All the questions were pretty straightforward, no tricks used to confuse at any time during the orals.

I do not remember all the questions but I have tried to note down as much as I could re collect. Questions are not in order.

It started off with typical beginning question,

You are joining bulk carrier 363m(loa), 25m (b), 18m(draft), what things you will notice when you see the ship?

What certificate do you get from home? (Asked detail info about joining letter) What is employment contract and where do you find it? (found in MLC)

How would you take over from second officer?

What if second officer have already left? Where would you find your duties? (Company SMS).

What is SMS?

Master informed that within 2 days we have a safety equipment survey onboard. How do you prepare? (Form E)

How long is form E valid for?

What other forms do you have? (I mentioned form C, form R and form P)

Frequency of mandatory drills?

Life boat launch and maneuver? (3 months)

Where do you find info? (SOLAS Chp3)

What about free fall life boat? Is it the same?

What is onload and offload release? Why do we do an onload release?

You come out of port after survey and pilot is to come onboard. How do you prepare for it and what are the procedures you should follow?

Pilot is going to stay for a long time. You are the OOW and master has gone in his cabin. Who is responsible? Why?

What is BRM?

Minimum rest hours? Where do you find this info?

You have made a passage plan but pilot wants to deviate due to some reason? Your actions?

Proceeded to anchorage. You are going with the crew to drop anchor. Anchoring procedures. (he was looking for safety toolbox meeting, PPE and comm. With bridge)

You come for anchor watch? How would you take over from master?
What are your duties at anchorage?

What is lookout? How would you explain lookout to your cadet?

Next day you have to take bunker to proceed from California to Aus. How would you prepare for bunkering? (Do mention SOPEP) What precautions would you take? (FFE standby, bravo flag and comm. with other ship)

What is SOPEP?

Done with bunkering. How would you prepare for passage plan?

What publications would you use for appraisal? (asked in detail about ASD and how often is new edition released. I was not sure so I told I am not sure about release of latest edition but we keep updating until a new edition is released.)

Where do you find the update? (NTM)

What are notices to mariners? What other info do you find in NTM?

What are routeing charts? (asked because I mentioned during appraisal)

Took out a routeing chart. Asked about wind rose, ocean currents and seasonal zones.

Asked to draw loadline.

On routeing chart, he made a rough plan and asked you are going from summer to tropical and vice versa. Where would you load? And from summer to winter and vice versa, where would you load? (and a few more questions regarding where to load)

Showed draft marks. What is the draft? Definition of draft.

FWA and DWA formula and units

Took out chart 3833. Asked few symbols (sep zone, isolated danger marks, a few other buoys and some more symbols. For symbols I wasn’t sure of I said I would refer to 5011 and he was satisfied. But not for pretty basic symbols.)

Pointed out two areas of land and asked me which one is best for radar position fix and why?

Other bridge equipments?

What is AIS? What info does it gives?

Can AIS be used for collision avoidance (Not a primary source for coll. Avoidance as info is not that reliable and it depends on GPS for posn.

What are methods of taking compass errors?

Transit brg. How do you take?

Asked to calculate Variation for year 2018. (He had a 2005 chart)

Can this chart be used for nav.? ( I said I will have to see the NTM to see the latest edition of the chart and its updates)
Gave me other chart where there was land below and TSS above and assume I was on tug and tow. On the land he gave me two points, one on extreme east and one on extreme west and asked me would you use TSS or Inshore traffic zone? (I said TSS, which wasn't correct.)

Does deviation change when you alter course?

Name a few publications?

What is SOLAS and MARPOL?

Showed me a Marine pollutant symbol. Asked me why and where is it used and where do you get to know that cargo is marine pollutant?

What is IMDG? What info do you get from it?

What is Stowage and segregation? Which chapter?

What are your duties during cargo watch?

You are on watch during cargo operation and C/O and master are gone out. 3rd engg. Informs that ballast pump has stopped working and cannot de ballast for another few hours? Your actions?

What are FFE?

What is fireman outfit?

What other things do you find? (he was looking for axe torch and lifeline)

Name some fixed FFE?

What is suppression system?

Gave me all the IALA boys and asked me to arrange all top marks

Light characteristics of a few buoys.

What is isophase, occulating and flashing?

Light for safe water and top mark colour.

You see a vessel in distress. Your actions?

Can master refuse to help if he wants?

Masters obligation to render assistance? Where do you find this info. (SOLAS, Int maritime search and rescue convention.)

What are distress signals? Some methods you would use to indicate if your vessel is in distress?

Do you know how November and Charlie flag look like? (He asked because I mentioned N and C. I said I don’t remember now but I will look for int. code of signal for info. And he was satisfied)

Colregs was pretty simple and basic

Tug and tow on your port side 10 miles. Action?

8 miles, 6 miles? Action?

You see a vessel aground 10miles ahead of you? Action?
Aground day shapes? lights?

CBD lights?

You are now near restricted visibility. What would you do?

One vessel on port bow, stbd bow and stbd quartering res.vis. Actions?

And finally he stood up and said congratulations.

My advice is concentrate more on basics. Do not make any mistakes in IALA buoyage system and COLREGS. Be confident with your answers. Try to discuss more with friends professor or ex students as only studying will make it very boring and there are more chances that you miss out a few imp. Topics. Most importantly stick to the checklist because questions are asked by keeping checklist in the front.

GOOD LUCK