

In most centres the examination was approached satisfactorily and, in keeping with last year, there has been a marked improvement in the answering of the questions relating to voyage costing. However, some candidates continue to lose marks because they do not read the question – or follow instructions – properly. In some cases, marks were lost because candidates (a minority) did not answer the questions in sequence and as a result, they accidentally omitted questions.

The following areas also need attention:

1. The section on maritime meteorology (Questions 18 & 19) seems to have been inadequately prepared. Candidates must be able to apply meteorological knowledge to maritime situations. (This matter was raised last year as well, but there seems to have been little improvement in the answering ability of candidates at certain centres.)
2. Some answers to the Strategic Considerations section showed that scant attention had been paid to this section by some candidates and, consequently, they lost relatively easy marks. This is particularly pertinent to Question 17, relating to the role of merchant ships in time of war.
3. The section on Maritime Law Enforcement (Question 13) was not answered well and a number of candidates were unable to name the maritime-related crime or problem, and also could not identify the applicable enforcement agency.
4. It is suggested that more time be allocated to revision centred on previous examination papers, as most of the content of this paper appeared in various forms in previous papers.