

Guidelines on conducting Orals (MEO 1998 rules)

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHIPPING		
Authorised by	EAC Branch File No: ENG/EXAM-17(9)/99	EACQMP Chap VI
DYCS	Instructions to Examiners	Circular 010A
	Issue No. 01	Dated: 12th November 2001

Subject:- Guidelines for conducting orals under MEO 1998 Examination Rules

Further to our Instructions to Examiner Circular No. 10 issued on 1st March 2000, it has been observed by the Directorate that a number of interpretations of the guidelines have emerged, which are conflicting and have direct impact on the results of the candidate. These oral guidelines are scientifically proven and have been based on sound technical practices. It may appear as a departure from the earlier scheme of orals and hence an effort has been made to establish parity with the practices of the past.

There are 3 types of candidates, which an examiner faces:-

- (a) A candidate who can be passed easily.
- (b) A candidate who fails easily.
- (c) A candidate for whom the examiner can hardly make up his mind to pass or fail, as he often correctly answers difficult questions and fails to answer simple questions.

In the directives issued the core issue of orals has also been addressed. Earlier the orals used to be taken after the written examination and via the orals, the examiner could conform and conclude that the knowledge of the candidate as put-forth on his written papers confirms to accepted levels of competency. However, since the orals have now been de-linked with the written examinations, the entire characteristic of the orals is now based more on competency assessment rather than knowledge alone. It is that part of the competency as prescribed in the STCW 95 code which forms the first paragraph of Circular No. 10. It is thus now become important to understand that the orals examination should not be focused on knowledge alone, but on all other issues of competency which are clearly spelt out. Accordingly the marking system was also devised which made sure that those candidates who could not be assessed by the first team of examiners need no further assessment by different examiner. In a sense, this means that after the oral assessment the group of examiners must clearly make up their mind whether to fail or pass the candidate. The passing level thus has been kept at 10 points, co-related to the 60% of the passing percentage as laid out in the Meta Manual. Henceforth all marking must be indicated in the form of points instead of percentage mark. It naturally accrues that anything below 10 i.e. 8, 9 etc. for a candidate amounts to failure. The result sheet (Annex I) also stand amended accordingly to show 10 or greater than 10 as passed candidate. All other issues stated in the Circular No. 10 to remain in force as amended. Following are included in the Guidelines:

1. [Guidelines on conducting orals MEO 1998 rules.](#)
2. [ANNEX 1](#) (Result Sheet)
3. [ANNEX 2](#) (Illustrative Verbs in Orals For Expressing general and Specific Objectives)
4. [ANNEX 3](#) (Competencies)
5. [ANNEX 4](#) (Specific Topics For Orals)