



ICS Examiner's Report

Port and Terminal Examination 2012

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

A strong paper in general with some high quality papers from students. Most students displayed detailed knowledge of ports and terminals, the only thing that was generally lacking was the use of relevant working examples to emphasise the various points.

A very high standard was set by the students in 2012.

Question 1

Students by and large answered this question very well. Many students also chose to draw diagrams and went in to some technical detail of the loading equipment used in the ports. There were some good detailed comments on the terminal and storage areas. In terms of points of reference it would have been good to see some comments on the Vale vessels and the issues they have faced in Chinese ports.

Question 2

Students tended to struggle with the concept of this question. One of the main issues which was overlooked was the lack of pre-arrival information which is a crucial aspect of the ship to shore interface at tanker terminals. The pre-arrival will deal with numerous important issues such as ballast / chemical tank levels/ship mooring capabilities/manifold connections. These are all important issues which assist in the smooth efficiency of a call of a vessel to a tanker port - this aspect needs to be further defined by the students.

Question 3

Another straightforward question for many students. Most of the students who attempted this question could discuss a number of different container types such as bulk, high cube, reefer, grain, offshore, half height and additionally discuss the salient yard equipment that would be found in a container terminal, such as rubberised container gantries, straddle carriers etc. The students who achieved the highest marks also managed to discuss the IT systems which assist with automated container terminals and give examples such as Singapore.

Question 4

Students did well to discuss the global financial situation, and flag up the need to progress with caution with credit terms in particular. One area which students missed almost completely was for ports to insist on advance funds being in place prior to the vessel's departure from the port. This allows the port more consistency of funding for vessels calling. However it is a risk reward issue which certain owners may react negatively to and may affect business levels through the port.

Question 5

This question was well handled by most students. Most could display a number of working examples of ratios which port managers would use to assess berth and operational objectives.

Question 6**(a) Stowage Factor**

Students tackled this well with references to homogenous dry bulk cargo shipments.

(b) Angle of Repose

Students displayed a good knowledge of the importance of angle of repose. However examples of cargoes could have enhanced this answer.

(c) UNCLOS

Most students had awareness of UN conventions and SOLAS.

(d) Trust Port

A reasonable level of awareness, but a good answer required a working example.

(e) LASH Vessel

The majority of students displayed an awareness of this vessel type.

(f) Midas Port

Good awareness of the terminology, again as with trust ports, this required some examples to be given.

(g) Free Trade Zone

Good understanding of the benefits of this to a port, again a lack of an actual example hindered students from achieving a higher mark.

Question 7

Not a popular choice of question, however those who did choose to tackle it did so efficiently and gave good practical examples of health and safety initiatives in terminals, and managed to bring into the discussions legislation such as HASAW A and Dock regulation.

Question 8

Generally this was a poorly answered question. Indeed most students looked on this as an operational type question, and went off on a tangent and discussed all sorts of cargoes that would fill their sheds. Very few students understood this to be a question about investments appraisal. The examiner was looking for a discussion on cost/potential profit and the various types of investment appraisal techniques that could be applied.