Orals Questions

Date: April 16th, 2015
Candidate: [redacted]
Examiner: Irwin
Duration: 1hr 40min

Thanks to all the boys in the doll house for the sessions, a lot of practical applications were learnt there.
Thanks John for going through how a bulky load/unload through sequence & ballasting/draft read, inclinometer towards the end of each sequence etc etc. At the debrief the examiner remarked that he is impressed how I know in such detail without working on a bulk carrier.

I’d recommend all future candidates to have a chat with fellow classmates on ship types you haven’t worked on to get some practical information.
Start studying early, at least a month before exam to cover all topics!

In the exam, knowledge & preparation is power! I went through all the past exams in the library that had the name Irwin/Ash/Carlo
Although I was very nervous, stuttering throughout, I had some grasp on the answers that the examiner wants because of all the past exams I went through ie when asked about mooring, I started with JSA, toolbox, Snapback zone, he stopped me there and went to next question.

Put me on a 300m bulk carrier
1. Joining ship at china, what documents will u bring from home?
2. Arrive at gangway, actions?
3. ISPS - DOTARS (who sets levels? That’s what I learnt in my security course but in reality the department has been dissolved and named something else, whatever..)
   I went into detail when I shouldn’t have but I saw him checked off like at least 10 items when I stopped, Might have ticked off further Australian related regulations/legislation since I was never got asked OHS.
4. 3rd mate only has half an hour to handover else he miss his flight, what will u expect to be included? I said minimum required would be my em’cy duties, stations and just a quick walk around of my workplace, show me location of documents such as SMS/PMS so I can catch up.
5. SMS?
6. ISM?
7. DPA?
8. Name 5 Drills that you think are most important (Gave him MO before he asked what MO)
9. Cargo ship safety survey is due, who will be coming? (note that we are in China)
10. Cargo ship safety equipment is due, what items? (I said LSA, FFE Nav equipment, pull out from E and he stopped me)
11. Validity of ship safety cert
12. Life boat onload release
13. Lifeboat offload release
14. Lifeboat checks how often?
15. Maneuver on water how often? What about for Davit launch? FreeFall?
16. What are some FFE onboard?
17. EEBD? Where are they locate? (I got myself into this one as I said EEBD in previous question, I said I do not know the requirements for amount needed for different type of ship or various sizes but I can find them in fire control plan, and he was satisfy with that)
18. SCBA, checks? How often?
19. How will you check for leaks (submerge into water to look for air bubbles)
20. What are some stuff in the fireman outfit (I know he was looking for handheld light & life line, so I went with that first)
21. What are conventions?
22. What are some Conventions u know? (I said the main 4 pillars are... then choked on SOLAS as my mind when blank for 5 seconds, almost shat myself here)
23. Tell briefly what those conventions are about
24. What is in IMDG, its volume and what will I find In each, how will I use them.
25. Marpol annex 1-6
26. What is Sopep
27. How does MARPOL affects your passage planning
28. Passage planning, stages etc
29. What are some publication that you will use?
30. What would u find in a routing chart?
31. What would u find in a Sailing Direction?
32. How would u know they are updated?
33. Cook calls, wants to throw garbage in middle of ocean, actions?
34. DWA/ FWA formula, what do they actually mean? (I explained practically, how it will submerge further if in lower density)
35. Mooring precautions.
36. Pilot boarding, u are the officer in charge at the pilot ladder station, how would u prepare? (I asked freeboard first)
37. Pilot station checks
38. Pilot onboard, what do you expect to do when he starts briefing the pilotage passage plan?
39. BRM, explain
40. What are some techniques of BRM?
41. Master decide to leave bridge, Pilot do something different from passage plan, your actions?
42. Pilot away, Master hands over to you in middle of collision avoidance, will you take over watch?
43. How would u take over the watch from master?
44. What are some nav equipment?
45. Are there different radars?
46. Radar cautions? (boom hit him with shadow/blind sector first up and he just cut me off)
47. AIS, would u use it to navigate?
48. Sighted a distress flare what do you do?
49. Master came up said fk it who cares, what do you do?
50. Where does it say MTR have obligation to respond to distress?
51. Showed me a mint condition 30 year old Northern Ireland Mercator chart with Decca lines, Asked if I will use it.
52. How would u know its not updated?
53. What projection is this chart?
54. Chart symbols
55. Tidal streams, how to figure it out?
56. Asked me if I’d use TSS or inshore traffic zone to anchor wait for pilot. Inshore traffic and TSS are pretty much parallel and the starting point to anchor place is about 10NM (I wasn’t quite sure on this, I had rule 10 dii in my head to use inshore traffic zone but I thought TSS would be a safer bet)
57. He pulled out Singapore chart, asked me some sector lights, chart symbols
58. Then asked me same question with similar scenario about inshore traffic zone, at this point I know I was wrong previously, I told him id use the inshore traffic zone provided I determine it is safe depth and I have a purpose to be there)
59. Compass Rose, what is Var, Dev.
60. Compass error, how to find?
61. What is the difference between amplitude and azimuth?
62. Do u know amplitude formula? I said No I don’t; I use the Norrie’s table to tabulate the true bearing, and he looked confused for a second and asked u can? I said yes and he asked what do I use to tabulate? Dec and Latitude. Note: I don’t think examiners are supposed to do a trick question of “are u sure?” to see if you are confident in your answer, I think he merely forgot that Norrie’s tables can tabulate amplitude.

63. Cargo op, how do you check how much has been loaded?

64. Stresses during loading/unloading?

65. Draw Stability, Positive, Negative

66. FSE, explain and draw

67. Loll, explain and draw

68. What is different with grain ships regarding minimum imo stability (I said 0.3 initial GM and he didn’t bother asking me the)

ColReg

I highly recommend being able to recite Rule 5, 6, 7, 8 and 19. While knowing keywords for 13-18 know the difference of shall keep out of the way and shall not impede, Know that CBD have no rights when ROC exists.

I skipped some questions that are pretty standard.

1. Started off with clear vis, what would I do with situation applying rule 13-18 with fishing, sail, RAM, NUC, CBD.

2. Situations from rule 13-18.

3. CBD crossing from stbd bow, actions?

4. CBD crossing from port bow, actions?

5. RAM overtaking, actions?

6. Gave me a PDV, his hand on another PDV, crossing from my port bow and pushing his PDV towards me while ask what would I do...INTENSE, u pretty much had to say out keyword of rule 17 in real time when he is moving the vessel. I shall stand on, sound 5 blast, may take action, then shall take action when his action alone cannot avoid collision etc. You know the drill.

7. Restricted vis

8. What is safe speed?

9. Fog rolls in only on your starboard side, actions?

10. I pretty much recited rule 19 and rule 6.

11. Vessel on my stb quarter and vessel on my stb bow, action?

12. How do u know which is IALA A or B?

13. Standard buoys questions, how do u navigate around, lights showing etc. Used flipcards and also miniature models

Good luck to all future candidates!