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LKE Syllabus

Introduction

This syllabus is provided to candidates wishing to sit their Local Knowledge Endorsement oral examination for either a Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Initial or Revalidation, or, a PLA Initial or Revalidation within the Port of London local knowledge area.

The syllabus outlines the areas of study and the level of knowledge required to successfully pass the examination.

Examinations will be held at the Port of London Office;

- For candidates sitting the MCA initial examination the examination board will consist of a MCA approved PLA Harbour Master or deputy, and a MCA approved PLA River Pilot (where available).
- For candidates sitting the MCA revalidation examination the examination board will consist of a MCA approved PLA Harbour Master or deputy, and a Thames Practitioner (where available).
- For PLA initial or revalidation, the examination board will consist of a PLA Harbour Master or deputy.

All documents and items for the examination will be provided. Candidates should bring with them ID and relevant master's license.

The syllabus is broken down into sections of knowledge, the subject covered, details required, level of knowledge and the reference source.

The level of knowledge is rated from 1 to 3 and indicates the level of detail the candidate should provide in the examination;

1 = Detailed 2 = Working 3 = Aware

Local Knowledge Endorsement Examination Syllabus					
General Rules and Knowledge					
Subject		Detail		Level of Knowledge	Reference
1	PLA Regulations and Guidance	1.1	PLA Thames Byelaws	2	Thames Byelaws
		1.2	General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London	2	PLA General Directions
		1.3	Port Information Guide	2	PLA Port Information Guide
		1.4	Current Notice to Mariners	2	PLA Notice to Mariners, PLA Website
		1.5	Passenger Vessels operations, Tideway code and Craft towage code	2	Tidal Thames Passenger Vessel Operations Code, Tideway Code, Craft Towage Code
2	Awareness of other agencies	2.1	Port Health Authority, Environment Agency, RNLI, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, HM Coastguard, Fire Brigade and Marine Police Unit.	3	Local Knowledge
3	VTS & Communication Procedures	3.1	VTS Stations / VHF Frequencies / Routine Broadcasts / Reporting Points / Local Traffic Control	2	PLA General Directions, PLA Port Information Guide, Tide Tables, Charts
		3.2	Working channels of terminals, docks and locks	2	Charts / Local knowledge
River Environment					
Subject		Detail		Level of Knowledge	Reference
4	Tides	4.1	Find HW & LW for a given position	1	Tide Tables, PLA Website
		4.2	Location of tide gauges and tide boards	2	PLA Website
		4.2	Calculate Under Keel and Air Draft clearance for a given time / position	2	Tide Tables, Charts
		4.3	Tidal Surges and Effect of Land Water	3	Tide Tables, PLA tide predictions, Local Knowledge

Emergency Response					
Subject		Detail		Level of Knowledge	Reference
5	Search and Rescue	5.1	Coastguard / RNLI stations / "Mayday & "Pan Pan" / Search and Rescue plans	2	Tide Tables, VHF Cours, Local Knowledge
6	Port Emergencies	6.1	Master's responsibility in all categories (Reporting)	2	Port Information Guide, PLA Website
7	Security	7.1	General security awareness	3	Domestic Safety Management Code, Met Police, TRANSEC (DFT)
General Navigation					
Subject		Detail		Level of Knowledge	Reference
8	Geography	8.1	Names and Locations of reaches, lights and points.	1	Chart, Local Knowledge
		8.2	Names and Locations of piers, causeways and landing places.	1	Chart, Local Knowledge
		8.3	Names of bridges, working arches, depths and arch heights.	1	Chart / Tide table / PLA Website / Mariner's Guide to Bridges
		8.4	Names and Locations of locks, dock, barriers, creeks, cuts and inlets, and location of Heliports.	1	Chart, Local Knowledge
		8.5	Description of the Thames Barrier, working spans and depths.	1	Chart, Tide Tables, Local Knowledge
		8.6	Names and Locations of designated and prohibited anchorages.	2	Chart, Tide Tables
		8.7	Names and Locations of mooring buoys, tiers, and barge roads.	2	Chart, Local knowledge
		8.8	Local marks - buoyage, daymarks, tide gauges.	2	Chart, Tide Tables, Local Knowledge
		8.9	Names and locations of residential moorings, recreational clubs and facilities.	1	Chart, Local knowledge
8	Hazards to Navigation	8.1	Shoals	1	Chart, PLA mini plots
		8.2	Environmental impacts during passage.	2	Local Knowledge
		8.3	Thames Tideway Tunnel CSO locations, effects on vessels, warning system and discharge warning lights.	1	Chart, Local Knowledge, PLA Website, PLA Port Information Guide
9	Traffic Patterns	9.1	Traffic "Pinch Points".	2	Chart, Local Knowledge
		9.2	Types and timing of traffic expected in the area.	2	Local Knowledge

		9.3	The routine timing of the passage of "Reporting Vessels"	2	Local Knowledge
10	Currents and tidal Eddies	10.1	Tidal sets at bridges, piers and moorings	2	Local Knowledge
		10.2	Effect of barrier gate positions on navigation through the Thames Barrier	2	Local Knowledge
		10.3	Effect on height of tide and tidal stream when the Thames Barrier is closed	2	Local Knowledge
		10.4	Effect on height of tide and tidal stream caused by unusually high or low volumes of land water passing over the weir at Teddington	2	Local Knowledge
PLA Regulations					
Subject		Detail		Level of Knowledge	Reference
11	Special PLA Regulations	11.1	Passage Planning Requirements	2	PLA General Directions
		11.2	Navigation in Thames Barrier Control Zone	1	PLA General Directions, Charts, PLA Port Information Guide
		11.3	Definitions (Reporting Vessels)	1	PLA General Directions, Thames Byelaws
		11.4	Requirement for lookouts	1	PLA General Directions
		11.5	Wash and Draw off	1	Thames Byelaws
		11.6	Variation to Col Regs	1	Thames Byelaws
		11.7	Large Vessels transiting to the west of Margarateness	1	PLA General Directions, PLA Port Information Guide
		11.8	Special Signal Lights ("Isophase Lights")	1	PLA General Directions, Charts
		11.9	Limitation on vessels towing	2	PLA General Directions, Thames Byelaws
		11.10	Sound Signals	1	Thames Byelaws
		11.11	Passenger Vessel additional markings	2	PLA General Directions
		11.12	Bridge Light (navigational arch, closed arch, reduced headroom signals, width restrictions, Smart Signals)	1	Thames Byelaws, PLA Port Information Guide, Mariner's Guide to Bridges
		11.13	Speed limits, Certificate of Compliance and pass with cautions	2	Thames Byelaws, PLA General Directions, PLA Port Information Guide
		11.14	Special Direction	2	Port of London Act 1968 s112, s117, s118
		11.15	Exclusion Zones	1	Charts, PLA Port Information Guide