Overall Comments

The results demonstrated a reasonable level of knowledge overall, bearing in mind no course book was available for study. Candidates clearly came from a range of business backgrounds, some showing only a narrowly based understanding of the subject and/or lack of effort to acquire basic knowledge. Others showed a good level of industry awareness and demonstrated this in their answers.

Question One – Chartering Strategy Report

On average the best answered question. Candidates had flexibility to choose their markets and use their own experience and knowledge. Most people were better at describing current states of the market but were weaker on making relevant recommendations to their exclusive Owner.

Question Two – Off-hire

A test of basic contract knowledge and understanding of the principles involved on what is an important aspect of Offshore work. It was reasonably well answered by most. Those who knew BIMCO Supplytime or similar contracts provided the best answers, whilst those without lack of practical knowledge struggled.

Question Three – Hybrid Propulsion

The least popular question and few tackled this. It required explanation that it is a blend of mechanical Diesel and Diesel electric propulsion which offers increased flexibility and fuel savings – not to be likened (as some Candidates did) with the petrol engine/battery technology used in cars. Generally the lack of technical expertise showed through and this was not a well answered question.

Question Four – Two Offshore Areas

One of the most popular questions and almost all correctly identified two areas but some Candidates failed to make these contrasting areas as requested. This limited their ability to distinguish relevant differences and thereby lost marks which could otherwise have been gained. Generally however it was well answered.
Question Five – Class/Notation

Another popular question with a reasonable level of knowledge shown. In many cases however not enough detail was given about Class Societies and the notations used together with their purpose. A few candidates wasted effort in describing boat features rather than dealing with the Class matters required.

Question Six - FPSO

Moderately well answered by those who tackled this question. Whilst knowledge was shown of what an FPSO was, the awareness of why it was being used was not generally apparent. Cost savings for oil companies, avoidance of infrastructure costs, suitability for smaller fields were some of the points being looked for. Likewise comments on the financial implications which are the driving force behind this technology.

Question Seven - Cabotage

Answered only by some but of those few demonstrated any real knowledge. They made some effort but demonstrated poor understanding. The commercial implications were not well tackled – it restricts who can be involved, reduces competition, increases costs for Charterers were some of the aspects. The differing types and extent of Cabotage were not addressed, nor in sufficient detail those countries and areas of the world involved.

Question Eight – Multi-choice

The most popular question, showing the attraction of having a choice of 5 out of 8 items - and no doubt boosted confidence at the time. One or two items proved problematic “J-lay” was confused by some with “S-lay” whilst “Walk to work” dealing with crew transfer at sea also gained a new aspect as supporting a land based “green” initiative in walking to work at the office.