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Q392 - Navigation General: Rivers

1. Which would influence a magnetic compass?

- Radio
- Iron pipe
- Electrical wiring
- **All of the above**

Note:

Radio equipment, iron pipes, and electrical wiring all generate or interact with magnetic fields, which can disrupt a magnetic compass; therefore, all listed items influence a compass.

2. A towboat has the same draft as the barges it is pushing ahead. If the distance from the stern of the towboat to the head of the tow is 800 feet, where is the approximate location of the pivot point of the unit?

- 600 feet from the head of the tow
- 400 feet from the head of the tow
- **250 feet from the head of the tow**
- At the head of the tow

Note:

The pivot point of a towboat and barge unit with equal draft, moving ahead, is approximately one-third of the total length from the head of the tow, which is about 250 feet in this scenario.

3. What does the abbreviation L.W.R.P. on the navigation maps mean?

- Least water river plane
- Low winter runoff point
- **Low water reference plane**
- Land wall reference point

Note:

L.W.R.P. on navigation charts represents the Low Water Reference Plane, a fixed vertical datum used to measure water depths and clearances. This datum is not related to seasonal conditions, physical structures, or river hydrology; it serves as a baseline for chart measurements.

4. What is an advantage of the magnetic compass aboard vessels?

- **It is reliable due to its essential simplicity.**
- All points on the compass rose are readily visible.
- Compass error is negligible at or near the earth's magnetic poles.
- It does not have to be checked as often.

Note:

A magnetic compass's reliability stems from its simple mechanical design, minimizing potential points of failure.

5. Which agency maintains federal aids to navigation?

- Corps of Engineers
- Maritime Administration
- National Ocean Service
- **Coast Guard**

Note:

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains federal aids to navigation; this responsibility is defined by regulations and distinguishes it from agencies focused on navigation projects, maritime commerce, or hydrographic surveys.

6. Which agency publishes the Light Lists?

- Oceanographic Office
- National Ocean Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- **United States Coast Guard**

Note:

The United States Coast Guard publishes the Light Lists as the federal agency responsible for U.S. aids to navigation.

7. An air mass that has moved down from Canada would most likely have which symbols?

- **cPk**
- cTw
- mTk
- cTk

Note:

cPk correctly identifies a cold, dry continental polar air mass originating in Canada and colder than the surface it overruns.

8. When is an air mass termed "warm"?

- If it originated in a high-pressure area
- **If the ground over which it moves is cooler than the air**
- If it originated in a low-pressure area
- If the mass is above 70°F

Note:

An air mass is classified as warm when its temperature is higher than that of the surface it traverses, a distinction based on relative temperature rather than origin or absolute temperature.

9. Which is a characteristic of anticyclones?

- High winds and cloudiness
- Overcast skies
- **Dry, fair weather**
- Gustiness and continuous precipitation

Note:

Anticyclones are high-pressure systems characterized by sinking air, which inhibits cloud formation and precipitation, resulting in dry, fair weather.

10. What should you apply to a fathometer reading to determine the depth of water?

- Subtract the sea water correction.
- Add the sea water correction.
- Subtract the draft of the vessel.
- **Add the draft of the vessel.**

Note:

A fathometer measures depth below the transducer, which is typically the keel. To determine the total water depth, add the vessel's draft, the vertical distance from the waterline to the keel, to the fathometer reading.
