

**Steamship *William G. Mather* Museum**  
**Onboard Docent Final Exam**

Revised: 11-21-02

**Directions:** This test may be completed individually or in small groups (suggested limit is 3 individuals/group). Please use the following reference materials available to answer the questions: Training Manual, “Fast Facts”, “Allouez Express” videotape, Museum staff and volunteers. Please print out this copy, fill it in and then return the completed form to the Museum Staff or e-mail your answers back directly to [WGMather@aol.com](mailto:WGMather@aol.com). Be sure to number your answers appropriately.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. How old is the Steamship WILLIAM G. MATHER?

2. List the *Mather*'s major dimensions and carrying capacity.

Dimensions:

Carrying Capacity:

3. Name the three technical innovations aboard the *Mather* that make her an Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

1.

2.

3.

4. There are three departments working on a freighter: Deck, Galley, and Engine. List the chain of command for each area from highest to lowest ranking.

Deck

Galley

Engine

5. In what year did Cleveland-Cliffs retire the Steamship *William G. Mather*?
  
6. What was the chief reason for the *Mather's* retirement?
  
7. To whom was the *Mather* donated in 1987?
  
8. In what year did the Steamship *William G. Mather* open as a museum?
  
9. Ownership of the *Mather* was taken over by the Harbor Heritage Society in what year?
  
10. List seven achievements/facts about William G. Mather.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  
11. How many crew members were onboard in: 1925\_\_\_\_\_ 1980\_\_\_\_\_ ?
  
12. In the experiment "Why a Boat Floats," the steel nail sinks in the water. How then, can a steel boat like the *Mather* float?
  
13. Describe the 1941 heroic war effort of the Steamship *William G. Mather*.

14. Identify the four main changes to shipping in the “Evolution of Great Lakes Shipping” Exhibit.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

15. Name the largest ship on the Great Lakes today and give its length.

16. Describe the purpose of the ballast tanks.

### **THE FORWARD END**

17. a) What does the term, “dunnage” mean?

b) Which crewmembers were housed in Dunnage?

18. What is the “head” on the ship and what is the origin of this term?

19. a) What is the difference between a gyrocompass and a magnetic compass?

b) Where is each found onboard and why?

20. a) How did one become a guest on the *Mather*?
- b) Which crewmember was assigned to take care of the guests?
21. List the four times when the Captain had to be in the Pilot House.
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
22. Where is the combination to the safe in the Captain's Quarters located?
23. Why was the *Mather* called the "Honeymoon Yacht" in 1929?
24. When facing the bow, the starboard side of the boat is the \_\_\_\_\_ side.
25. a) When was Radar technology first added to the *Mather*?
- b) What vintage are the current Radar units onboard?
26. Using the chart table, what is the true compass heading from Cleveland to the Detroit River?
27. Explain the use of the bow thruster and its significance in the shipping industry.
28. Which crewmember actually steered the boat?
29. a) What instrument is used to determine wind speed?
- b) Where is it located on the MATHER?

30. Describe the telegraph system used to convey messages from the Pilot House to the Engine Room.

31. Learn the story of Captain Harry Anderson's rescue of the *Bethlehem* (Pilot House Navigation activity). Briefly describe what happened.

32. a) What was the purpose the windlasses?

b) Where are the *Mather's* windlasses located?

33. a) How many pounds does the *Mather's* anchor weigh?

b) How many pounds does one link of the *Mather's* anchor chain weigh?

### **SPAR DECK/CARGO**

34. List the three main cargoes the MATHER carried.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

35. What is Taconite?

36. a) What Clevelander invented the Hulett Unloaders?

b) How did they work?

c) Where are the last remaining Huletts in Cleveland today?

37. List the First, Second, and Third's major duties on the *Mather*.

First Mate

Second Mate

Third Mate

38. Describe how the bosun's chair was used.

39. a) How many Cargo Hatches are there on the *Mather*?

b) How many Hatches are over each Cargo Hold?

Cargo Hold 1:

Cargo Hold 2:

Cargo Hold 3:

Cargo Hold 4:

40. Explain the saying "Batten down the Hatches."

41. a) What is the significance of the cable that is strung above the Cargo Hatches on the Spar Deck from the forward to aft deckhouses?

b) Who used it?

c) Who seldom used it?

**THE AFT END**

42. a) Who was the “Black Gang”?

b) Name the area on the boat where they lived and how it is used today.

43. Name the *Mather*'s three dining areas. Describe who ate in each of these areas.

1.

2.

3.

44. What is the chief cook called on Great Lakes freighters?

45. What is the Second Cook's job?

46. There was a fire that occurred onboard the *Mather* while she was laid up in a Toledo, Ohio “frog pond.” Briefly outline the story and name the group which funded the restoration of this area.

47. a) Describe the “Change Out” of equipment that occurred in the Boiler/Engine Room in 1954.

b) How did this change affect staffing?

48. a) In 1964, the Bailey Meter Company automated which machinery?

b) What crew position was eliminated because of this automation?

49. Explain how a steam turbine engine works to an elementary school-aged group. Use everyday items, such as a teakettle and pinwheel.



50. Describe each of the Engineers' jobs listed below:

Chief Engineer:

First Assistant Engineer:

Second Assistant Engineer:

Third Assistant Engineer:

Day Engineer:

51. How many blades does the *Mather's* propeller currently have?

52. How many people could each of the *Mather's* lifeboats carry?

## TECHNIQUES

### Safety/Security

53. What is the Staff / Volunteer Dress Code for the following?

Walking Shorts / Pants

Shirts

Foot Apparel

54. What is the recommended procedure for the following?

Thunderstorms

Rain Only (Slippery Conditions)

High Winds

Darkness

55. What is the *Mather* Museum's policy on locking for the following external doors during Public Hours?

Front Door:

Engine Room Door:

**Interpretation**

56. Explain the difference between “information” and “interpretation”

57. Answer the following as “True” or “False”

- a) T or F Any information that does not somehow relate what is being displayed to the visitors’ personal experience will be sterile
- b) T or F Interpretation is revelation based on information
- c) T or F The chief aim of interpretation is instruction
- d) T or F Interpretation should be start with specific and then relate to the whole
- e) T or F Interpretation for children should be a diluted version (dummied down) of what is presented to adult visitors

**Hospitality**

58. Explain the Golden vs. Platinum Rule.

59. When handling complaints, what does the “T.L.C.” system stand for?

T:

L:

C:

60. List three advantages of being a *Mather* docent.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.