ICS Examiners Report

Dry Cargo Chartering 2010

Overall Comments
A much better year although still too many students failed to apply their knowledge rather than just regurgitate text – the latter action resulted in failure.

Question One
Being able to draft a coherent offer and calculate the earnings attributable to it are key skills in this subject. A pass answer included all the main terms of a voyage offer and an estimate that lead logically from that offer. Additional marks were available if the offer was expanded beyond the basic and/or the estimate showed all workings and was laid out neatly. It was a generally well answered question that should have brought in a good mark.

Question Two
This was not a popular question. A pass answer was gained from a clear message highlighting the protective clauses – that is Clause Paramount, New Jason, Both-to-Blame, war risks, Ice. Candidates had to make mention of at least two of these clauses and attempt to draft at least one. Additional marks were available for extra clauses described. Distinction answers would have drafted additional clauses. A number of candidates explained each clause in a voyage charter except those above.

Question Three
This was a popular question, in general well answered. A pass answer would have included a well annotated profile of a Panamax bulkcarrier with realistic dimensions plus one comment on the capacity plan. Note the capacity plan only needed one mention to pass – but it did need mentioning, too many good diagrams were let down by candidates forgetting to answer all parts of the question. Additional marks were available for an annotated midship section and further capacity plan explanation. Distinction answers would have included a Plan diagram as well and make mention of geared or gearless vessel.

Question Four
As usual this was a popular question but as usual candidates failed to read the question properly. A pass answer was only possible with a description of at least two trade routes (not just drawing them on the map or listing importers and exporters) plus the main characteristics and hazards for each commodity. Additional marks were for trade route descriptions describing weather and geography and expansions of hazards and stowage requirements. Distinction answers included a well annotated map – including ports – with a well written essay.
**Question Five**

Candidates should note that there are 20 marks per question, there were far too many answers here that lacked enough relevant detail. A pass answer needed to make reference to the fact that agreeing with this request is fraud and use the functions of a bill of lading to explain why. Additional marks were available for a logical discussion of the problems of agreeing, regarding claims and insurance and the non-enforceability of the LOI. Distinction answers included sensible ideas for protection or ways around the request over an above “Don’t do it”.

**Question Six**

A popular question that was well answered. In order to pass candidates needed to have the correct definitions with respect to a) the calculation, b) actual time used and c) all permitted laytime plus sensible examples for at least one of these. A number of candidates failed to explain that all time saved and working time saved are to do with the calculation of despatch. Additional marks were available for mention of a) all purposes/total days, b) an example showing huge potential difference c) commission deducted. Distinction answers were in the form of a well written essay with example calculations illustrating all the answers.

**Question Seven**

Too many candidates continue to think that a market report is an easy option to write. It is not sufficient to recite a number of supposed fixtures nor is it sufficient to discuss what may or may not be happening “in my opinion”. A pass answer had to include a description of the current market ie tonnage availability and cargo demand, a discussion of the forecast for demand and supply and a view on the future in line with the previous arguments. It was not necessary to have actual data but an attempt to suggest some fictional data was the bare minimum required.

**Question Eight**

Not a popular question but well answered by the majority of those that attempted it. A pass answer had to include a basic bunker redelivery clause with a basic calculation and explanation of deviation. Additional marks were available for well written clauses and explanation and a diagram to aid explanation of deviation. Distinction answers would have included sensible data used in all calculations and the clause.