

Introduction to Sailing Class - Study Questions

1. What is the most common sailboat rig on the Columbia River?
2. How many sails does that type of rig have?
3. What are those sails called?
4. What are some other types of rigs?
5. What is the purpose of a keel?
6. What are some different types of keels?
7. What are advantages/disadvantages of different types of keels?
8. What are some different designs for rudders?
9. What are advantages/disadvantages of different rudder designs?

10. What is standing rigging?
11. What is the standing rigging wire at the bow of the boat called?
12. What is the standing rigging wire at the stern of the boat called?
13. What are the standing rigging wires on the sides of the boat called?
14. What is a masthead rig?
15. What is a fractional rig?
16. Does a fractional rig compared to a masthead rig have a smaller or larger headsail?

17. What is running rigging?
18. What lines hoist sails?
19. What lines trim sails?
20. Name some other pieces of running rigging that we use to control the mainsail.

21. How can sailboats make progress directly upwind?
22. Sailing as close as possible to the wind is called what point of sail?
23. Bearing off the wind a little you are at what point of sail?
24. Sailing at right angles to the wind is what point of sail?
25. Bearing off the wind a little further you are at what point of sail?
26. Sailing directly downwind is called what point of sail?
27. What point of sail creates the most heeling?
28. What is the fastest point of sail?
29. What is the slowest point of sail?
30. "Coming up" or "sailing higher" means you turn which direction?
31. "Falling off" or "sailing lower" means you turn which direction?

32. How does sailing higher change the feeling of the wind?
33. How does sailing lower change the feeling of the wind?

34. What is coming about or tacking?
35. What are common commands for coming about?
36. What is jibing?
37. What are common commands for jibing?
38. Why is jibing more dangerous than coming about?

39. What do we call the three corners of a sail?
40. What do we call the three sides of a sail?
41. To which corner of the sail do we tie a sheet?
42. How many sheets do we tie to a headsail?
43. How many sheets go to the mainsail?
44. What knot do we use to tie a jib sheet to the jib?
45. What knot could we use as a stopper knot?
46. What knot could we use to tie a line from a fender to a stanchion?

47. When sailing on a run are sails in pull or push mode?
48. When sailing on a close reach are sails in pull or push mode?
49. When coming about, what do we do with the headsail sheets?
50. When coming about, what do we do with the mainsail sheet?
51. When jibing, what do we do with the headsail sheets?
52. When jibing, what do we do with the mainsail sheet?

53. Does wheel steering on a boat work the same or opposite of wheel steering on a car?
54. Name some models of cars that have tiller steering.
55. What advantages does tiller steering have over wheel steering?
56. What advantages does wheel steering have over tiller steering?

57. Which direction do you wrap a line around a winch?
58. Describe how NOT to remove a winch handle from a winch.
59. What is "tailing"?
60. What is "grinding"?
61. T or F: To impress your captain with your energy, occasionally throw a winch handle overboard when you are the grinder.
62. How do self-tailing winches differ from non-self-tailing winches?
63. How do you use the different speeds of two-speed winches?

64. What is "rail meat"?
65. When sailing to weather on which side of the boat does the crew normally sit?

66. How do nautical charts differ from maps?
67. What is a GPS?
68. What is a chartplotter?
69. What is AIS?
70. What marine radio VHF channel do you use to contact the Coast Guard or to get emergency help?
71. What do you say if there is a life-threatening emergency?

72. What is weather helm?
73. What is lee helm?
74. How would using only the mainsail and no jib affect weather/lee helm?
75. How would using only the jib and no mainsail affect weather/lee helm?
76. How does heeling more in a gust when sailing to weather affect balance?
77. What can you do to correct that problem and make it easier for the helmsman?

78. How many lines do you use to tie a boat to a dock?
79. What dock lines stop the fore/aft movement of the boat?
80. What dock lines stop the athwartships movement of the boat?
81. What is it called to move a boat at the dock using lines?

82. What danger must the helmsman avoid when sailing on a broad reach or running?
83. When sailing on a broad reach the helmsman sees the headsail start to luff. What should the helmsman do?
84. What happens when sails are trimmed too loose?
85. What happens when sails are trimmed too tight?
86. Which is more obvious, over-trimming (too tight) or under-trimming (too loose)?
87. Which is more common, over-trimming or under-trimming (Hint: "When in doubt, ease it out")?
88. What can help us see how air flows over the sails?

89. T or F: There is not much work to do on a sailboat, so just keep out of the captain's way and let the captain do all of the work.

90. T or F: Docking is always easy so the captain does not need your help.