



## Are you Boat Smart?

Test yourself.

See if you can answer these basic boating information questions.

Contact **Houston Sail and Power Squadron** for the answers  
and class information.

Visit <http://uspshouston.org> or call Robert Campbell at 713-594-1876.

1. You should have on board charts of the area where you are boating to help you determine where you are and:
  - a. provide you with up-to-date weather forecasts.
  - b. show you where the fish are, if you are a fisherman.
  - c. give you the location of near-by refreshment stands.
  - d. where you want to be to avoid busy shipping lanes and hazards.
2. In addition to keeping the pump nozzle in constant metal to metal contact with the filler pipe, an important safety instruction to follow when refilling portable fuel cans and tanks is to:
  - a. always use approved yellow marine safety tanks.
  - b. take them out of the boat and fill them on the dock.
  - c. use only approved safety tanks and fill them inside the boat.
  - d. step carefully onto the gunwale when carrying full tanks aboard.
3. A float plan includes a description of your boat, who is on board, your safety equipment, and, most importantly:
  - a. the name of your radio operator.
  - b. where you expect to be and when you expect to return.
  - c. the draft of your boat.
  - d. what mechanical equipment on your boat is not in the best condition.

4. **If you are caught on the water in bad weather, your first step should be to:**
  - a. listen for a weather forecast.
  - b. pour water into the bilge to increase stability.
  - c. turn and head for shore at full speed.
  - d. see that all aboard are wearing life preservers.
5. **Under normal conditions, the recommended scope of an anchor line should be approximately:**
  - a. 25:1
  - b. 15:1
  - c. 7:1
  - d. 2:1
6. **Because the Coast Guard recognizes personal watercraft (Sea-Doo, etc.) as full-fledged boats:**
  - a. operators must adhere to the same rules and regulations as larger boats.
  - b. a PWC must show its navigation lights when used after dark.
  - c. a PWC usually has priority of movement in meeting and crossing situations.
  - d. PWCs are exempt from all boating rules and regulations.
7. **The most important information on a boat's Maximum Capacities Label is the:**
  - a. boat's registration number.
  - b. seating capacity of the boat.
  - c. maximum total weight of occupants of the boat.
  - d. maximum combined weight of persons, motor and gear.
8. **If involved in a boating accident, all operators should:**
  - a. file a written report within 90 days of any accident involving damage in excess of \$3000.
  - b. file an accident report with the local Motor Vehicle Department within 30 days.
  - c. notify the Coast Guard Auxiliary immediately if your boat sinks or anyone needs first aid.
  - d. report all accidents involving death, disappearance, or serious injury of a person, or property damage over \$500.
9. **When you rent a boat, the person responsible for having all legally required equipment aboard is the:**
  - a. dock hand who turns the boat over to you.
  - b. boat's manufacturer.
  - c. person who rents the boat – you.
  - d. rental agent.

- 10. You are returning from sea and want to stay safely in the preferred channel. On what side of your boat would you keep a red and green horizontally-banded mark if the top band is red?**
- either side would be appropriate.
  - port
  - you would stop and turn around (you are in an exclusion area).
  - starboard.
- 11. In the uniform State Waterway Marking System, regulatory marks with orange circles and black lettering indicate:**
- controlled areas.
  - dangerous areas.
  - exclusion areas where boats should keep out.
  - general information for the area.
- 12. While operating in thick fog, you hear a horn blast for about 5 seconds every 2 minutes. You proceed slowly and watch for a:**
- Vessel not under command.
  - Vessel engaged in fishing.
  - Sailing vessel underway.
  - Powerboat underway.
- 13. When two powerboats meet bow-to-bow, which boat must stay out of the way of the other?**
- The boat closest to the wind.
  - Both boats are give-way vessels.
  - The boat closest to a northerly heading.
  - The boat last to sound its maneuvering signal.
- 14. A powerboat observing another vessel crossing its course from off its starboard side must:**
- speed up to pass ahead of the other vessel.
  - maintain course and speed.
  - take early action to keep clear.
  - signal five short blasts on its whistle.
- 15. You are fishing for bluefish by trolling a lure behind your slow-moving boat. According to the rules you have:**
- special privileges, providing you show the lights of a vessel engaged in fishing.
  - priority of movement over all other vessels.
  - no special rights or privileges.
  - special privileges, for you are restricted in maneuverability.