

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY – US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

PE SpeedGram

May 2003

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PUBLIC BCN/ACN Examination Revised

The Education Department is delighted to announce the availability of a revised examination for use in the Public Education delivery of BCN and ACN. This examination has been thoroughly reviewed and revised based upon the recommendations of many members regarding its predecessor's deficiencies.

As this SpeedGram is being written, the revised examination is at the printer and will soon make its way to AUXCEN to be included in future course material deliveries.

However, we must initiate an interim procedure whereby courses that are currently underway can have access to this revised test instrument.

The interim plan, until the examinations can be mailed out with course materials, will operate as follows:

1. This exam is a requirement for, and is to be used with, both of the above courses.
2. This is a closed book exam and must be proctored.
3. Students taking the BCN/ACN course may be given the first half of the exam (the first 31 questions) as a midterm exam, after the completion of the first 6 chapters. Students must turn in this exam booklet at the completion of the midterm exam.
4. The time limit for the complete 56 question exam is 3 hours. If the student is taking only the BCN course, or the first 31 questions are being used as a midterm, the time limits are 1½ hours for the first 31 questions and 1½ hours for the second 25 questions.
5. Passing grades are mandatory for issuing the appropriate certificates.
6. BCN students need only answer the first 31 questions. The passing grade is 75%. (no more than 8 incorrect answers)
7. ACN students must answer all 56 questions. The passing grade is 75%. (No more than 14 incorrect answers)
8. The materials that are to be distributed as described below will include an answer key.
9. If time permits, instructors / proctors are encouraged to discuss missed questions with the students.

10. Students failing the examination are allowed a maximum of two retakes. These must be administered at another time and only after a thorough instructor-student review of previously missed answers.
11. Students failing both exam retakes must take the course again before taking another examination.
12. The student should be provided with two copies of a Maneuvering Board.
13. The student must have a copy of the 1210Tr chart. (Does not need to be a new one.)
14. The standard Auxiliary answer key may be used to grade these exams.
15. It is important that instructors / proctors take steps to insure the integrity of the examination. Copies are not to be retained by students or Auxiliary members, other than the proctors. Examination booklets are to be kept in a secure location and under the control of the proctor. Instructors must also take steps to hold secure this examination guide with the exam answers.

Until we have the materials being shipped routinely by AUXCEN, you will need to utilize the following procedure in order to get the examination:

1. Contact your DSO-PE and advise them that you are administering the examination.
2. The DSO-PE will have received from DC-E the examination, Instructor Instructions and answer key in PDF.
3. When you request the examination materials, DSO-PE will electronically provide you with the materials for local reproduction and administration of the examination.
4. At the conclusion of the course and all examinations the course instructor and/or proctor will see that all examination materials are destroyed except for the graded answer sheets that should be retained as part of the student record.

It is important for you to understand that this is an interim measure until such time that these materials are routinely included in the materials provided by AUXCEN.

It is also most important that you understand that this test IS NOT in any way a part of the AuxACN course for our members. Members taking the Navigation course must complete AuxACN-A and AuxACN-B examinations that are secured via normal channels for AUXOP Specialty courses.

Finally, if you do not have a source for maneuvering boards, Celestaire, Inc. sells them in pads of 50 and the URL to go right to the ordering site for that products is found at <http://www.celestaire.com/catalog/products/5090.html>

DC-E
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