



Transport for NSW

General Boat Driving Licence

Knowledge Test Questions

This question bank contains a selection of multiple choice questions that may be asked in the General Boat Driving Licence Knowledge test. You can use this as a study guide for obtaining a General Boat Licence. Answers appear on the last page of the document. Use this to review your own answers and understanding of the Maritime rules and regulations before taking a test at an Authorised Training Provider (ATP) or Service NSW centre.

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

In Section A of the real test you will be asked 20 multiple choice questions. You must answer all 20 questions correctly.

To help you practice for the test, we have included a selection of questions that you may be asked in this section.

A1

The responsibility of the master (driver) of a vessel is to:

- A. Maintain a proper lookout and avoid collision
- B. Ensure the safety of those on board the vessel
- C. Ensure that all safety equipment is accessible and stored on board correctly
- D. All of the above

A2

Where should you drive a vessel when in a channel?

- A. On the port (left-hand) side
- B. In the middle of the channel
- C. On the starboard (right-hand) side
- D. On any side - it does not matter as long as a collision does not occur

A3

What best describes a skipper's (driver's) responsibility regarding speed on the water?

- A. Travelling at a speed the hull is designed to reach
- B. Travelling at a speed at which sudden danger can be avoided
- C. Travelling at a speed for the best comfort of passengers and fuel efficiency
- D. Travelling at any speed unless signposted otherwise

A4

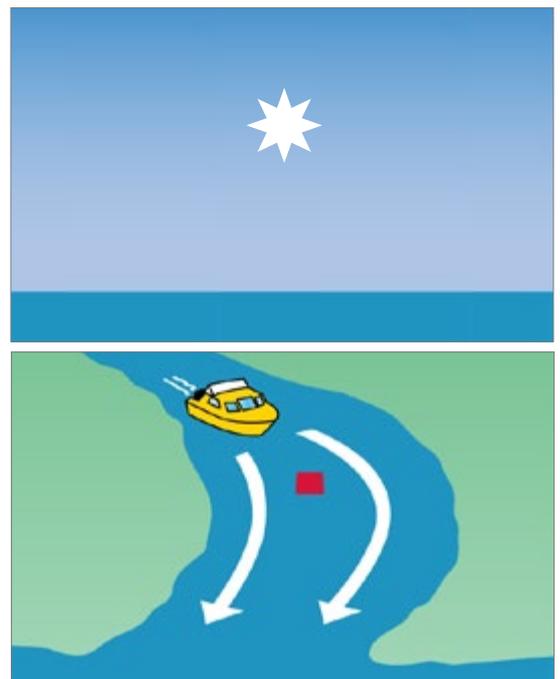
You see this light displayed on a vessel ahead of yours. It could be:

- A. A vessel at anchor
- B. The stern (back) of a vessel underway
- C. The torch of a canoe or row boat
- D. Any of the above

A5

When travelling DOWNSTREAM (toward the sea), on which side should you keep a flashing red light to stay within the channel?

- A. Your port (left-hand) side
- B. Your starboard (right-hand) side
- C. Either side - it does not matter
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the mark



General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

A6

What is the **MAXIMUM** permissible blood alcohol level for a person 18 years of age or more when driving a vessel in NSW?

- A. Under 0.08
- B. Under 0.02
- C. Under 0.05
- D. Nil

A7

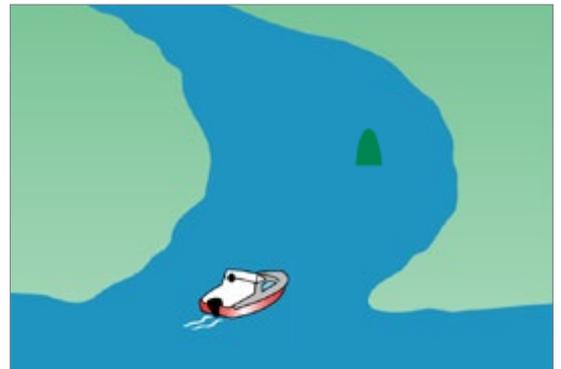
You are driving a power boat at night and you see a vessel off your port bow (in front of you, to your left). Who should give way?

- A. The other vessel
- B. The vessel that you are driving
- C. The driver of the slower vessel
- D. The driver of the smaller vessel

A8

When travelling **UPSTREAM** (away from the sea), on which side should you keep this type of navigation mark to stay in the channel?

- A. Your port (left-hand side)
- B. Your starboard (right-hand) side
- C. Either side (it does not matter)
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the mark



A9

In what circumstances **MUST** a child under 12 years of age wear a lifejacket?

- A. At all times on a vessel under 4.8 metres
- B. When being towed on any apparatus
- C. When in an open area of a vessel less than 8 metres underway
- D. All of the above

A10

You are driving a power-driven vessel and see a vessel ahead of you exhibiting these lights. What should you do?

- A. Alter your course to starboard (right)
- B. Alter your course to port (left)
- C. Maintain your speed and course
- D. Stop immediately and turn off all lights



General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

A11

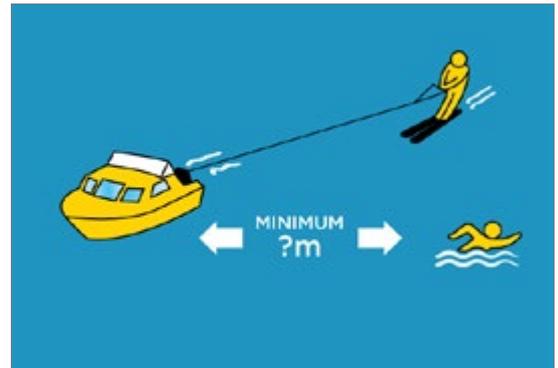
What light must a 7.5 metre power driven vessel display when it is drifting at night?

- A. All-round white light and separate or combined sidelights
- B. All-round white light only
- C. Flashing strobe light
- D. No lights needed when drifting

A12

When driving a power vessel at any speed or towing a person, what is the MINIMUM distance both the vessel and the towed person MUST keep from a person in the water?

- A. 60 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- B. 30 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- C. 100 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- D. Any distance which you consider safe



A13

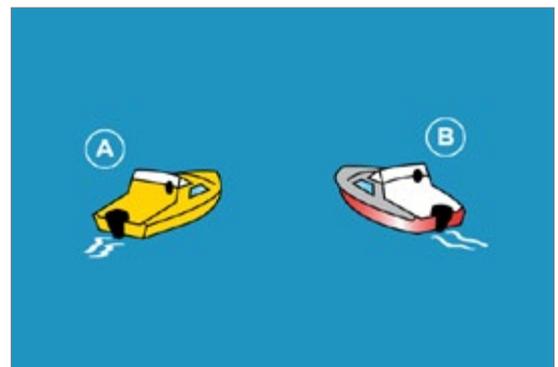
When driving a vessel at 6 knots or more, or towing a person, what is the MINIMUM distance both the vessel and any towed person MUST keep from power-driven vessels, land or structures?

- A. 30 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- B. 60 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- C. 100 metres or, if not possible, a safe distance
- D. It doesn't matter as long as you navigate with care

A14

You are driving the yellow vessel (A) and there is a risk of collision with the red vessel (B). What must you do to avoid a collision?

- A. Give way by taking early and substantial action to keep well clear
- B. Keep your current course and speed
- C. Increase speed to pass ahead of the other vessel
- D. Alter course to port and maintain your speed



A15

You are driving a small power-driven vessel between sunset and sunrise. What navigation lights MUST be displayed?

- A. Red and green sidelights, plus an unobstructed all-round white light, or white masthead light and white stern light
- B. Red and green sidelights only
- C. A white masthead light only
- D. No lights are required

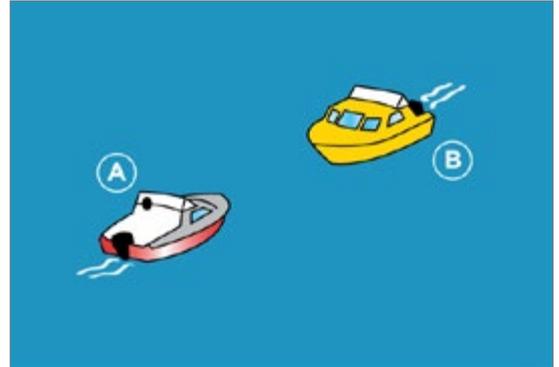
General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

A16

If two power-driven vessels are approaching each other **HEAD ON**, what must happen to prevent a collision?

- A. Both vessels must turn to port (their left)
- B. Both vessels must turn to starboard (their right)
- C. Only the red vessel (A) must alter course.
The yellow vessel (B) keeps its course and speed
- D. Only the yellow vessel (B) must alter course.
The red vessel (A) keeps its course and speed



A17

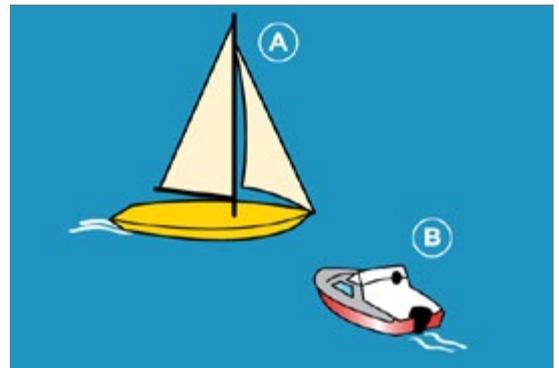
When must an inflatable lifejacket be serviced?

- A. When there is evidence of damage
- B. Every 12 months or when the manufacturer recommends it
- C. After it has been activated
- D. All of the above

A18

Which vessel should give way in this situation?

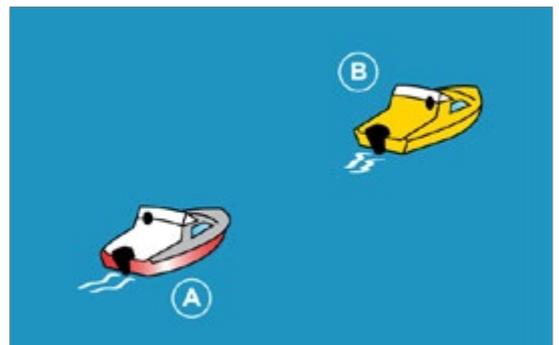
- A. The sailing vessel (A)
- B. The power vessel (B)
- C. Both vessels should maintain course
- D. The vessel to windward



A19

When overtaking another vessel:

- A. The yellow vessel (B) must move out of the way
- B. The yellow vessel must slow down until the red vessel has passed
- C. The red vessel (A) can only overtake when it is safe, keeping well clear
- D. Both vessels should alter course to starboard



A20

A vessel showing these lights is seen ahead. It is a:

- A. Power-driven vessel more than 5 metres in length
- B. Sailing vessel under sail
- C. Trawler
- D. Ferry in chains



General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

A21

In what circumstances **MUST** a person on a powerboat less than 4.8 metres wear a lifejacket?

- A. After sunset and before sunrise
- B. On open and alpine waters
- C. When boating alone
- D. All of the above

A22

You see a non-flashing white light displayed on a vessel ahead of yours. It could be:

- A. A vessel at anchor
- B. The stern (back) of a vessel underway
- C. The torch of a canoe or row boat
- D. Any of the above

A23

When travelling **DOWNSTREAM** (toward the sea) on which side should you keep this type of navigation mark to stay in the channel?

- A. Your port (left-hand) side
- B. Your starboard (right-hand) side
- C. Either side (it does not matter)
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the mark



A24

In what circumstances **MUST** a person on a vessel under 4.8 metres wear a lifejacket?

- A. After sunset and before sunrise
- B. On open and alpine waters
- C. When boating alone
- D. All of the above

A25

When travelling **UPSTREAM** (away from the sea), on which side should you keep a flashing green light to stay within the channel?

- A. Your port (left-hand) side
- B. Your starboard (right-hand) side
- C. Either side (it does not matter)
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the marker



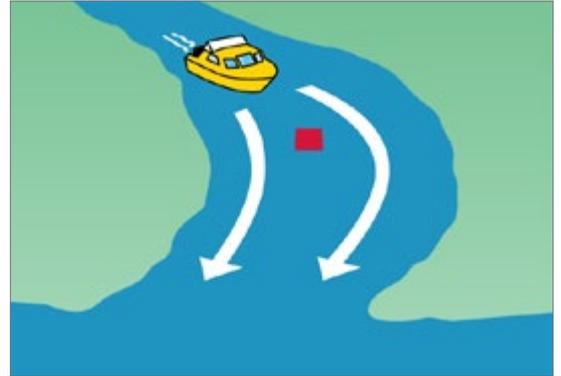
General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section A: Compulsory Questions

A26

When travelling **DOWNSTREAM** (toward the sea), on which side of your vessel should you keep this red marker?

- A. On the port (left-hand) side
- B. On the starboard (right-hand) side
- C. On either side - it doesn't matter
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the mark



A27

What do these signs mean?

- A. 4 kilometres to the next hazard
- B. Water depth is less than 4 metres in this direction
- C. Keep 4 metres from the banks in this area
- D. Maximum speed 4 nautical miles per hour (knots) in the direction indicated



A28

When should you switch on and display navigation lights on a vessel underway?

- A. Only when it is dark
- B. From sunset to sunrise and in restricted visibility
- C. At night only when travelling on open waters (the sea)
- D. At night in port areas only

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

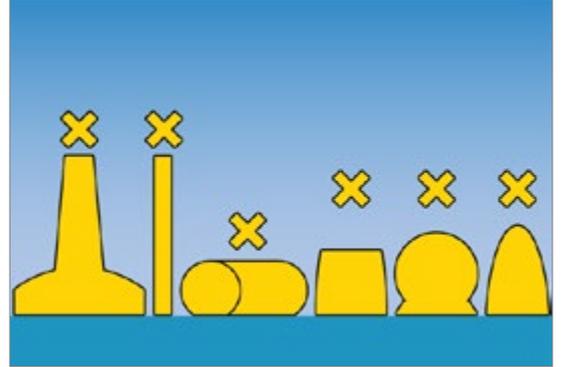
In Section B of the real test you will be asked 30 multiple choice questions. You must answer at least 24 of the 30 questions correctly.

To help you practice for the test, we have included a selection of questions that you may be asked in this section.

B1

What navigation mark is this?

- A. An isolated danger mark
- B. A channel blocked mark
- C. A special mark
- D. A port lateral mark



B2

What type of lifejacket MUST you wear on a runabout in OPEN water?

- A. Lifejacket Level 100 (formerly Type 1) as a minimum for each person on board
- B. Either lifejacket Level 100 formerly Type 1) or lifejacket Level 50 (formerly Type 2) for each person on board
- C. Any type of lifejacket as long as there is one for each person on board
- D. Any mixture of lifejacket Levels 100 (formerly Type 1), 50 (formerly Type 2) and 50S (formerly Type 3), or a wetsuit as long as there is one for each person on board

B3

What should you do to ensure your boat's wash does NOT excessively impact on other vessels or the foreshore?

- A. Always travel at 8 knots
- B. Constantly observe and consider the effects of your wash
- C. Always travel at the speed shown on speed restriction signs
- D. Travel as close to other vessels or the shore as possible

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B4

When do sailing vessels, operating only under sail, have right of way over a power-driven vessel under way?

- A. At all times, unless the sailing vessel is overtaking or if the power vessel is displaying an orange diamond
 - B. Only when approaching from the starboard (right-hand) side in a narrow channel
 - C. Only when participating in an official aquatic event such as a race or regatta, where there are official race marks in place
 - D. When a powerboat is at anchor
-

B5

When is the MOST DANGEROUS time to cross a coastal bar?

- A. On an incoming tide (flood tide)
 - B. On an outgoing tide (ebb tide)
 - C. Slack water (top or bottom of the tide)
 - D. All of the above
-

B6

The maximum number of people permitted to be towed behind a vessel is:

- A. Five people
 - B. Whatever the apparatus manufacturer states is permissible
 - C. Three people
 - D. Whatever the vessel's skipper (driver) thinks is safe
-

B7

When is it COMPULSORY to carry a waterproof torch on navigable waters on a powered vessel (other than a personal watercraft)?

- A. On vessels of more than 5 metres in length
 - B. Between sunset and sunrise
 - C. At all times
 - D. Only if going more than 2 nautical miles offshore
-

B8

Who should be encouraged to wear a lifejacket at all times?

- A. Children (even when not mandatory to wear lifejackets)
 - B. Elderly persons and poor swimmers
 - C. Persons with medical conditions (e.g. heart or breathing problems)
 - D. All of the above
-

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B9

When returning over a coastal bar or travelling with a large 'following sea' offshore, the SAFEST option is to:

- A. Maintain a position behind a wave, but not too close
- B. Maintain a position just in front of a wave
- C. Proceed at speed through the waves
- D. Maintain a position on top of a wave

B10

When is it appropriate to dispose of rubbish overboard?

- A. Never - all rubbish should be appropriately disposed of ashore
- B. Only if it consists of biodegradable food scraps
- C. Only when the rubbish is heavy enough to sink to the sea bed
- D. At any time when operating in open waters

B11

What should you do when approaching a much larger vessel in a channel?

- A. Signal to the larger vessel that you are holding your course
- B. Keep well clear and, if necessary, pass astern at a safe distance
- C. Increase speed and cross close in front of the larger vessel
- D. Hold your course and let the larger vessel take any necessary avoiding action

B12

When using navigational leads, you should:

- A. Pass to the right when going upstream
- B. Pass either side but not too close
- C. Line the leads up one behind the other, and travel in line with them
- D. Ignore them, as they are only used by large commercial vessels



B13

What is the minimum number of hand held distress signals required to be carried on a vessel on OPEN waters?

- A. One orange smoke flare and one red flare
- B. Two orange smoke flares and two red flares
- C. Three orange smoke flares and three red flares
- D. Four orange smoke flares and four red flares

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B14

What dangers can exist when boating on inland waters?

- A. Submerged hazards in murky waters
- B. Strong currents
- C. Cold water
- D. All of the above

B15

What does this sign mean?

- A. Maximum speed of 4 knots is required until signposted otherwise
- B. Powered vessels are prohibited in this area at all times
- C. Travel at a speed which minimises the wash created, to ensure the wash does not cause a nuisance, annoyance or danger
- D. Water-skiing prohibited in the area at all times



B16

'Bow riding' is illegal and dangerous. What is it?

- A. Sitting with legs over the gunwale (edge) of a moving powerboat
- B. Sitting on the bow of a moving powerboat where a person is at risk of falling overboard
- C. Dangling arms over the gunwale (edge) of a moving powerboat
- D. All the above

B17

When navigating through a mooring area you:

- A. Slow right down and keep a good lookout
- B. Travel through as quickly as possible
- C. Only give way to vessels on your starboard (right-hand) side
- D. Should use an observer

B18

Flares, 'V' sheet, map and a compass are some of the COMPULSORY items you need on your boat when:

- A. More than 2 nautical miles offshore
- B. More than 400 metres from any shore
- C. Operating in open waters
- D. Weather conditions are poor

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B19

What is the minimum age requirement of an observer when water-skiing/wakeboarding/aquaplaning if the observer is NOT the holder of a General Boat Driving Licence?

- A. 14 years
- B. 15 years
- C. 16 years
- D. 18 years

B20

What type of lifejacket MUST be worn when boating alone in a power vessel under 4.8 metres on enclosed waters?

- A. No lifejacket is required when boating alone in this situation
- B. Only a Level 100 (formerly Type 1) lifejacket is suitable in this situation
- C. Not necessary to wear the lifejacket as long as there is one in good condition and accessible if the need arises
- D. Any approved lifejacket of Level 50S (formerly Type 3) or greater

B21

To reduce the risk of hypothermia when in a runabout in cold weather, a person should:

- A. Wear light clothing to easily move around the boat.
- B. Stay immersed in water if their boat capsizes.
- C. Do nothing since hypothermia is unavoidable.
- D. Wear warm clothing and a lifejacket

B22

What is the minimum safe distance to keep from a blue and white 'dive flag' on the water?

- A. 30 metres
- B. 60 metres
- C. 80 metres
- D. 100 metres



B23

What factors influence the way a boat handles at sea?

- A. The vessel's hull design and the amount of power used to propel it
- B. Wave direction and the way a boat is steered
- C. The load (including people) carried on board
- D. All the above

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B24

An efficient sound signalling device is required to be carried:

- A. Only on vessels proceeding to open waters
 - B. Only on power driven vessels over 8 metres in length
 - C. On all vessels (other than paddle craft, personal watercraft, tenders and 'off-the-beach' vessels)
 - D. Only on vessels operating after sunset
-

B25

If you find yourself in cold water, what can you do to extend survival time?

- A. Move constantly and do not remove clothing
 - B. Remove all wet clothing and float on your back
 - C. Assume the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP) and do not remove clothing
 - D. Remove clothing and maintain movement of your arms and legs
-

B26

What is the main purpose of navigation lights on a boat?

- A. To light up the waterway ahead like the headlights of a car
 - B. To allow the crew to see what they are doing on board
 - C. To help rescue or emergency response craft find you at night
 - D. To indicate a vessel's position to other vessels
-

B27

At night, a vessel at anchor MUST display:

- A. Sidelights
 - B. Masthead light forward
 - C. All-round white light
 - D. No lights are required
-

B28

When should the radio message 'mayday' be used?

- A. When a vessel and its occupants are in grave and immediate danger
 - B. When a vessel has broken down and requires a tow
 - C. To introduce a strong wind warning
 - D. To introduce a navigational warning
-

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B29

When do sail vessels, operating only under sail, have right of way over a power-driven vessel under way?

- A. At all times – unless the sailing vessel is overtaking, or if the power vessel is displaying an orange diamond
 - B. Only when approaching from the right-hand side
 - C. Only when participating in an aquatic event such as a race or regatta
 - D. When a powerboat is at anchor
-

B30

When MUST a person being towed (water-skiing, wakeboarding or similar activities) wear a lifejacket?

- A. At all times
 - B. Only when the driver insists
 - C. When the towed person thinks it is a good idea
 - D. When the water is cold or dirty
-

B31

You have an emergency on board your vessel and you assess that you need flares to signal for assistance. When would you ignite the flares?

- A. As soon as you realise you need assistance
 - B. Every hour
 - C. When you see an aircraft, or when people on shore or in other boats are in visual range
 - D. Between sunset and sunrise
-

B32

Which of the following activities must NOT be undertaken by a person under 16 years of age who holds a General Boat Driving Licence?

- A. Operate a vessel at greater than 20 knots
 - B. Operate a power boat at 10 knots or more while towing a person
 - C. Operate a vessel after sunset and before sunrise at a speed of 10 knots or more
 - D. All the above
-

B33

What is the responsibility of the observer on board a vessel towing water-skiers or aquaplaners?

- A. To signal to skiers when they get too close to the shore
 - B. To keep a lookout for dangers ahead only when towing
 - C. To inform the driver about other vessels approaching from ahead
 - D. To watch the towed people and report all matters affecting the tow to the driver
-

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B34

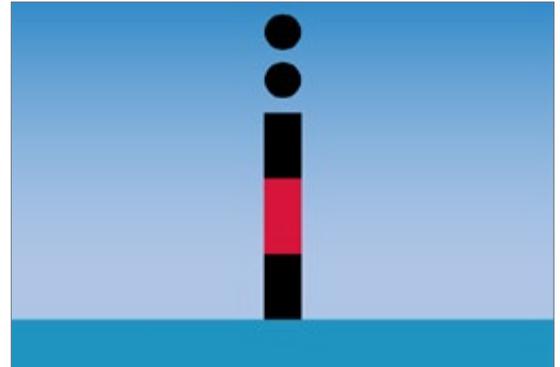
For environmental reasons, where should you avoid driving your boat?

- A. Deep, wide river channels
- B. Shallow areas, which contain seagrasses
- C. Boundaries between murky and clear water
- D. Bar crossings

B35

What kind of navigation mark is this?

- A. A port lateral mark
- B. A channel blocked mark
- C. A safe water mark
- D. An isolated danger mark



B36

What is the MINIMUM distance you should anchor your vessel from a submarine cable?

- A. 200 metres
- B. 150 metres
- C. 100 metres
- D. 50 metres

B37

Who can service an inflatable lifejacket?

- A. Anyone
- B. The manufacturer or their authorised service agent
- C. Anyone, but only if the manufacturer provides self-servicing instructions
- D. Both B and C

B38

What type of lifejacket MUST you wear on a powerboat less than 4.8 metres in OPEN water?

- A. Lifejacket Level 100 (formerly Type 1) as a minimum for each person on board
- B. Either lifejacket Level 100 (formerly Type 1) or lifejacket Level 50 (formerly Type 2) for each person on board
- C. Any type of lifejacket as long as there is one for each person on board
- D. Any mixture of lifejacket Levels 100 (formerly Type 1), 50 (formerly Type 2) and 50S (formerly Type 3), or a wetsuit as long as there is one for each person on board

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B39

When is it COMPULSORY to carry an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)?

- A. When crossing a coastal bar
 - B. When operating a vessel less than 5 metres in length on enclosed waters
 - C. At all times
 - D. When operating a vessel 2 or more nautical miles off the coast
-

B40

You hear a 'mayday' call on the radio. Your first response should be to:

- A. Monitor the radio. If a shore station fails to respond, attempt to relay the message
 - B. Render assistance immediately
 - C. Ignore the message. Emergency services will respond
 - D. Activate your Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)
-

B41

When navigating near whales, which of the following is correct:

- A. Stay at least 100 metres from any whale
 - B. Stay at least 500 metres away if a calf is present
 - C. Wait ahead in the path of the whales rather than chase them
 - D. All of the above
-

B42

From what minimum speed must a skipper (driver) keep at least 30 metres from another vessel?

- A. 10 knots
 - B. 8 knots
 - C. 6 knots
 - D. 4 knots
-

B43

When is a reduction of the maximum number of persons shown on a Safety Label recommended?

- A. Only when boating in poor weather conditions
 - B. Only when operating a commercial vessel
 - C. When there are children on board
 - D. When boating in poor weather conditions or when operating on open waters
-

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B44

What is the minimum safe distance to keep from a 'dive flag' on the water?

- A. 30 metres
- B. 60 metres
- C. 80 metres
- D. 100 metres



B45

Who is responsible for ensuring towed persons wear a lifejacket?

- A. The observer
- B. The towed person
- C. The vessel master
- D. It is not an offence, so nobody is responsible

B46

What happens when an engine kill switch is activated?

- A. A distress signal is activated
- B. The driver's lifejacket is automatically inflated
- C. The vessel maintains its current speed and course
- D. The engine shuts down and the vessel stops

B47

It is **COMPULSORY** to carry a marine two-way radio:

- A. On all vessels on all waters
- B. On all vessels proceeding more than 2 nautical miles from the coastline
- C. On all vessels over 5 metres in length
- D. On all vessels in isolated areas

B48

What does a 'dive flag' look like?

- A. White and blue flag with swallow tail
- B. Red and white flag
- C. Yellow with black dot flag
- D. Blue with centred white square

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Section B: General Questions

B49

Where should safety equipment, such as fire extinguishers and emergency signalling devices e.g. flares, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), be stored?

- A. In a readily accessible and protected position
 - B. Locked and secure under a bunker
 - C. As far away as possible from passengers who might accidentally damage them
 - D. In a box kept secure in a locked compartment
-

B50

You are driving a vessel at speed and your vision is suddenly affected by glare from the sun. Your immediate reaction should be:

- A. Slow down or stop
 - B. Continue driving at speed in anticipation that you will regain your vision
 - C. Increase speed and manoeuvre vessel to find a direction to minimise spray and the effect of the sun
 - D. Immediately turn sharply away from the sun
-

General Boat Driving Knowledge Test

Answers

A1. D	A23. A	B17. A	B39. D
A2. C	A24. D	B18. C	B40. A
A3. B	A25. B	B19. C	B41. A
A4. D	A26. B	B20. D	B42. C
A5. B	A27. D	B21. D	B43. D
A6. C	A28. B	B22. B	B44. B
A7. A	B1. C	B23. D	B45. C
A8. B	B2. A	B24. C	B46. D
A9. D	B3. B	B25. C	B47. B
A10. A	B4. A	B26. D	B48. A
A11. A	B5. B	B27. C	B49. A
A12. A	B6. C	B28. A	B50. A
A13. A	B7. C	B29. A	
A14. A	B8. D	B30. A	
A15. A	B9. A	B31. C	
A16. B	B10. A	B32. D	
A17. D	B11. B	B33. D	
A18. B	B12. C	B34. B	
A19. C	B13. B	B35. D	
A20. B	B14. D	B36. A	
A21. D	B15. C	B37. D	
A22. D	B16. D	B38. A	