnaround time, waiting time, gang efficiency, and storage.

Question Eight: Operational and strategic planning

The question was handled well by the students, who clearly differentiated between the two stages of planning and provided several examples of each to support their answers.

The majority of students who chose to answer this question achieved a high mark.