

Test Edition: **B**  
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**Revised Manual**

**U.S. POWER SQUADRONS  
QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION  
FOR  
VESSEL EXAMINER**

1. Check the subject of this examination to insure it is the one requested.
2. **Do not make any marks in this examination booklet.** Answers are to be marked on form ANSC-7010 (Auxiliary Operational Specialty Course Examination Answer Sheet).
3. There are 30 multiple-choice questions in this examination. Each question has only one correct answer. Each question and answer has been extracted from the information contained in the current edition of the *Vessel Safety Check Manual*, COMDTINST 16796.8(series), A Boater's Guide to the Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats, and forms ANSC 7003/7008.
4. Although this is an open book examination, you are only permitted to refer to the *Vessel Safety Check Manual*, COMDTINST 16796.8 (series), A Boater's Guide to the Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats, and forms ANSC 7003/7008.
5. Work swiftly but carefully and be accurate. This examination has a three-hour time limit.
6. The passing score is 90% (no more than three wrong answers or unanswered questions). Since your score is based on the total number of correct answers, you are encouraged to answer every question.
7. After you finish the examination, check the answer sheet to make sure all required information is furnished. Return the examination booklet, answer sheet and any scrap paper to the proctor.
8. **Answers shall not be determined through a consensus with other persons during the examination. This test is an individual effort.**
9. The following instructions will assist you while completing the information section of the answer sheet. Also, please note the Privacy Act statement printed on the answer sheet. To make it easy to change your answer upon further review of a question, it is suggested that you complete the answer sheet in pencil.
  - a. NAME: Print your last name and first name on the line provided.

- b. MEMBER #: Enter your member number in the spaces provided.
- c. EXAM TITLE: Enter the short name of the examination – VE QUAL.
- d. MEMBER'S MAILING ADDRESS: Print your current mailing address.
- e. COURSE CODE, EDITION, TEST #: Enter the 3-digit course code, the 1-digit edition number and the 2-digit test number listed from the first page of these test directions in the blocks provided. For each number, fill in the corresponding circle.
- f. DATE TEST ADMINISTERED: Enter the day and year in the blocks provided. For days 1-9 enter a zero in the first block, then the number. Fill in the month, day and year in the corresponding circles.

10. Marking the answer sheet:

- a. Make all marks with a black lead pencil
- b. Do not leave stray marks on the answer sheet
- c. If it becomes necessary to change a mark, erase it completely.
- d. Darken the circles completely. You may want to mark your selections lightly with a small dot until you are satisfied that no changes will be made.

**DO NOT BEGIN. WAIT FOR THE PROCTOR TO GIVE THE SIGNAL.**

**DO NOT** answer questions with your first reaction. Look up the answer in your manual. Work independently.

## QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR VESSEL EXAMINER

1. The Oily Waste Discharge Placard must be posted in the machinery space or at the bilge pump control station of all vessels:
  - a. 39.4 feet and longer.
  - b. 26 feet and longer.
  - c. Registered or documented in the United States.
  - d. With oil in the bilge.
  
2. When there is a permanent fuel tank compartment without an electrical source of ignition in the compartment and everything else has passed, can you issue the VSC decal?
  - a. Yes, as long as the ducting is connected to the blower intake and extends only into the top third of the compartment.
  - b. No, permanent fuel tanks can rust and puncture. They should not be contained in special compartments.
  - c. Yes, as long as the fuel tank is vented to the outside of the boat.
  - d. No, since the compartment doesn't have enough room to contain the exhaust ducting and cowls required by the Coast Guard.
  
3. The Vessel Safety Check Program has many admirable goals. Which of the following fits those goals?
  - a. Supplement the local/state fish and wildlife authorities in enforcing the boating laws
  - b. Supplement the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Mission to minimize loss of life and property
  - c. Supplement, as a force multiplier, the Coast Guard's interdiction policies
  - d. All of the choices
  
4. You are performing a VSC in a state that requires all vessels to carry an anchor and anchor line. The 13' Jon boat you're checking doesn't have one on board. Can you issue a VSC decal since anchors are on the "right" side of the Form 7012?
  - a. No, if you signed off on a boat without an anchor when the state requires one, the fine is transferred to you instead of the offending boat owner.
  - b. Yes, anchors and anchor lines are just good ideas and recommended by the VSC program. However, the VE is not law enforcement so you should issue the decal.
  - c. Yes, some states have initiated laws that are impractical. Since a small 13' Jon boat couldn't carry enough anchor line to reach to the bottom of a deep lake anyway, issue the decal.
  - d. No, regardless of which side of the Form 7012 the item is on, item 14 on the left side of the form requires compliance with state and/or local laws.

5. Portable toilets \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Can be a Type I, II, or III MSD.
  - b. May be dumped overboard in US waters.
  - c. Are not considered installed devices.
  - d. Must have a plaque showing it is Coast Guard approved.
  
6. A documented recreational vessel is required to:
  - a. Display the name and hailing port on the stern in letters at least 4" high.
  - b. Display the name and hailing port on both sides of the bow and stern in letters at least 4" high.
  - c. Display the name and hailing port on some conspicuous part of the hull in letters at least 4" high.
  - d. Have the official number and net tonnage painted on the main beam in letters at least 4" high.
  
7. PWC's must have a way of signaling by way of a whistle or horn
  - a. The emergency distress signal.
  - b. Their intentions to other vessels.
  - c. When overtaking, crossing, and meeting another vessel.
  - d. All of the choices.
  
8. A recreational vessel less than 65 feet MUST monitor channel 16 if a VHF-FM radio is carried onboard.
  - a. True. Only if the radio is operating and not being used for communications
  - b. False. It is at the discretion of the operator
  - c. Only if it is an Operational Facility.
  - d. Only if required to have a FCC license.
  
9. The color of the 112.5 degrees navigation light would be
  - a. Red Only.
  - b. Green Only.
  - c. Red or Green.
  - d. White or Yellow.
  
10. Recreational boats with installed heads are required to have:
  - a. A Type I, II or III MSD if under 65'.
  - b. A dump valve
  - c. A Type III MSD to recirculate waste
  - d. A lock on the head door.

11. A vessel carrying which portable fuel tank would not be eligible for the VSC decal?
- One that is shallow dinged and scratched but free of leaks
  - One that has an inoperative fuel gauge.
  - One that has an inoperative vent.
  - One that is intended for use only as a spare.
12. If you are checking a 25' sailboat equipped with propulsion machinery, what navigation lights must it be able to display for award of the VSC decal?
- The light configuration for a sailboat only.
  - The light configuration for a powerboat only.
  - The light configuration for both a sailboat and a powerboat.
  - Either sail or power (at the owner's choice), but not both.
13. Federal regulations require a copy of the Navigation Rules to be carried on board and maintained for ready reference on:
- All vessels 39.4 feet and longer.
  - All vessels operating on bodies of water wider than 3 miles at the mouth of the river or harbor.
  - All vessels 26' and longer.
  - All sailboats 16' and longer.
14. When would a boater call a MAYDAY on channel 16?
- When in dire distress.
  - When having engine problems.
  - When out of fuel.
  - When a boater finds an obstruction to navigation.
15. When checking a 17' outboard motor boat, the sidelights do not go out when the owner activates the anchor light. Can you issue a decal?
- No, but the VE should offer to trace the wiring back to the panel and help the owner correct the problem.
  - Yes, but the owner must promise not to anchor the boat until the lights are fixed.
  - No, if the boat were anchored with its sidelights on, other boaters would be confused and think the boat was underway, thereby increasing the chance of a collision.
  - Yes, but the owner has to put black tape over the running lights when anchored.

16. A 20' sailboat without auxiliary power:
- Needs to install a motor.
  - Must meet federal registration requirements.
  - Is exempt from numbering by federal regulations, although some states may require it to be numbered.
  - Is exempt from federal regulations, so doesn't have to follow any state requirements.
17. An owner asks you if it is true that a boater must help another boater in danger at sea. Your proper response would be:
- No, most recreational boaters are not properly trained and equipped to help other boaters on the water. Leave that to the professionals.
  - Yes, an owner or operator must render assistance to another boater in danger at sea as long as this can be safely done. The Good Samaritan Law even protects the owner or operator.
  - Yes, you must help anyone or anything on the water that is in danger, regardless of the danger to you, your crew, or your vessel.
  - No, while it would certainly be nice to do so under the Golden Rule, it certainly is not necessary.
18. When checking a 27' stern drive boat, the owner cannot produce the pole for the combined stern and masthead light. Is the boat eligible for the VSC decal?
- No, it doesn't matter where the pole is, that lighting configuration isn't legal on a boat longer than 26'.
  - Yes, if the owner advises you that the boat only gets underway during daylight.
  - No, even though it is daylight, the VE must ensure that the boat is able to display the proper navigation lights.
  - Yes, but the owner needs to promise the VE that the pole will always be onboard in the future.
19. When examining a backfire flame control device, ensure:
- Control grid and housing are securely attached to inner housing.
  - The necessary approval markings are present.
  - No damaged element or cracked housing.
  - All of the choices.

20. When checking a 22' sailboat with no propulsion machinery, you notice that it is not equipped with any navigation lights. Is the boat eligible for the VSC decal?

- a. No, even though it is a sailboat, it must be able to display the proper navigation lights.
- b. No, sailboats are very slow and cannot easily get out the way in the event of a possible collision. Without navigation lights other boaters won't see them.
- c. Yes, sailboats are specifically exempted from any requirements to carry navigation lights.
- d. Yes, but the owner must carry an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light that should be displayed in sufficient time to prevent a collision

21. You are checking a brand-new 18' 175-hp stern drive vessel. The owner has purchased the "Coast Guard Kit" from the dealer. When you check the batteries you see that they are in their own enclosed compartment along with the battery switch. Can you issue the decal?

- a. Yes, as long as the batteries are secured and the terminals are covered.
- b. Yes, since the owner has the Coast Guard Kit it is obvious that they have serious concern for the safety of the boat and passengers.
- c. No, having batteries in an enclosed compartment is dangerous since batteries need to vent excess hydrogen.
- d. No, a Coast Guard Kit has nothing to do with batteries and therefore is the owner's way of directing the VE away from this dangerous condition.

22. You're at a very busy boat ramp. You have an opportunity to conduct the VSC on a boat that's still on the trailer. Can you do it?

- a. Yes, but before you can issue the VSC decal, you must see the boat in the water. This way you're sure it's seaworthy.
- b. No, the Vessel Safety Check Manual, COMDINST 16796.8 (series) explicitly states that the boat must be in the water, safely afloat at normal trim with adequate freeboard.
- c. Yes, as long as the owner or operator is present during the safety check the boat may be examined on a trailer.
- d. No, how can you tell if the boat is seaworthy if it's still on the trailer?

23. When checking a 25' cabin cruiser, the owner proudly shows you a cell phone that s/he has preprogrammed with the telephone number of the local Coast Guard Station in preparation for any trouble. What should your position, if any, be on a cell phone aboard the vessel?

- a. Cell phones should not be aboard vessels since most owners will talk on them while driving the boat and their inattention often results in collisions.
- b. Cell phones are dangerous in a wet environment. If the cell phone gets wet, contact with the user's ear can cause a fatal shock. Cell phones and boats don't mix.
- c. Cell phones are good to have on board to back up a VHF-FM radio when operating within range of a cell tower. However, beyond about 10 miles from shore, cell phones become unreliable.
- d. Having a cell phone onboard as the primary means of communications for distress is an excellent idea. The new digital phones have much longer ranges and the foresight the owner showed in preprogramming the number is the sign of a well-prepared boater.

24. Coastal waters may be

- a. The US side of the Great Lakes.
- b. The territorial seas of the US.
- c. Where a bay is greater than two miles at the entrance.
- d. All of these choices.

25. Inflatable Life Jackets (PFDs) are becoming more and more popular. You are examining a 22' stern drive vessel with two adults and two pre-teen children aboard. They proudly show you their four new inflatable PFDs, which are out of the manufacturer's original packaging. If everything else is okay, can you issue a VSC decal?

- a. No. Inflatable Life Jackets (PFDs) are not yet Coast Guard Approved so they don't count as acceptable for carriage.
- b. Yes, Inflatable life jackets are acceptable for anyone on board.
- c. No, inflatable Life Jackets (PFDs) are not approved for children under 16 years of age.
- d. Yes, but you need to examine the firing device by removing the CO2 cartridge to determine it has not been used.



26. Because of unusual circumstances, you were unable to conduct five VSCs last year. What happens now?

- a. You have to do at least two VSCs under supervision of a certified VE to regain your qualifications and then five for this year.
- b. You have to do ten this year to keep your qualifications and to make up for last year.
- c. You can't regain your qualifications. Once you miss a year you're too rusty to be an effective VE.
- d. You have to meet the full initial qualification criteria to regain your qualifications.

27. Oil or hazardous substances in the water must be reported to

- a. Coast Guard, immediately, using the National Response Center 1-800-424-8802.
- b. Local official within 10 days.
- c. State shore patrol.
- d. Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol.

28. Although NOT a Federal Requirement for issuing a VSC Decal, which of the following are TRUE regarding anchors and anchor line?

- a. Ensure the boat is equipped with the proper type anchor.
- b. A three to six foot length of galvanized chain should be attached to the anchor.
- c. Discuss with the boater the general rule regarding the length of anchor line needs to be 5-7 times the depth of the water.
- d. All of the choices.

29. Vessels eligible for a Vessel Safety Check include:

- a. Canoes, kayaks, Jon boats and PWC's.
- b. Recreational vessels registered in Canada as long as they are in US waters
- c. Work boats and tugboats if they are also used for recreational boating.
- d. Experimental design vessels to enhance their customer appeal and acceptance.

30. When awarding a VSC decal on a paddle craft, which statement regarding placement of the decal is NOT true?

- a. It should be placed near the HIN.
- b. Place decal where it can easily be seen.
- c. Make sure it is affixed in the presence of the VE.
- d. Should be placed on port side, forward of amidships.