Deck Watchkeeper Exam
Examiner: Ashish Malik
1hr 35min
Result: Pass

Questions aren’t quite in order, the exam jumped around topics a bit but I have tried to group together all the questions I was asked on a particular topic.

The examiner had my seetime and other info in front of him, noted that all my seetime was on small ships and made it clear that I was expected to know some of the characteristics of larger ships for the exam.

Said that one of the main things he was looking at for a Deck Watchkeeper was that you will call the Captain appropriately also would focus on Watchkeeping, Colregs, Bouyage, Navigation.

Ship for the exam was a 340m Bulk Carrier 23m draft, with 4 cranes on deck. Put a picture of the ship and some of its specifications and a Singapore Straits chart in front of me. I was to answer questions as if I was on this ship.

Ran the exam as if I had just joined this ship as second mate at anchor in Singapore, marked the anchorage position on the chart.

- Just stepped on board what are your actions
- What documents would you give to the Master
- What are the typical responsibilities of the second mate
- Handover with Second Mate, what is covered
- What’s in your induction
- What’s in an SMS
- What’s a DPA
  - How do you know how to contact them and who they are
  - Would you contact them if the food on the ship was unacceptable
- Bridge equipment
  - What would you expect to have onboard
  - What information would you want in the handover
  - Radar
    - What type of radar would you have
    - What are the features of X and S band radar
    - Which radar (X or S) would you use in different situations
      - Nav in clear weather in Singapore straits
      - Nav in bad weather in Singapore straits
    - Showed me two pictures (like radar plotting sheets) with pictures of targets with vectors on them (see picture below)
      - What orientation is this showing (North up, course up, head up)
      - Which is showing true vectors and which is showing relative
  - EDCIS
    - Safety Contour and Safety Depth Contour
      - What do they do
      - What’s the difference
      - What visual changes are seen on the screen
  - AIS
    - What are the risks of using AIS
    - What are the errors
- Compasses
  - Work out Variation for this year
  - How do you find compass error
  - What is an Azimuth, Amplitude

- Charts
  - Corrections
    - How would you know if they were corrected,
    - Is this one corrected,
    - How would you correct them.
    - Could you use a chart that is corrected but not the latest edition
  - Pointed to some symbols on the Singapore chart
    - Wreck dangerous to surface nav, position approximate
    - Sector light – what would you see in different positions
    - Sea bed- M
    - No anchoring, No fishing area
    - Pipeline – With a See Note (extra info at top of chart)
    - Separation zone
    - Tidal Diamond – What does it tell you
  - Brought out another chart and asked which one was the larger scale

- Navigation
  - Which way would you go in the TSS
  - How would you fix your position
  - Point out some good points to use for a radar fix
  - Drew a course on the chart and asked me to put in a Parallel Index from an appropriate point

- Standing Anchor Watch what are you looking for
- How would you inspect/test the self contained breathing apparatus SCBA
- What would be on a drill schedule (frequency of drills)

- Passage Planning
  - Stages of passage planning
  - What things would you consider in appraisal
  - What Publications would you use

- Reporting
  - What reporting systems are there in Australia
    - REEFREP – what is it, where do you find the info
    - MASTREP – How do RCC get information
  - What’s an international reporting system
    - AMVER – what is it

- Cargo
  - How would you keep a cargo watch
  - What is a Person in Charge (PIC)
    - How do you know if someone is the PIC
  - Which marine order relates to cargo
  - What is a Materials Handling Register

- While loading something is wrong with the ballasting what stresses is the ship experiencing
  - Shearing force- what is it
  - Bending moments- what are they, would the vessel be hogging or sagging (drew a picture of two holds loaded and the rest empty)

- Boarding a pilot what are your considerations and responsibilities
- On watch an oil spill is reported on deck, what are your actions
  - What is SOPEP
• What is a Marine Order
  o Who makes them
  o What gives AMSA power

• OH&S
  o Name the act
  o What’s in it
  o Health and Safety Rep (HSR)
  o Provisional Improvement Notice
  o AMSAS role

• MARPOL
  o What is it
  o Name the sections
  o Crew want to wash cargo residue of Alumina overboard, can it be done?
  o What are the requirements for discharging garbage
  o What’s a special area

• Chief Mate cannot be found what are your actions
  o Was last seen standing near the side of the ship upset, what are your considerations
  o Where would you find information on search and rescue
  o What’s in IAMSAR manual

• Stability
  o Read the draft from a photo
  o Draw load line (no measurements)
    ▪ Where would the water be at summer draft (at top of load line)
  o Drew ship upright in a stable condition, asked what was the condition of stability
  o Ship is going from salt water to dock water with a density of 1.001, mark on your load line drawing roughly where the water level will be
  o Showed a picture of a ship heeled over asked what might have happened
    ▪ What is angle of loll
    ▪ What would you do if your vessels motion was unusual during your watch (slow, large, rolling movement)
  o Movement of S when loading a weight with ships crane

• You are asked to prepare the forepeak tank for inspection, what are your considerations
  o Confined Space entry
    ▪ What’s a confined space
    ▪ How would you prepare to enter one
    ▪ Who can be involved in the entry
    ▪ What is an acceptable atmosphere
    ▪ What is an LEL
    ▪ Other dangers
    ▪ What act covers confined space entry

• You can see some targets on your radar but can’t see all of them visually why
  o Restricted visibility – fog coming in
    ▪ What are your actions

• What is squat
  o How do you know if you are experiencing it, what are the visual signs
  o What effect might it have on maneuvering
  o What effect might it have on engines
- **Bouyage**
  - What is the first marker you see when approaching Fremantle (Fairway Landfall Buoy, Safe Water Mark)
    - What is a safe water mark, what does it mean
    - Why put a fairway landfall buoy there
    - What is the light for a safe water mark
  - Put a wreck on the table and asked me to place cardinal marks around it
    - Which way would you pass cardinal marks
  - Set up Lateral marks for an inbound channel
    - What would they look like in Region B
  - Preferred channel mark
    - What is it
    - Lights
    - Which way would you navigate around it inbound and outbound

- **Colregs**
  - Basic crossing vessel with me as give way
  - Crossing situation, I am stand on, give way vessel not taking action
  - Crossing situation with vessel towing, I'm give way
  - Crossing situation with vessel towing and RAM
  - My vessel is CbD and stand on, towing vessel is not taking action
  - Restricted Vis
    - Target on stbd bow
    - Targets on port and stbd bow and pt quarter
    - Radar is broken, lots of traffic around, you hear fog signal ahead but it is getting quieter as time goes on (sounds like its moving away from you)
    - what are your actions

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**Radar Vector Question**

![Radar Vector Image](image)

What the examiner was after was to look at my own ships vector/heading line. The picture on the left has a vector and a heading line and the one on the right just a heading line.

Good Luck