

Examination: Personal Watercraft – Having a Fun and Safe Experience

Answers – Matched to Boat America First 30 Questions

1. When is it permitted to operate a PWC between sunset and sunrise?
 - a. When displaying appropriate navigation lights
 - b. When traveling in a straight line near the shoreline
 - c. Never. It is against the law to drive a PWC between sunset and sunrise
 - d. When traveling at a speed of less than 10 knots
2. Which statement is true when it comes to driving a PWC close to residential, picnic, or recreation areas:
 - a. It is not a problem because people on the shore areas are not in any danger
 - b. There is no law against riding continuously around in front of such areas
 - c. Noise annoys
 - d. What happens on the water has nothing to do with people on the shore
3. What happens to your PWC when you reduce power?
 - a. It will be harder to turn.
 - b. The steering will stay the same.
 - c. It will be easier to turn.
 - d. The transmission goes into reverse
4. What is the purpose of an engine cut-off switch lanyard attached to a PWC operator's wrist or lifejacket?
 - a. To shut down the engine if the operator falls off.
 - b. To automatically inflate the operator's lifejacket.
 - c. To activate a distress signal.
 - d. To tether the PWC to the operator like a surfboard
5. When must you wear a life jacket on a PWC?
 - a. At all times
 - b. At all times except when in a group of PWCs
 - c. At all times except when close to shore
 - d. At all times except when pulling a water skier
6. When are you required to maintain a proper lookout using sight and hearing while operating your personal watercraft?
 - a. Only during times of poor visibility
 - b. Only at substantial speed
 - c. At all times
 - d. Only when training a new PWC operator
7. When using a personal watercraft for waterskiing:
 - a. The personal watercraft is exempt from the rules applying to other powerboats towing a water skier
 - b. The personal watercraft must comply with the rules applying to other powerboats towing a water skier, including carrying an appropriate observer on the personal watercraft
 - c. The personal watercraft is exempt from the rules applying to other powerboats towing a water skier, except an appropriate observer must be carried on the personal watercraft
 - d. Personal watercraft only have to follow the rules appropriate to canoes and kayaks because of their size
8. Which of the following activities is considered dangerous or reckless for PWC users?
 - a. Driving in a circle or other pattern
 - b. Weaving or diverting
 - c. Surfing or jumping wakes
 - d. Any of the above

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9. The operator of a vessel must keep a continuous lookout:
 - a. Only in the direction of travel
 - b. In all directions**
 - c. Only in the direction of travel and 90 degrees to either side
 - d. Only when making a turn or stopping
10. A personal watercraft must give way to:
 - a. No one, since PWCs have the right of way in all circumstances
 - b. Other vessels crossing from the port (left) side
 - c. Any vessel overtaking them
 - d. Larger vessels, in confined channels where the vessels' maneuverability might be limited, and sailing vessels, as well as other vessels crossing from the starboard (right) side**
11. What will happen when a PWC operator properly uses a lanyard attached to a cutoff switch?
 - a. The vessel will continue forward when the operator falls overboard
 - b. The vessel engine will stop when the operator falls overboard**
 - c. An alarm will sound when the operator falls overboard
 - d. The vessel will shift into reverse when the operator falls overboard
12. Which of these is a best practice (and law in some areas) to tow a person with a PWC?
 - a. The PWC should be at least a three-person craft**
 - b. A throwable flotation device must be on board
 - c. The operator must be at least 18 years of age
 - d. The PWC must have navigation lights
13. A no-wake marker means:
 - a. The water is usually smooth and free of wakes
 - b. Maintain just enough speed to make headway while in the area**
 - c. No-wake markers don't apply to PWC
 - d. Proceed at the slowest speed at which your PWC will remain on plane
14. When is wake jumping a good practice?
 - a. Only when operating a one-person PWC
 - b. When you are at least 50 feet away from another vessel
 - c. When you are at least 100 feet away from another vessel
 - d. Never**
15. Who has primary responsibility for preventing a PWC accident?
 - a. The passenger(s)
 - b. The PWC Manufacturer
 - c. The PWC operator**
 - d. The Coast Guard
16. Which of the following is a good tip for fueling your PWC?
 - a. Fuel up your tank slowly**
 - b. Refuel on the beach whenever possible
 - c. Top off your tank
 - d. Keep any absorbent materials away from the fueling area
17. When two PWC are crossing at right angles, what should the craft on the right do?
 - a. Speed up and pass in front
 - b. Put the craft in reverse
 - c. Slow and pass to the rear
 - d. Maintain course and speed**

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18. What is the purpose of the safety lanyard on a PWC?
 - a. To keep an extra life jacket from falling overboard
 - b. To shut off the engine if the operator falls overboard**
 - c. To keep the operator from falling overboard
 - d. To secure the PWC to its trailer to prevent theft
19. Which of the following risks damaging the pump of a PWC?
 - a. Operating in shallow water**
 - b. Operating in very cold water
 - c. Repeatedly making sudden stops
 - d. Exceeding the suggested speed
20. When on a PWC, who must wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for PWC use?
 - a. All children
 - b. Each person on board**
 - c. The operator
 - d. The observer
21. 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. the draft of your PWC
 - c. where you expect to be and when you expect to return**
 - d. what mechanical equipment on your boat is not in the best condition
22. Steering a PWC involves turning a movable nozzle that directs a high-pressure stream of water either right or left, turning the boat in either direction. It is important to know that a PWC will turn only when the:
 - a. jet pump is operating and pushing a stream of water**
 - b. engine is turning at least 4000 rpm
 - c. two rudders are in contact with the water
 - d. special steering pump is activated
23. A PWC lanyard cut-off-switch when fastened to your wrist will:
 - a. keep your signal whistle where it can be found
 - b. alert you when you are running too fast
 - c. remind you to always wear your life jacket
 - d. stop the engine when you fall off**
24. When operating a PWC near shore, launch areas, swimming areas, docks, and anchored boats:
 - a. take extreme care when jumping wakes in these restricted areas
 - b. don't throw a wake more than three feet high
 - c. run at the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerageway**
 - d. operate with the wind and current on your stern for better control
25. Operating a personal watercraft while under the influence of alcohol::
 - a. Improves estimates of speeds and distances
 - b. Enhances your peripheral vision and depth perception
 - c. Impairs judgment, coordination, and reaction time**
 - d. Helps make trick riding safer
26. Because the Coast Guard recognizes personal watercraft as full-fledged boats:
 - a. a PWC must show its navigation lights when used after dark
 - b. PWC usually has priority of movement in meeting and crossing situations
 - c. PWCs are exempt from all boating rules and regulations
 - d. operators must adhere to the same rules and regulations as larger boats**

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27. Federal regulations require the following equipment on a personal watercraft: a fire extinguisher, a sound-producing device, and a
- wearable life preserver,(PFD), for each person onboard
 - global positioning device
 - marine radiotelephone
 - anchor and rode
28. If you are hailed by a law enforcement vessel, you should:
- wave to indicate that everything is OK and that you do not need help
 - move quickly out of the area to avoid being in the way
 - maintain course and speed, for you are the stand-on boat
 - stop the PWC and allow the officer to come alongside
29. The primary purpose of the US Coast Guard Navigation Rules is to:
- Reduce the number of boats on the water
 - Keep PWC operators from having fun
 - Reduce illegal drug shipments
 - Prevent collisions between vessels
30. Before you go out on the water, it is very important to:
- Pack a lunch
 - Know how to complete minor repairs on you motor
 - File a float plan
 - Winterize your engine to protect it from cold water