

# Language Competence Test for Mariners

## Level A1 Voc

### Reading 1

**1. Underline the correct answer from a, b and c**

*Example:*

*What is the name of the kitchen on a ship?*

*a. cabin*

*b. head*

*c. galley*

*(the correct answer is c)*

1. Where is the centre of command on a ship?

a. the bridge

b. the main deck

c. the engine room

2. What is the name of the lowest area inside a ship?

a. hull

b. keel

c. bilge

3. What is the heavy object used to hold a vessel fast?

a. line

b. propeller

c. anchor

4. What term means 'to the rear of a ship'?

a. amidships

b. ahead

c. astern

5. What is the name of the machine for winding in cables?

a. ensign

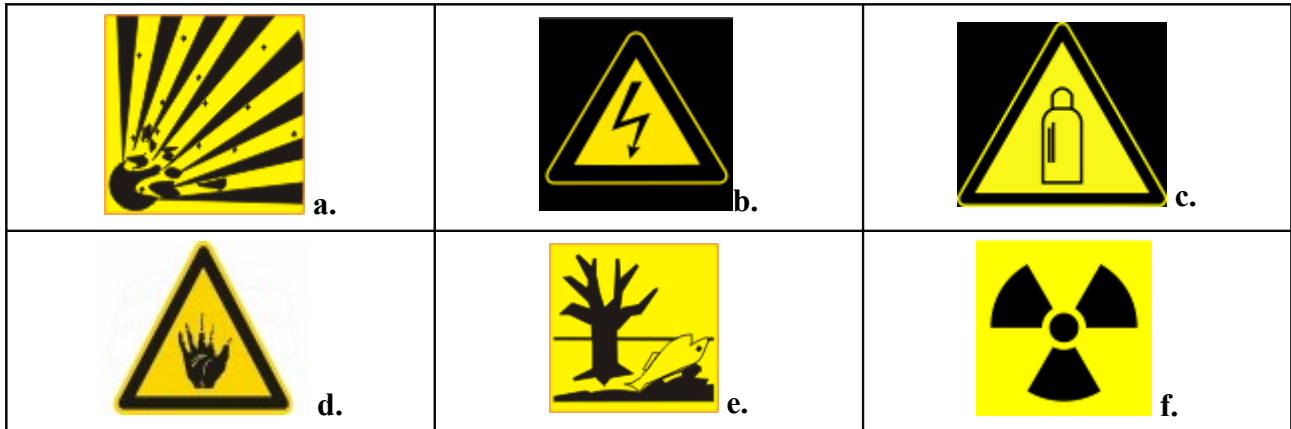
b. capstan

c. windlass

## Reading 2

Match the hazard symbols (a-f) with the notices (1-6). Write the number of the correct hazard symbol in each box.

### Hazard symbols



*The first is done as an example:*

### Notices

1. High voltage. There is a danger of electrocution.  b

2. There is a risk of personal injury. Do not touch the acid and do not breathe its vapours.

3. This substance may explode. Protect it from shocks and heat.

4. Material that may cause ecological damage. Do not release it into the environment.

5. Correct storage of compressed gas is essential.

6. This material is radioactive and may damage human health.

## Reading 3

Complete the regulations (1–5) by adding the correct phrase from this list.

the approaching vessel  
abaft the beam  
astern propulsion  
vessel underway  
~~a safe speed~~  
the starboard side

*Example: Every vessel shall at all times proceed at a safe speed so that she can stop safely.*

1. In a channel, a vessel must keep to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When two vessels meet head on, each must change course and pass on the port side of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Your masthead light must be seen by anyone who is \_\_\_\_\_ of your vessel.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ must show a masthead light, sidelights and a sternlight.
5. When a vessel is reversing, three blasts on the whistle means ‘I am operating \_\_\_\_\_’.

## Reading 4

Study these three advertisements for maritime jobs.

### Job A

Position: Barge Master  
When required: immediately  
Area of work: the North Sea.  
Previous experience: essential.  
Terms and conditions: 36 month contract, 4 weeks on 4 weeks off  
600 - 720 euros per day

### Job B

A chief mate is required for a general cargo vessel built in 2000.  
The vessel has a German owner and a Russian crew.  
Length of tenure is from 3 months to 1 year with 12 weeks leave over 1 year. Applications from EU citizens / residents only.

### Job C

Norwegian owners of a crude tanker (2007) have vacancies for ratings for 1 year contracts. Elementary level of English is required and some tanker experience. Medical expenses are covered when signing on.

Answer these questions by writing the correct job number (A, B or C) into the boxes.

*Example:*

Which job is on a vessel carrying oil?

1. Which job is for a skipper?
2. Which job offers a short contract?
3. Which job is for seamen who are not officers?
4. Which job has regular breaks?
5. Which job needs foreign language skills?

## Listening 1

Listen to the orders and underline the correct responses from a, b and c.

Example:

You hear: 'Starboard steer one eight two'

(The correct response to the order is b)

a. Steady on 182

b. Starboard one eight two

c. Steering one and two, sir.

1.

a. Standing by on Channel Zero - Five.

b. Standing by.

c. You're standing by. Over.

2.

a. Steering port 202, sir.

b. That is correct, sir.

c. Port 002 it is, sir.

3.

a. Hard-a-starboard

b. Harding to starboard, sir.

c. Starboard-hard, sir.

4.

a. Slowing dead astern.

b. Dead slow astern.

c. Going dead slow astern.

5.

a. Going steady, sir.

b. She goes steady.

c. Steady on zero five.

### Audio script

1. Stand by on Channel Five. Over.

2. Port steer two zero two

3. Helm hard-a-starboard

4. Go dead slow astern

5. Steady as she goes

## Listening 2

Listen to the radio calls and match each call with one of the message markers below. You will hear the calls twice.

*Example*

*You hear: 'Number One. Do not cross the fairway'.*

*You write:*

*1. Instruction*

SMCP message markers:

ADVICE  
INFORMATION  
QUESTION  
~~INSTRUCTION~~  
INTENTION  
REQUEST

1. INSTRUCTION
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### Audio script

*Example. Number one. Do not cross the fairway.*

Number two. Change course to avoid obstruction.

Number three. I will reduce my speed.

Number four: Vessel SANTA MONICA will overtake to the west of you.

Number five: What is your present maximum draft?

Number six: Please send two tugs

### Listening 3

Listen to the VHF exchange and fill the gaps. You will hear the recording TWICE.

This is Morning Sky. My position is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ degrees, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes north, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ degrees (4) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes west. Question: Are ice bergs expected in METAREA II? Over.

Morning Sky, this is Icelandic Met Office . Answer: Affirmative. Icebergs reported (5) \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres north west of your position. Over.

#### Audio script

1. This is Morning Sky. My position is five zero degrees, one nine minutes north, two four degrees five seven minutes west. Question: Are ice bergs expected in METAREA II? Over.  
Morning Sky, this is Icelandic Met Office . Answer: Affirmative. Icebergs reported five kilometres north west of your position. Over.

### Listening 4

Listen to the weather warning and complete this record.

Cyclone warning for METAREA: _____
Date: <i>9<sup>th</sup> January</i>
Time: _____
Present location of cyclone: _____ Movement of cyclone: <i>East</i>
Wind speed: _____
Sea state: _____

#### Audio script

This is a severe weather warning for METAREAs ten and eleven issued at zero zero three zero UTC, the ninth of JANUARY.  
The centre of Tropical Cyclone Charlotte is in the north west part of METAREA 10. It is moving east. Wind speed up to four five knots  
Very rough seas are expected with moderate swell.

## Writing 1

You are on watch aboard the *Atlantic Warrior*. Use this information to write an email weather report for the Met Office.

**Vessel:** Atlantic Warrior  
**Position:** Bay of Biscay 44° 7.6' North, 7° 10.8' West  
**Atmospheric pressure:** 1018 (falling)  
**Wind speed:** 3 to 4  
**Wind direction:** SW  
**Sea:** rough  
**Precipitation:** light rain  
**Visibility:** good

Write the report in full sentences. Say who you are, give your position and describe the weather conditions.

*To the Met Office*  
*This is ...*

## Writing 2

**Yesterday you were fifteen minutes late for your watch. Captain Brocklehurst, your skipper, wants an explanation in writing for the files.**

**Think of a reason why you were late and write a short letter to the skipper. Apologise for being late and explain why.**

*Dear Sir,*

...

## Speaking 1

Respond to each safety sign with an instruction.







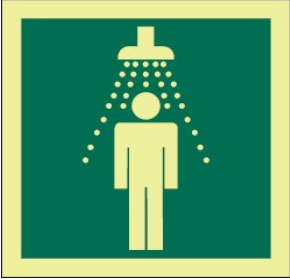


*Example*

*You see:*



*You say: 'You must wear gloves' / 'You should wear gloves'*

*[Examiner chooses five of the following – 2 signs from column 1, 2 signs from column 2 and 1 sign from column 3]*

1	2	3
		
		
		

## Speaking 2

Study these 3 pictures and talk about:

- the location
- the weather and sea conditions
- the vessels
- what will happen next

a.



b.



c.



## Speaking 3

**In the box is information about a crew member. Use the information to answer questions. Then ask questions to fill in the gaps.**

Surname: Lopez

First name: Roberto

Date of birth: 24/09/75

Country of origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Boatswain.

Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Date start of contract: 1<sup>st</sup> June

Duration of contract: 1 year

## Answer key

### Reading 1

- 1 a
- 2 c
- 3 c
- 4 c
- 5 b

### Reading 2

- 2 d
- 3 a
- 4 e
- 5 c
- 6 f

### Reading 3

- 1 the starboard side
- 2 the approaching vessel
- 3 abaft the beam
- 4 vessel underway
- 5 astern propulsion

### Reading 4

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 A
- 5 C

### Listening 1

- 1 b
- 2 a
- 3 a
- 4 b
- 5 c

### Listening 2

- 2 ADVICE
- 3 INTENTION
- 4 INFORMATION
- 5 QUESTION
- 6 REQUEST

### Listening 3

- 1. 50
- 2. 19
- 3. 24
- 4. 57
- 5. 5

### Listening 4

<b>Cyclone warning for METAREA: 10 &amp; 11</b>
Time: 0030 UTC
Present location of cyclone: NW METAREA 10
Wind speed: 45 knots
Sea state: very rough with moderate swell

### Writing 1

#### Model email:

*To the Met Office*

*This is Atlantic Warrior. My location in the Bay of Biscay is 44° 7.6' North, 7° 10.8' west. The atmospheric pressure in my position is 1018 and falling. There is a south westerly wind. Wind speed is variable between 3 and 4. The sea is rough and there is light rain.*