MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY DEPARTMENT OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION

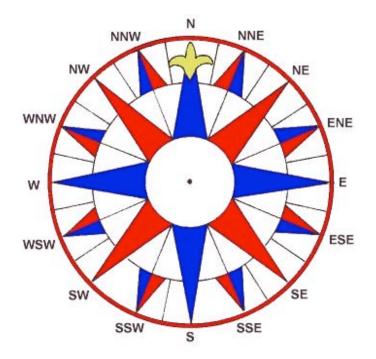
DECK LICENSE SEMINAR

COURSE NO. MT-4252

 $\label{eq:preparation} Preparation for the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine License Examinations \\ Officer-in-Charge of the Navigational Watch (OICNW) / Third Mate-Oceans Any GRT$



CAPTAIN JOSEPH S. MURPHY, II *Professor* Department of Marine Transportation Massachusetts Maritime Academy



"If you don't know where you are going, you aren't likely to get there."



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FROM: CAPT. J. S. Murphy, II - Deck License Coordinator

TO: Deck License Candidates

SUBJECT: USCG MERCHANT MARINE LICENSE REGULATIONS

The United States Coast Guard has promulgated regulations for the licensing of Deck Officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In order to qualify for licensure every candidate for all grades of deck license or endorsement must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Obtain the necessary sea experience and training
- 2. Meet prescribed standards (physical, citizenship, character, etc.)
- 3. Make application for licensure and prove 1 and 2 above.
- 4. Pass the prescribed professional examination

Pursuant to and in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard regulations every deck license candidate at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy must satisfy the following prerequisite requirements prior to the Third Mate license examination:

- 1. Sea Term 4 (MT-4371)
- 2. Satisfy the requirements for the issuance of an approved Sea Time Certificate.
- 3. Meet Academy academic standards for graduation.
- 4. Provide proof of citizenship.
- 5. Pass a USCG approved Physical Examination.
- 6. Submit written recommendations concerning suitability for duty.
- 7. Present evidence of satisfactorily demonstrating STCW required practical skills.
- 8. Present the following certificates of competence:
 - a. Certified Radar Observer Certificate
 - b. ARPA Certificate
 - c. GMDSS Certificate
 - d. Flashing Light Equivalence Certificate
 - e. Basic & Advanced Firefighting Certificate
 - f. First Aid Certificate
 - g. CPR Certificate
 - h. Lifeboatman Certificate

These qualifications and certificates are prerequisites for the issuance of a Third Mate License. Satisfactory completion of the requirements including the required STCW competency assessments is the responsibility of each deck license candidate. Deck license candidates will be permitted to sit for the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine license examination for Third Mate unless all of these requirements are met three (3) months prior to sitting.



MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION

DECK LICENSE SEMINAR (MT-4252)

FROM: CAPT. J. S. Murphy, II

TO: All Deck License Candidates

SUBJECT: CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

In order to create a proper classroom atmosphere, the following procedures and policies will be carried out at all times:

A. SECTION LEADER

- 1. The Section Leader will seat, preserve order and prepare a complete and accurate muster prior to the arrival of the instructor.
- 2. The Section Leader will make his report to the instructor and then the instructor will seat the class.

B. ABSENCES

- 1. *Attendance at all classes is mandatory.* Unauthorized absence will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action, grade point reduction and dismissal from the class will be administered to repeat offenders.
- 2. Notice of absence for any reason must be given to the instructor <u>prior</u> to the respective class.
- 3. Cadets are responsible for all material covered in class. Make-up examinations will not be administered and will incur a grade of zero.

C. GRADING POLICY

1. In accordance with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy academic policy, the passing grade for the Deck License Seminar (MT-4252) course is 60% (D). The following grade scale will be strictly adhered to: A (89.5-100%), B (79.5-89.4%), C (69.5-79.4%), D (59.5-69.4%), F (59.4% or less). Grades are determined by the average of percent achieved. Grades will not be scaled. Grades may be increased by a letter grade at the discretion of the instructor for a successful first time pass on all USCG license sections. Grades will averaged based upon the following percentage values:

1.	Deck License Seminar Pre-Tests	30%
2.	Final Examinations	35%
3.	License Post-Tests	35%

2. Final Examination and License Post Test sections are graded as pass-fail units with a passing grade of 10 points awarded for the following minimum grade point averages: (70 points/70 = 100%)

1.	Deck General	70%	10 points
2.	Navigation General	70%	10 points
3.	Safety & Environmental Protection	70%	10 points
4.	Rules of the Road (International/Inland)	90%	10 points
5.	Navigation Problems – Chart Plot Exercise	90%	10 points
6.	Navigation Problems – Terrestrial Navigation	90%	10 points
7.	Navigation Problems – Celestial Navigation	80%	10 points

Cheating by any means will NOT be tolerated. Offenders will incur a semester failure for the course Computers, cell phones, iPads or similar electronic devices are prohibited from the classroom.

D. ACADEMY STANDARDS

1. At all times in the classroom, every cadet will observe the standards of uniform dress and personal appearance as specified by Academy Regulations.



MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION DECK LICENSE SEMINAR (MT-4252)

COORDINATOR: CAPT. J. S. Murphy, II

SUBJECT: COURSE SYLLABUS

TEXT: Deck Officer Study Guide, 2010-2011 Edition Captain Joseph S. Murphy, II Academy Publishing Company (This text is recommended but not required)

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To assist prospective Deck License candidates with their preparation for the United States Coast Guard license examination for Officer-in-Charge of the Navigational Watch/Third Mate, steam and motor vessels of any gross tons upon oceans. This objective will be achieved through a structured curriculum, which includes a comprehensive review of all the nautical science disciplines. Classroom lectures, discussion, student assignments as well as a rigorous weekly testing program will be utilized. After successfully completing the Deck License Seminar every candidate can reasonably expect to pass the Merchant Marine License examination.

METHODS OF DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE

The methods chosen to carry out an evaluation will depend upon what the candidate is expected to achieve in terms of knowledge, comprehension and application of skill or course content.

The methods used can range from:

- Direct observation and participation in classroom training.
- Oral examination a simple question-and-answer discussion with the candidate (either individually or as a group)
- Written test instruments prepared multiple choice tests requiring the selection of correct or best responses from given alternatives, the correct matching of given items, the supply of short fill-in answers, the supply of more extensive essay written responses to prepared questions or mechanical drawings and technical sketches.
- Practical demonstration Where the course content is aimed at the acquisition of practical skills, the test could involve a practical demonstration by the candidate making use of appropriate equipment, tools, or simulation.

The responses demanded may therefore consist of:

- The recall of facts or information, by oral response or objective tests
- The practical demonstration of an attained skill
- The oral or written description of procedures or activities
- Rendering technical drawings, diagrams or sketches of vessel components and/or systems
- The identification and use of data from diagrams, drawings, publications, charts, tables, etc.
- Carrying out calculations to solve numerical problems
- The writing of an essay, journal, or technical report (i.e. workbook assignments)

Massachusetts Maritime Academy is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who believe they may need accommodations in this class are required to report to Dr. Fran Tishkevich, Director of Disability Compliance, within the first two weeks of class. (Ftishkevich@maritime.edu, Office: Room H-311A, Ext. 2208)

WEEK 1 **LECTURE**

Course Introduction 1

Course expectations, assignments, classroom policies, curriculum standards, attendance, examination format and criteria. Multiple-choice examination testing philosophy, deck reference library list. Review the contents of deck reference material provided by the U.S. Coast Guard.

SUBJECT

Tuesday

Thursday

Friday

2 **Examination 1**

Navigation Problems/Terrestrial (TNAV) - Course Determination/Leeway, Deviation Table, Compass Correction (Ranges) Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation (CNAV) - Time of Celestial Phenomena, Sunrise/Sunset, Time of Transit

Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound and Approaches, Chart No. 13205-TR 01)

3 **Examination 2**

Rules of the Road (International/Inland Part A Rules 1-3) - Definitions Navigation General - Navigational Instruments & Accessories which includes sextant, weather and miscellaneous instruments, magnetic & gyro compasses, radar, AIS, ARPA, ECDIS and the long range navigation systems. Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound and Approaches, Chart No. 13205-TR 02)

4 Weekend Routine

Saturday Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound and Approaches, Chart No. 13205-TR 03)

WEEK 2

5 **Examination 3**

Deck General - Marlinespike Seamanship

Rules of the Road (International/Inland Part B Rules 4-10) - Steering and Sailing Rules 1

Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Communications/General Signaling

Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) (Safety/SAR/AMVER) & Allied Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) (Deck General/Watch Procedures/Emergency Procedures/NCE)

6 **Examination 4**

March 14 Navigation Problems/Terrestrial (TNAV) - Special Case Bearing, Distance- off, and DR Plots Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation (CNAV) - Latitude by Polaris, Azimuth by Polaris, Star Identification, Star Selection Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 01)

7 **Examination 5**

Friday

Navigation General - Navigational Astronomy Rules of the Road (International/Inland Part B Rules 11-19) - Steering and Sailing Rules 2 Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 02)

8 Weekend Routine

Saturday Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 03)

March 15

March 16

March 7

March 8

March 9

March 12

March 5

Tuesday

Thursday

WEEK 3

9	Examination 6 Deck General – Liquid Cargo Operations Rules of the Road (International/Inland Pa Deck Safety & Environmental Safety – Ha		March 19
10	Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation Circle - Initial Course & Distance, Voyage	Thursday - Amplitude (Any Body), Azimuth (Any Body) n (CNAV) - Parallel Sailing, Mid-Latitude Sailing, Mercator e Planning, Estimated Time of Arrival rance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 01)	March 21 Sailing, Great
11	Rules of the Road (International/Inland Pa	Friday I (buoyage, charts, publications, navigation practices) rt E Rules 32-38, Exemptions & Annexes) - Sound and Light S rance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 02)	March 22 Signals
12	Weekend Routine Chart Plot Exercise (Chesapeake Bay Entr	Saturday rance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 03)	March 23
WE	EK 4		
LEC	TURE	SUBJECT	
13	Examination 9 Deck General - Anchoring and Mooring, T Rules of the Road - Combined Test 1 (Inte Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Life	ernational/Inland)	March 26
14	Examination 10	Thursday	March 28
	Navigation Problems/Terrestrial (TNAV)	- Electronic Navigation, Time Tick, Chronometer error/rate n (CNAV) – Sight Reduction, Line of Position, Computed	
15	Examination 11 Navigation General- Tides and Currents ir Rules of the Road - Combined Test 2 (Inte Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound a	ernational/Inland)	March 29
16	Weekend Routine Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound a	Saturday nd Approaches, Chart No. 13205-TR 06)	March 30

WE	'EK 5		
17	Examination 12 Deck General- Ship Maneuvering and Ha Rules of the Road - Combined Test 3 (Int Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Fi	ernational/Inland)	April 2
18	Examination 13	Thursday	April 4
	Navigation Problems/Terrestrial (TNAV)		
	Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation (Any Body)	on (CNAV) - Latitude by Meridian Transit (Any Body), Ob	served Altitude
	Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound -	Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 04)	
	· -		
19	Examination 14	Friday	April 5
	Navigation General - Ocean, Winds and V		
	Rules of the Road - Combined Test 4 (Int Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound -		
	Chart I fot Excretise (Long Island Sound -	Lastern Fart, Chart No. 12554-11(05)	
20	Weekend Routine	Saturday	April 6
	Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound -	Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 06)	
	EK 6		
21	Examination 15	Tuesday	April 9
	Deck General - Ship Construction Rules of the Road - Combined Test 5 (Int	ernational/Inland)	
		aritime Law; Rules and Regulations (33 CFR/46 CFR/49 CFR	/U.S. Code)
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,
	*** COMMENCE P A	ATRIOT'S HOLIDAY AFTER LAST CLASS **	*

Holiday RoutineFridayApril 10NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK ASSIGNMENTSHoliday RoutineMonday
NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAKApril 15

WE	<i>EK 7</i> Holiday Routine M NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK	onday	April 15
	***RESUME CL	LASSES – TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013	
LEC 22		tional/Inland) Ilution, Bunkering and General Safety	April 16
23			April 18
24	Navigation General - Combined Test 1 Rules of the Road - Combined Test 7 (Internat	ciples of Stability and Damage Control (Both Deck Gene	April 19 ral & Safety
25	Weekend RoutineSaChart Plot Exercise (Chesapeake Bay Entrance)	aturday e and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 06)	April 20
WE 26	Deck General - Ship's Business, Vessel Docu		April 23 ter/Rescue of
27	Examination 20 Th Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation (CN Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - East		April 25
28	Examination 21FrNavigation General - Combined Test 2Rules of the Road - Combined Test 9 (InternatChart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - East		April 26
29	Weekend RoutineSaChart Plot Exercise (Long Island Sound - East	aturday ern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 09)	April 27

WE 30	EK 9 Examination 22 Deck General – Combined Test 1 Rules of the Road - Combined Test 10 (In Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Co		April 30
31	Examination 23 Navigation Problems/Terrestrial Navigation Chart Plot Exercise (Chesapeake Bay Entr	Thursday on (TNAV) - Combined Test 1 ance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 07)	May 2
32	Examination 24 Navigation General - Combined Test 3 Rules of the Road - Combined Test 11 (In Chart Plot Exercise (Chesapeake Bay Entr	Friday ternational/Inland) ance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 08)	May 3
33	Weekend Routine Chart Plot Exercise (Chesapeake Bay Entr	Saturday rance and Approaches, Chart No. 12221-TR 09)	May 4
WE	<i>EK 10</i>		
34	Examination 25 Day 1 - FINAL EXAMINATION Rules of the Road - Mock U.S. Coast Guar Deck General - Mock U.S. Coast Guard E		May 7
35	Examination 26 Day 2 - FINAL EXAMINATION Navigation Problems/Terrestrial (TNAV) Navigation Problems (Chart Plot Exercise Chart Plot Exercise (Block Island Sound a) - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	May 9
36	Examination 27 Day 3 - FINAL EXAMINATION Navigation General - Mock U.S. Coast Gu Deck Safety & Environmental Safety - Mo		May 10
37	Examination 28 Day 4 - FINAL EXAMINATION Navigation Problems/Celestial Navigation	Saturday (CNAV) - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	May 11

WE	SEK 11		
LEC	CTURE	SUBJECT	
38	Examination 29	Tuesday	May 14
	Day 1 - POST TEST		
	Rules of the Road - Mock U.S. C	oast Guard Exam	
	Deck General - Mock U.S. Coast	Guard Exam	
39	Examination 30	Thursday	May 16
	Day 2 - POST TEST	·	
	Navigation Problems/Terrestrial ((TNAV) - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	
		Exercise) - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	
	Chart Plot Exercise (Long Island	Sound - Eastern Part, Chart No. 12354-TR 10)	
40	Examination 31	Friday	May 17
	Day 3 - POST TEST	·	
	Navigation General - Mock U.S.	Coast Guard Exam	
	Deck Safety & Environmental Sa	fety - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	
41	Examination 32	Saturday	May 18
	Day 4 - POST TEST	v	U U
		avigation (CNAV) - Mock U.S. Coast Guard Exam	
	Tutorial/Self Study	Sunday	May 19
	USCG Examination Pre-briefin		
		N WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE P	'RE-BRIEF

WEEK 12

* CLASS OF 2013 LICENSE CANDIDATES (ONLY)

U.S. Coast Guard May License Exam Schedule at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy

	* BEG	IN USCG EXAM - MAY 2013 *	
42	Day 1 - USCG EXAM Deck General - A.M. Navigation General - P.M.	Monday	May 20
43	Day 2 - USCG EXAM Rules of the Road - A.M. Deck Safety & Environmental Protect	Tuesday ion - P.M.	May 21
44	Day 3 - USCG EXAM Navigation Problems/Terrestrial Navig Navigation Problems (Chart Plot Exer		May 22
45	Day 4 - USCG EXAM Navigation Problems/Celestial Naviga	Thursday tion (CNAV) - A.M.	May 23

* END USCG EXAM - MAY 2013 *

MATERIALS ALLOWED IN THE EXAM ROOM

The following reference texts and materials will be provided by the Coast Guard at the Regional Examination Center (REC) for use by license candidates for all grades of license.

1.	Nautical Almanac
2.	Reprints from the 1983 Tide & Tidal Current Tables (COMDTPUB P16721.46)
	Part 1: 1983 Tide Tables (Atlantic Coast of N. America)
	Part 2: 1983 Tidal Current Tables (Atlantic Coast of N. America)
3.	Sight Reduction Tables for Marine Navigation, H.O. Pub. No. 229, Vol. 2, Latitudes 15°-30°, Inclusive
4.	American Practical Navigator, Pub No. 9, Volume II, 1981 Edition
5.	International Code of Signals, H.O. Pub. No. 102, 1969 Edition, Revised 1993
6.	Reprints from the Light List Lists and Coast Pilots (COMDTPUB P16721.38)
	Part 1: Block Island and Eastern Long Island Sound
	Section A: Light List - Volume I (blue pages)
	Section B: Coast Pilot - 2 (white pages)
	Part 2: Chesapeake Bay Entrance and Approaches
	Section A: Light List - Volume II (yellow pages)
	Section B: Coast Pilot - 3 (green pages)
7.	Radio Navigational Aids Pub. No. 117
8.	Chemical Data Guide for Bulk Shipment by Water CIM 16616.6A, 1990 edition
9.	Code of Federal Regulations §
	33 CFR Parts 1 to 124, Navigation Rules, Anchorages, Bridges
	33 CFR Parts 125 to 199, Oil Pollution, and Navigation Safety Regulations
	46 CFR Parts 1 to 40, Tanker Regulations, Manning Requirements
	46 CFR Parts 41 to 69, Marine Engineering and Load Line Regulations
	46 CFR Parts 70 to 89, Passenger Vessel Regulations
	46 CFR Parts 90 to 139, Cargo and Miscellaneous Vessels Regulations
	46 CFR Parts 140 to 155, Dangerous Cargo Regulations
	46 CFR Parts 156 to 165, Manning & Equipment Specifications (Subpart Q)
	46 CFR Parts 166 to 199, Small Passenger Vessel Regulations
	46 CFR 200-499, Maritime Administration, Great Lakes
	49 CFR Parts 100 to 177, Transportation of Hazardous Material
10	* The effective date is the latest date available.
10.	Stability Data Reference Book (COMDTPUB P16721.31) August 1989 Edition

All parts of the above license examination reference materials may be used on every section of the deck license examination with the exception of Rules of the Road during which no reference material of any kind may be used.

TEST MATERIALS

1.	Training Chart No. 12221-TR, Chesapeake Bay and Approaches
2.	Training Chart No. 12354-TR, Eastern Long Island
3.	Training Chart No. 13205-TR, Block Island Sound and Approaches
4.	Maneuvering Board WOBZP 5090
5.	Great Circle Tracking Chart WOXZC 5270
6.	Great Circle Tracking Chart WOXZC 5274
7.	Position Plotting Sheet VPO SX001 - Universal
8.	Position Plotting Sheet 923 (Latitudes 17°- 24°)
9.	Position Plotting Sheet 924 (Latitudes 23°- 30°)
10.	Stability Worksheets (Locally reproduced)
11.	Radar Plots (Locally reproduced for Radar Module)

Each Deck Cadets will provide the following materials for the Deck License Seminar

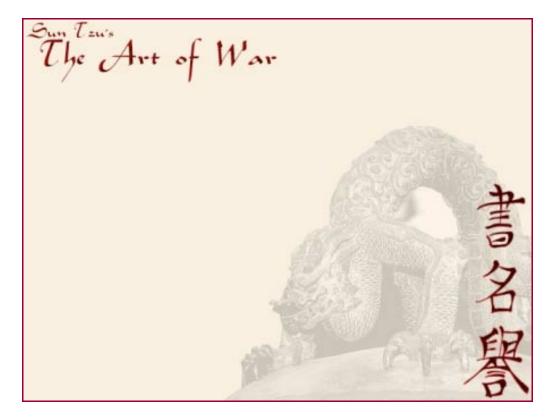
1.	Merchant Marine Deck Examination Illustration Book (COMDTPUB P16721.6A) January 1992 Edition
2.	Nautical Almanac
3.	Reprints from the 1983 Tide & Tidal Current Tables (COMDTPUB P16721.46)
	Part 1: 1983 Tide Tables (Atlantic Coast of N. America)
	Part 2: 1983 Tidal Current Tables (Atlantic Coast of N. America)
4.	Sight Reduction Tables for Marine Navigation, H.O. Pub. No. 229, Vol. 2, Latitudes 15°-30°, Inclusive
5.	American Practical Navigator, Pub No. 9, Volume II, 1981 Edition
6.	Reprints from the Light List Lists and Coast Pilots (COMDTPUB P16721.38)
	Part 1: Block Island and Eastern Long Island Sound
	Section A: Light List - Volume I (blue pages)
	Section B: Coast Pilot - 2 (white pages)
	Part 2: Chesapeake Bay Entrance and Approaches
	Section A: Light List - Volume II (yellow pages)
	Section B: Coast Pilot - 3 (green pages)
7.	Chemical Data Guide for Bulk Shipment by Water CIM 16616.6A, 1990 edition
8.	Stability Data Reference Book (COMDTPUB P16721.31) August 1989 Edition
9.	Training Chart No. 12221-TR, Chesapeake Bay and Approaches
10.	Training Chart No. 12354-TR, Eastern Long Island
11.	Training Chart No. 13205-TR, Block Island Sound and Approaches
12.	Great Circle Tracking Chart WOXZC 5270
13.	Great Circle Tracking Chart WOXZC 5274
14.	Maneuvering Board WOBZP 5090
15.	Position Plotting Sheet VPO SX001 - Universal
16.	Position Plotting Sheet 923 (Latitudes 17°- 24°)
17.	Position Plotting Sheet 924 (Latitudes 23°- 30°)

CANDIDATES SHALL PROVIDE

- 1. Rude Star Finder or equivalent with instructions for use.
- 2. Plotting Instruments:
 - a. Two (2) protractor triangles and large parallel rule
 - b. Large dividers with spare tips or sharpened tips
 - c. Large compass with spare tips and leads
 - d. Circular protractor
 - e. Small ruler
 - f. Metal yard stick
 - g. Pencils No. 2 or mech. pencils with spare lead
 - h. Pencil sharpener
 - i. Eraser (Chart quality)
 - j. Blue highlighter
 - k. Ink pens (black and red)
 - 1. A Tote Bag to stow all of the above

Calculator - Only non-programmable calculators are permitted. Applicants may use calculators, but are not permitted to use preprinted forms during the examinations. All calculators must meet the following standards:

- a. It must not use pre-programmed strips or chips or any other pre-programmed device that may be inserted into the calculator.
- b. It may not be a permanently programmed specialty computer, such as a navigation computer. Computers capable of generating trigonometric functions, logs and anti-logs, squares, cubes, and roots thereof, are acceptable provided they meet the other requirements.
- c. Any manually programmable calculator without simple erasure capability is not permitted.
- d. Any printed calculator tape must be turned in at the end of the exam with any scratch paper.
- 3. Spiral binder (3") with separators for notes



"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat." Sun Tzu, The Art of War (400 B.C.)

Sun Tzu, fl. c.500–320. B.C., the name used by the unknown Chinese authors of the sophisticated treatise on philosophy, logistics, espionage, strategy and tactics known as *The Art of War*. It includes many commentaries by later Chinese philosophers. One person probably wrote the core text during a time of expanding feudal conflicts, but the exact century is uncertain. Most authorities now support a date early in the Warring States period (c.453–221 B.C.). This work has deeply influenced Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese military thinking and has enjoyed growing popularity among businessmen. It stresses the unpredictability of battle, the importance of deception and surprise, the close relationship between politics and military policy, as well as the high costs of war. The futility of seeking hard and fast rules and the subtle paradoxes of success are major themes. Sun Tzu advises:

"The best battle is the battle that is won without being fought."