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Q310 - Navigation General: Great Lakes and Inland

1. How many degrees are there on a compass card?

- 360°
- 380°
- 390°
- 420°

Note:

A compass card represents a full circle, which is defined as 360 degrees. This standard measurement is fundamental to navigation and compass readings, making 360 the correct answer.

2. As a vessel changes course to starboard, which is TRUE concerning the compass card in a magnetic compass?

- The card also turns to starboard
- It first turns to starboard then counterclockwise to port
- The card turns counterclockwise to port
- The card remains aligned with compass north

Note:

The magnetic compass card remains aligned with magnetic north as the vessel changes course; the ship rotates around the card.

3. The heading of a vessel is indicated by what part of the compass?

- Needle
- Card
- Lubber's line
- Gimbals

Note:

The heading is determined by the alignment of the compass card with the fixed lubber's line, which is aligned with the vessel's fore-and-aft line. The lubber's line serves as a fixed reference point, while the compass card rotates to indicate direction; the needle or sensing element aligns the card, and the gimbals maintain the compass's level.

4. What does the lubber's line on a magnetic compass indicate?

- The vessel's compass heading
- Compass north
- Magnetic north
- A relative bearing taken with an azimuth circle

Note:

The lubber's line is a fixed reference mark on a magnetic compass that indicates the vessel's compass heading, aligning with the ship's centerline and showing the direction the bow is pointing on the compass card.

5. Error may be introduced into a magnetic compass by_____.

- making a structural change to the vessel
- a short circuit near the compass
- belt buckles
- **All of the above**

Note:

Structural changes, electrical faults, and ferrous objects can all disrupt a magnetic compass's accuracy by introducing local magnetic fields. Therefore, all listed factors contribute to compass error.

6. 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.

7. Apparent wind speed blowing across a MODU under tow can be measured by a(n) _____.

- **anemometer**
- wind vane
- thermometer
- barometer

Note:

An anemometer measures wind speed, including apparent wind speed on a MODU under tow. Other instruments measure wind direction, temperature, or atmospheric pressure, respectively, and are therefore incorrect.

8. 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.

9. What is used to help prevent damage to barges, locks, and landings when you are locking or landing a tow?

- **Possums (fenders)**
- Springers
- Dock cushions
- Landing bars

Note:

Possums, also known as fenders, are used to prevent damage to barges, locks, and landings during locking or landing operations by absorbing impact.

10. At 0000 you fix your position and change course to 090°T. At 0030 you again fix your position, and it is 0.5 mile east of your DR. Which statement is TRUE?

- The drift is 0.5 knot.
- **The current is easterly.**
- You should alter course to the right to regain the track line.
- The current is perpendicular to your track line.

Note:

Being east of your DR after steering 090T indicates an easterly current.
