Joining a 343m Australian registered bulk carrier in Texas, loading Iron Ore

1. Looked out the window and asked me what weather we’re experiencing in Fremantle and how this is represented on a synoptic chart (cold front)
2. Which way does the wind blow in a high pressure system in the southern hemisphere?
3. What are you thinking about with regards to the loading operation when flying to Texas?
4. What certificates will you present to the Master?
5. What does fitness for duty mean? Where is this found?
6. What is MLC? How is it enforced?
7. You see USCG at the gangway. What do they want?
8. How are PSC checklists populated? What is an MOU?
9. What’s the relationship between port state and flag state?
10. What do you expect from your handover with the off going chief mate?
11. Pilot wants to disembark via helicopter. Can you do this? How do you know? Where do you find information for this operation?
12. What is a Loadicator? Who requires one and what makes it an approved system?
13. Where do you find this cargo information?
14. What information will the shipper present?
15. Would you accept a 2-month-old moisture content certificate? What would you do if presented with this?
16. What is IMSBC? Groups? BLU Code?
17. What is a CSM? What is in it?
18. How do you prepare a hold for a consignment of coal? What are the dangers?
19. What is the issue with the detection of methane in coal?
20. What are the precautions prior to loading steel coils?
21. What are the statutory drills and their intervals? Where is this information found?
22. What are the 6 MARPOL annexes?
23. AB wants to discharge iron ore cargo residues overboard? Can he? Where is this information logged?
24. What are the NLS discharge criteria? Where are these discharges logged?
25. Draw a stbd loadline and mark where you would be submerged to in the summer zone
26. Identify FWA on loadline
27. What is DWA? Show this on the loadline
28. Presented a routeing chart. What are the coloured lines (seasonal zones)?
29. Asked some questions about seasonal zones, where you can load to if going from one zone to another etc.
30. Loading in a river of density 1012.5 in the tropical zone. Where can you load to if eventually moving to summer zone?
31. Sailing with holds full of heavy machinery and timber deck cargo on hatches 1, 3 & 5. Where can you load to?
32. You develop angle of loll. What is this? How do you correct for it?
33. You’ve ballasted all you can and engineers have transferred all they can but you still have an angle of loll. What do you do? Which deck cargo do you jettison first?
34. When you get to the discharge port the consignee for the cargo in the hold says they have no responsibility for the lost cargo on deck. Is this true? (Looking for general average)
35. What are the IMO stability criteria apart from the areas under the curve?
36. What are the grain stability criteria?
37. The Master asks you to show the 2\textsuperscript{nd} mate how to make a passage plan. What are the stages involved?
38. What conventions do you need to consider when making a passage plan? Why?
39. What is the OHS Act? How is it implemented?
40. Do you have to have a HSR? What is their role?
41. How is a routeing chart used for passage planning?
42. Showed me a glued together photocopied chart and asked if I could use it. But the corrections are up to date, why can this still not be used?
43. Pulled out a Singapore chart. Asked some symbol meanings including the sector lights, reporting points, recommended and compulsory directions in TSS etc.
44. How do you know how accurate the survey detail is on the chart?
45. If proceeding west bound in the TSS how often would you want the position to be fixed? What methods of position fixing would you employ?
46. 2\textsuperscript{nd} mate tells you the accuracy of GPS is within 20 metres, why can’t you use the GPS as the primary means of position fixing?
47. After the Master Pilot exchange the Master leaves you, a helmsman and a lookout on the Bridge. Pilot says he wants to alter course before expected due to the current setting, and this was discussed with the master and 2\textsuperscript{nd} Mate but you were not made aware. What do you do?
48. Showed a flip card of a red flare and asked what it is, what are my actions at night? Is there an obligation to render assistance? Who to? Why?
49. Rule 19 – sight by radar alone. What are your actions in any case?
50. Rule 19 – hear a fog signal apparently forward of the beam. What are your actions?
51. Various Rule 19 scenarios
52. Various scenarios regarding Rule 18 – Responsibilities
53. Sound signals in restricted visibility and narrow channels
54. Buoyage with flip cards, only 4 or so
55. Asked to put the top mark on a special mark
56. What are special marks and isolated danger marks used for?
57. What is the sector of towing lights?

Overall it was a very fair exam with no questions aimed at tripping me up. He did try to make me 2\textsuperscript{nd} guess myself by umming and ahhing at my answers, he’s just looking for confidence in what you’re saying.