

Instructions to Students Taking the Certification Exam

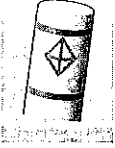
This exam consists of multiple-choice questions. Using a sharpened #2 pencil, fill in the box that corresponds to the correct answer of each question on the answer sheet. Follow the instructions in the blue box on the certification exam answer sheet to submit your exam for grading.

All answers must be your own. No reference materials may be used or other assistance sought while you are taking the exam. Any unanswered questions will be considered as incorrect answers. If you change an answer, be sure to erase the first answer completely.


Multiple Choice—Select the best answer:

1. How should a vessel's registration number and validation decal be displayed?
 - a. on both sides of the stern of the boat
 - b. on only the starboard side of the boat
 - c. on both sides of the bow of the boat
 - d. on only the port side of the boat
2. What is most important when selecting the right PFD for a passenger?
 - a. total number of passengers on board
 - b. color of the PFD
 - c. passenger's body weight and chest size
 - d. passenger's age and gender
3. What important safety information is found on a boat's capacity plate?
 - a. minimum number of PFDs required to be on board
 - b. minimum number of seats for the operator and passengers
 - c. maximum weight and/or number of people the boat can carry safely
 - d. maximum capacity of the fuel tanks
4. What is the best way to find out about hazards on a local waterway?
 - a. Consult a nautical chart.
 - b. Consult a topographical map.
 - c. Ask someone who went there last year.
 - d. Listen to your favorite radio station.
5. According to Alabama law, what operators are required to have completed an approved boating course in order to operate a personal watercraft (PWC)?
 - a. operators who are 21 years of age or older
 - b. operators who are 16 or 17 years of age
 - c. operators who are 12 years of age or older
 - d. only operators who are residents of other states
6. Which type of PFD will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water?
 - a. Type I
 - b. Type II
 - c. Type III
 - d. Type IV
7. Everyone on board a vessel should understand basic safety practices. Who is responsible for ensuring this?
 - a. the vessel operator
 - b. the dock attendant
 - c. the most experienced passenger
 - d. an adult at least 18 years of age
8. Where is the best place to store a fire extinguisher on a boat?
 - a. in the engine compartment
 - b. in a locked storage compartment
 - c. mounted in an accessible location
 - d. mounted in the bilge
9. When should a life jacket be discarded and replaced?
 - a. when it fits snugly
 - b. when it is slightly torn
 - c. after it has been used 20 times
 - d. after someone borrows it
10. What effect does alcohol have when you are operating a vessel?
 - a. makes it easier to pay attention
 - b. helps you perform multiple tasks
 - c. helps you avoid dehydration
 - d. increases the likelihood of accidents
11. When boating on federally controlled waters in an 18-foot boat, what equipment are you legally required to have on board?
 - a. blue and white International Code Flag A (or Alfa flag)
 - b. U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual distress signals
 - c. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)
 - d. compass and map
12. What sound-producing device(s) is required when boating on Alabama waters in an 18-foot powerboat?
 - a. none
 - b. a whistle, a horn, or another sound device
 - c. a whistle and a bell
 - d. a whistle, a horn, and a bell
13. Which of these provides a warning that dangerous weather is approaching?
 - a. clear, sunny skies and no wind
 - b. drop in wind speed and calm water
 - c. white clouds and gentle waves
 - d. dark clouds and shifting winds
14. What is one part of a regular vessel and engine maintenance program?
 - a. storing the vessel in the sun to keep it dry
 - b. checking the oil level before every outing
 - c. cleaning the hull with a phosphate detergent
 - d. using coarse sandpaper on aluminum hulls

15. How should you approach the dock when docking your vessel?
 - a. into the wind or current, whichever is stronger
 - b. with the wind or current, whichever is stronger
 - c. at regular operating speed without slowing down
 - d. between other vessels in heavy traffic
16. What should you do before fueling your boat?
 - a. Turn off the engine and open all windows, ports, doors, and other openings.
 - b. Turn off the engine and close all windows, ports, doors, and other openings.
 - c. Turn on the engine and open all windows, ports, doors, and other openings.
 - d. Turn on the engine and close all windows, ports, doors, and other openings.
17. Where should your trailer be located while you prepare to launch your vessel?
 - a. on your driveway at home
 - b. in front of a vessel being launched
 - c. in the water at the boat ramp
 - d. well away from the boat ramp
18. How can propeller strike accidents be avoided?
 - a. Turn on the engine when passengers are boarding.
 - b. Let passengers ride on the bow while underway.
 - c. Turn off the engine when passengers are boarding.
 - d. Have children watch out for each other.
19. Which of the following is an example of careless operation?
 - a. displaying navigation lights in the fog
 - b. not having enough fuel in the bilges
 - c. having personal flotation devices that are the wrong color
 - d. not having enough personal flotation devices on board
20. What is the best way to minimize the risk of drowning while boating?
 - a. Have everyone wear an appropriate life jacket at all times.
 - b. Put on your life jacket after you are in the water.
 - c. Allow on board only those persons who have passed a swim test.
 - d. Make sure you have a life guard on board your vessel.
21. How can you prevent transporting nuisance species (plants or animals) with your vessel from one waterway to another?
 - a. Flush vessel engines with contaminated water.
 - b. Run your vessel through vegetation to cut it up.
 - c. Avoid washing your vessel after you leave a body of water.
 - d. Remove any zebra mussels you see before leaving the body of water.
22. What should the vessel operator tell everyone on board before departing?
 - a. how far the vessel can go without running out of fuel
 - b. where to find the PFDs and visual distress signals
 - c. what time they should expect to return to dock
 - d. what food and drink are on board the vessel
23. What is the main function of an ignition safety switch?
 - a. to shut off the engine if the operator is thrown overboard
 - b. to shut off the engine when the PWC or boat is beached
 - c. to prevent operation by unauthorized persons
 - d. to prevent theft when the PWC or boat is left unattended
24. In Alabama, how far must a vessel stay from a diver-down flag?
 - a. 200 feet
 - b. 150 feet
 - c. 100 feet
 - d. 50 feet
25. How does the effect of alcohol consumed while boating compare to the effect on land?
 - a. about the same effect whether on land or out boating
 - b. much greater effect while boating
 - c. much greater effect when on land
 - d. slightly greater effect when on land
26. Which is true about operating a boat in Alabama while intoxicated?
 - a. Drinking alcohol is not considered to be dangerous.
 - b. Operating while under the influence does not carry penalties for a first offense.
 - c. By operating a vessel on Alabama waters, a boater must submit to testing for blood alcohol concentration.
 - d. A boater paddling a canoe is less likely to be affected as much as someone operating a motorboat.
27. When two vessels are operating in the same general area, who is responsible for avoiding a collision?
 - a. the operators of both vessels
 - b. the operator of the stand-on vessel
 - c. the operator of the give-way vessel
 - d. the operator of the smaller vessel
28. How do you know when you are operating your vessel at a safe speed?
 - a. No other vessels are passing you.
 - b. You are not overtaking any other vessels.
 - c. You are going slower than vessels towing skiers.
 - d. You have enough time to avoid a collision.
29. What is the main purpose of the lateral system of red and green buoys and markers?
 - a. to show the outer boundaries of federally controlled waterways
 - b. to provide traffic control devices for commercial vessels
 - c. to mark the edges of safe water areas
 - d. to provide convenient mooring locations
30. According to Alabama boating law, which of these is considered legal operation?
 - a. operating a vessel without the required safety equipment
 - b. operating above a plane speed when persons on board are obstructing the operator's view
 - c. operating at a speed that causes a hazardous wake when approaching another vessel
 - d. operating at less than 5 mph in a "slow, no wake" speed area

31. When is a sailboat under sail the give-way vessel when encountering a power-driven vessel?
- when the sailboat is crossing ahead from the starboard (right) side
 - when the sailboat is crossing ahead from the port (left) side
 - when the sailboat is overtaking the power-driven vessel
 - when the two vessels are moving in opposite directions
32. What should a vessel operator do to make sure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency?
- Throw a passenger overboard unexpectedly.
 - Explain what to do as an actual emergency occurs.
 - Have everyone take a written exam until they can pass it.
 - Conduct an emergency drill with the passengers.
33. According to Alabama law, what equipment is required when a vessel (other than a PWC) is towing a skier and does not have a capable observer on board in addition to the operator?
- a wide-angle rearview mirror
 - a two-way radio to communicate with the skier
 - a large green and red signaling flag
 - an extra life jacket for the skier
34. What is indicated by a white marker with an orange crossed diamond and black lettering?
- exclusion or keep-out area, such as a dam
 - controlled area, such as a no-wake zone
 - information, such as places to find food
 - danger or hazard, such as rocks
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35. Why is carbon monoxide gas dangerous?
- It is flammable and ignites easily.
 - It creates a cloud that blocks your view of other vessels.
 - It causes corrosion on electrical connections that can cause sparks.
 - It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and can be fatal.
36. A recreational vessel is approaching a U.S. Naval vessel. At what distance from the U.S. Naval vessel must the recreational vessel slow to minimum speed?
- 200 yards
 - 300 yards
 - 400 yards
 - 500 yards
37. What must an owner do before allowing others to operate his or her vessel?
- Check the weather forecast for the day.
 - Have them read the owner's manual and pass a test.
 - Make sure they know how to operate it safely.
 - Make sure they have a valid driver's license.
38. What should you do to reduce the risk of falling overboard?
- Stand up when changing seats.
 - Move around while underway.
 - Keep two points of contact if you move.
 - Keep centered in the boat.
39. What should a motorboat operator do when someone is being pulled into the boat from the water?
- Put the engine in forward gear at the slowest speed.
 - Put the engine in reverse gear at the slowest speed.
 - Keep the engine idling in neutral.
 - Turn off the engine.

40. What is the first action required of a boat operator who witnesses a boating accident?
- to provide assistance
 - to keep out of the way
 - to write an incident report
 - to wait for rescue personnel
41. Which condition requires that you report a boating accident to the Alabama Marine Police Division?
- Your boat breaks down and requires on-the-water repairs.
 - You witness a boating accident from shore.
 - Your boat is stopped, and you are arrested for boating under the influence.
 - Damage to your boat is more than \$2,000 as the result of a boating accident.
42. Under which condition is a person at the greatest risk of developing hypothermia?
- after being in the wind for a long time
 - when deprived of liquid
 - when exposed to cold air
 - when immersed in cold water
43. What should you do immediately if a boat motor catches on fire?
- Turn the stern of your boat into the wind.
 - Shut off the fuel supply, and try to put out the fire with an extinguisher.
 - Abandon the boat, and swim to shore.
 - Turn on the ventilation system to remove gasoline vapors from the bilge.
44. If your inboard/outboard boat runs aground, what action should you take in addition to shifting the weight away from the point of impact?
- Stop the engine and lift the outdrive.
 - Put the boat in reverse and gun the engine.
 - Put the boat in forward and gun the engine.
 - Keep the engine running and drop the anchor.
45. Which action may cause the loss of steering ability in a PWC?
- running at maximum throttle
 - letting off the throttle control
 - over-steering
 - under-steering
46. According to Alabama law, what age person who has boater safety certification may operate a personal watercraft without supervision?
- those at least 17 years of age
 - those at least 14 years of age
 - those at least 11 years of age
 - those at least 8 years of age
47. According to Alabama law, during what hours is it legal to tow a person behind a boat on water skis or other device?
- between 7 a.m. and midnight
 - between sunrise and sunset
 - between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset
 - between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset

48. What should a vessel operator do to keep a proper lookout?
- Listen to your vessel's engine.
 - Listen to the passengers talking.
 - Watch for navigational hazards.
 - Watch for good fishing locations.
49. Which of the following is legal operation of a PWC in Alabama?
- crossing at right angles to another vessel when visibility is unobstructed
 - buzzing another vessel or person in the water
 - weaving through congested traffic at high speed
 - swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision
50. In Alabama, what are the recommended hours for personal watercraft operation?
- between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.
 - between sunset and sunrise (daylight hours)
 - between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise
 - between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise
51. Why should a vessel operator keep a proper lookout?
- to locate fuel
 - to appreciate nature
 - to avoid collisions
 - to stay on course
52. What should paddlers do to protect against capsizing their canoe or kayak?
- Keep a low center of gravity and three points of contact.
 - Stand up in the craft while getting ready to dock.
 - Lean one shoulder over the side while paddling.
 - Move to the side of the craft closest to the shoreline.
53. What should anglers and hunters do when they are fishing or hunting from a boat?
- Anchor in the middle of the waterway.
 - Wear a life jacket at all times.
 - Keep clothing to a minimum.
 - Take along extra food and gear.
54. According to Alabama law, children of what age are required to *wear* a properly secured PFD while on a vessel unless the child is in an enclosed cabin?
- those under 10 years of age
 - those under 9 years of age
 - those under 8 years of age
 - those under 7 years of age
55. What determines if a speed is safe for your boat?
- type of engine
 - shoreline conditions
 - visibility conditions
 - amount of fuel available
56. What should the operators of a PWC and a motorboat do when approaching head-on?
- Both vessels should turn to starboard (right).
 - Both should maintain course and swerve to port (left) at the last moment.
 - The motorboat should turn to starboard (right), and the PWC should turn to port (left).
 - The motorboat should turn to port (left), and the PWC should turn to starboard (right).
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57. When must navigation lights be displayed?
- at night when there is a risk of collision
 - only when adrift at night
 - from sunset to sunrise and when visibility is restricted
 - only when you are anchored or in fog
58. What could happen if you anchor a boat from the stern?
- The anchor line may get tangled.
 - It may cause the boat to swamp.
 - The anchor can't hold firmly.
 - The anchor is difficult to retrieve.
59. Visibility is restricted due to fog. What should the vessel operator do to avoid the risk of a collision?
- Speed up as much as possible to go around other vessels.
 - Reduce speed to the minimum needed to stay on course.
 - Sound two long blasts with a sound-producing device.
 - Maintain the same speed until the other vessel is visible.
60. What should you do if you fall overboard into cold water?
- Try to reboard your boat, even if it is swamped.
 - Remove any unnecessary clothing.
 - Tread water or swim around to generate heat.
 - Try to float on your stomach with legs extended.