Examiner: Cpt. Irwin

Name: [Redacted]

Deck Watchkeeper Unlimited

Date: 06/04/17

Time: 1 Hour

Result: Pass

When I arrived, he told me that he was pressed for time and that I would have to show competence in less than an hour and a half. He also said try not to prolong answers and keep them short, he will ask if he wants more information. He then did the standard stuff about take your time, get comfortable, if you don’t understand the question, ask me to rephrase etc. He also said all questions will be regarding Australian legislation. I don’t remember the exact order of questions, but I will list as many as I can remember.

Company has set you to a 343m Bulky in Long Beach, CA. What documents do you bring from home (all further voyage and ColReg questions are based on this)?

You mentioned something about an Employment Contract. What is this?

Is this just done because you have a good company or is there legislation referring to this?

What are the hours of work and rest requirements?

You are sitting in the 2/O cabin with the off going 2/O doing a handover. What would typically happen and what would you want to know?

You mentioned the SMS Manual, what is this?

What would be contained in this?

What certificates and documents would be required under ISM?

Name some log books you would expect to see on a vessel?

What is your understanding of where you can discharge food scraps?

Master tells you that there is a Safety Equipment (Form E) survey in 3 days. What do you do as 2/O?

Who would you expect to carry out this survey?
The company has asked you to draw up a drill matrix for the SMS Manual, name some drills that would be on there and how often? (I mentioned Freefall lifeboat 6 monthly simulated launch.)

6 monthly is one, when is the other drill required for FF lifeboat? (I completely blanked and he said he would come back to it.)

Vessel is now bound for Singapore, how are you going to make the passage plan? How do you know publications are up to date?

He then pulled out some Singapore Charts.

Asked about Traffic Separation zone, Isolated danger marks, which part of land would be more accurate for ranges, where could you do a transit bearing, ZOC, Compass variation and deviation, different light characteristics etc.

Master has called you to be on the bridge with a pilot. Why would he do this?

Explain what you know about challenge and response?

Pilot is on board for 3 days and the master has left the bridge. Who is in charge?

Master wants to anchor and you are to head up forward to drop the anchor, what is involved?

What PPE would you wear and why would you wear safety glasses?

Master wants to know information about the anchor cable. What do you say?

What does a long stay indicate?

What is meant by '6 on deck'?

How do you secure the anchor?

What is the day shape for a vessel at anchor?

Alongside in Dampier, you are coming onto cargo watch, what do you do?

What are Chief Mate Notes?

3rd Officer is renowned for being lazy and slack. How would you check how the cargo ops are going? (I stumbled on this one. Mentioned about referring to the load plan, what pour we are up to and checking with stevedores as to how much they have loaded)?

Master and Ch. Mate are up the road and not contactable. You check aft drafts and you expect to see 13m, but you only see 12m. Why is this and what do you do?

Ballast pump has malfunctioned, what do you do? (At this point I was praying for him to move on from Bulk cargo as I know very little practically about it)
Taking over the navigation watch at night, what do you do?

Lookout says he has seen a bunch of red stars in fired into the sky on the port bow, what does this mean and what do you do?

What would you expect the master to do when he comes to the bridge?

Does he have to respond to this or is it just general good seamanship? (I stumbled again, I said I couldn't remember where it was written, but it is a legal requirement)

What are some other forms of distress signals and where would you find the complete list?

You are at the scene now and it is a yacht that says they have a man overboard (night time). He has a light, vessel has stopped and you are going to get him with the rescue boat. What are your duties and what do you do?

How would you approach the person in the water with the rescue boat?

Asked if I remembered the FF Lifeboat drill period, I said no. He asked if I knew where I could find the information, I said SOLAS Ch.3 and Marine Order 21.

What does a SART look like on a RADAR? What type of RADAR picks up a SART?

What is a Gnomonic chart? (I completely blanked and forgot what this was, so simple too!)

He went and got a Gas Detector. Asked me what it is?

What does H2S, O2, CO and LEL mean?

What is LEL? Why is this important? (Below LEL, atmosphere is too lean to explode or ignite)

Can you enter a confined space? How do you know training is adequate? What is the procedure to enter a confined space?

He put a synoptic chart in front of me, asked me what weather I could expect to the SW of Tasmania. Why would you expect rain and high winds?

Put a Marine Pollutant sign in front of me and asked what it is.

What is the IMDG Code? (I started talking about what was in Volume 1 and he pretty much moved on immediately)

What health and safety acts do we have in Australia, if any? What is in the OSH(MI) act? Do you have to have a HSR?

He pulled out a chart with Loran lines on it, and I panicked because I know very little about Loran. All he asked was what sector light would I see if I approached from the south?

He then pulled out a routeing chart. Asked what is it, what does it show and how do I know when it is valid to? How many routeing charts are there?
Asked about the green, red and blue lines. What do they mean?

What is meant by Seasonal Zones? You are going between 2 ports in a tropical zone, where can you load to?

Draw Stb side LL basically. Where is the freeboard?

CH. Mate wants you to calculate DWA for density of 1.010, draw the formula. What unit is this in? What does the answer tell you?

You are now heading to sea from the river, what do you expect the vessel to do?

He drew a basic box shaped vessel with a DB tank and topside tanks. Asked to show where B, G and M are for a stable vessel. Why have you put B there? (box shape vessel D/2)

You fill the topside tanks, where can you expect G to go? Does this make the vessel more, or less tender?

What NAVAREA is Australia and how do we receive MSI? What are the Areas to input into your EGC to get coast warnings? (A to H, clockwise from Nth Queensland) What VHF channel would you monitor?

In regard to ECDIS, what is a Base Cd?

What is a RNC? What is required if you are using RNC’s?

Would you use this Fremantle chart? (No, it was tattered and not corrected)

Bunkering procedure, paperwork is all done and you are in charge of deck, what is going to happen?

What is this SOPEP you talk about? Do all ships have to have SOPEP?

Moving on to COLREG questions, he told me firstly that all questions I would assume I am on the 343m Bulky. He also said that he would assume that the first thing I say is exactly what I would do, so do not stumble around and umm and uhhh. Think and answer as you would act.

What is the duty of the stand on vessel?

Why would you not alter to port?

What is advance? Where would you find stopping distances?

Fishing vessel coming to a RAM, who has right of way?

Approaching Singapore, all behind you is clear vis, but all in front is a rain squall and the RADAR shows a massive squall line. What do you do? (Call master, Rule 19 applies)

What is the fog vessel for my vessel? Can I sound it every minute and a half? What is the signal of a FV?
Vessel forward of the beam with a risk of collision, what do you do?

What else is required in RV? (I mentioned about not altering towards a vessel that is abeam or abaft the beam)

Ok so you have a vessel forward of the beam (stb bow) and a vessel abaft the beam (stb quarter), what are your actions? (I asked is there risk of collision with either vessel? He said yes, the one forward of the beam. I said alter to Stb.)

He then showed me a flashcard of a Trawler (probably over 50m) head on. What are my actions?

He put a bunch of broken up buoys in front of me and told me to assemble them.

Light characteristics of all of them. Which region is this marker from? (IALA A)

What does Isophase and Occulting mean?

What to do if I see a W Cardinal marker?

He then asked how I think I have gone? I said "I think pretty well". He then stood up, shook my hand and said "Congratulations, I think you have done well too."

So much relief...

I want to thank everyone who has helped me prepare for this, especially Mick, Brock and Geoff, as well as all the lecturers and anyone who came into the library that week I was studying there.

Good luck to anyone reading this who has orals coming up. The only advice I can give is to know your stuff and if you don't, at least know where to find it.