

*Chapter 2 discusses individual books in the Library including Practice questions, Scoring, Ask-me book, Glossary, Article books and Resources.*

# Chapter 2

## Library of Features

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### Practice Questions

The Practice Questions form the central part of the course material. It is our way to present the discussion in bits and pieces and to cross link references and related topics to the question at hand. If you go through all the questions and follow the leads given in the Explanations, you will eventually get to most of the material in the course. And if you log in and do so under the same reader name, you will automatically keep a record of what you have done.

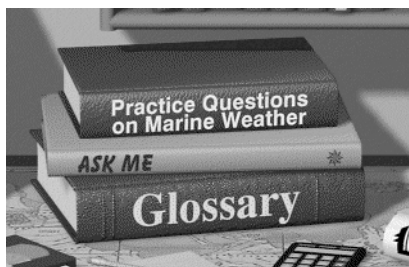
Records are kept on the Score Page, discussed below. Questions are coded as they are answered for each reader and this information is stored in individual reader files. All questions are further coded according to topic, level, and application to USCG exam preparation, as discussed below.

The Study Guides suggest ways to take advantage of the question categories. The Standards explain how we have assigned the level and what we hope to teach in each topic. Study Guides and Standards are available from the menu bar under Help. They are discussed here under the Help topic "How to use the course".

Selecting Practice Questions from any part of the course takes you to the Set-up Page where you identify the types of questions you want. Questions are presented on the Questions Page and your running score is kept on the Score Page. These pages are discussed in sequence below.

### Set-up Page

The Set-up page is where you define which questions you wish to view. The selection options you can make on that page are discussed below.



Click on the Practice Questions book on the table in the Library and choose an area to begin your studies.

The Set-up page allows you to choose your question level, sort or skip questions by topic and status, or tag questions for future study.

## Question topics

You can select one or many topics on the Set-up Page. There is some overlap in subject matter in the various topics and some topics are more loosely assigned, but questions are different in the separate topics. Brief descriptions for each topic can be viewed or disabled. Questions in the Introduction topic present the goals and philosophy of the course, and discuss several resources and conventions along the way. It is recommended that these be viewed early in your study.

## Question level

Choose from basic, advanced or both. For those new to marine weather — or at least to this sort of structured study of it — it is best to start with the basic selection and then when these are answered and understood (or if you are bored), move on to the both selection, which mixes the basic with the advanced.

Advanced questions cover details and actual numerical problems as well as specific map reading and forecasting questions. It is presumed that even experienced mariners will want to browse around the program's resources and other references to answer some of these.

Library M A R K Tools Return

Practice Questions ?

Set-up Score Tag

Where does the study of marine weather rank in the overall preparation for ocean voyaging?

A → It is a nice luxury to know it, because it could keep me out of trouble in some cases or help me choose the best route.

B → Right at the top. If I do not know about weather, I will eventually get into trouble. Guaranteed.

C → I must eventually learn the basics of marine weather because the Nav Rules require I know it at least to the level of "the ordinary practice of seamen."

D → Once I have a sound vessel and adequate crew to run it, and have mastered the skills of navigation, then marine weather becomes my primary concern.

Previous question Explanation Next question

Hints & Notes

0102 d

G112

Practice questions provide explanations for their answers. If you have selected a correct or incorrect answer, click on explanation to see why. Hints and Notes expand on the information asked for in the questions. We strongly encourage you review them for *all* questions before selecting an answer.

## Question status

Choose 1, 2, or 3 options from New questions, Questions answered wrong, or Questions answered right. This selection is made from the "Show only..." section of the Set-up page.

New questions shows only questions you have not answered (right nor wrong) in the past. If you have seen the question, but skipped it without answering it, it will stay in this list.

Questions answered wrong selects out those questions matching the remainder of your selection criteria that you have seen in the past and answered incorrectly. Questions answered right pulls out and presents to you the set of all questions matching the other criteria that you have answered correctly in the past.

Note that choosing Right + Wrong would give all questions you have ever answered, Wrong + New gives only those you have yet to answer correctly. Or you could, for example, select all advanced questions on barometers that you have missed in the past, etc.

Explanation

Once underway, if you can trust your boat and know how to handle it and can do basic navigation, then most of your time in decision making is tied to the weather. It is not your primary concern -- the boat itself and navigation are ahead of it -- but it is also not an amenity, like knowing how to tie a monkey's fist. It is a requirement for safety and efficiency.

To get a Coast Guard license, for example, you must pass tests that include all three subjects, boat safety, navigation, and weather.

Note these general questions of the introduction topic do not have specific graphics, so we have added a few samples from other places in the course for you to look at as you go through them. To view a graphic click its blue hotword (such as G112) or its thumbnail presentation on the projector screen. The sample here shows sea state terminology.

### **Question category**

Questions are divided between "All" questions and "Only USCG" questions. The latter are those used on USCG licensing exams. See USCG exam preparation under Help topic "How to use the course." Note that the certification mode includes all types of questions.

### **Question order**

Choose between tutorial and random. Tutorial presents questions in a roughly logical order with regard to content and details of the explanations; later questions build on earlier ones. The course teaches through these explanations, so it is best to choose tutorial when starting the basic level and when moving on to the "Both" level. The choice of order has less meaning for the advanced level.

Random order is just that. The order will never repeat on successive starts, nor is there any logic to the sequence. The tutorial order, on the other hand, will always be the same.

### **Tagged questions**

When viewing the questions you have the option to tag a question, which puts it into your personal list of questions. When you choose to view this list from the Set-up page, this choice overrides the other selections and sends you directly to the list of questions you have tagged. You can tag any question when viewing it. Tag a question to mark it for quick referral for any reason — to pursue an answer, to think more about the discussion or graphics it presents, or to mark answers you believe may be wrong in some way.

Tagged questions, like all others, are scored each time they are answered, but each question counts only once in the sum of your right or wrong answers. The list of tagged questions shows only the first few words of the question. You can delete or add to this list as you wish, but the Set-up Page is the only way to access the list.

Note: you can also mark individual questions by placing a bookmark on the question . Your bookmarks are also saved when you exit the program.

### **Questions Page**

Here is where you read and answer the questions. Graphics are presented in the text and also as thumbnail buttons on the projector screen. Click the thumbnail to show it full size. The top picture can be viewed any time, the bottom is part of the answer and can only be viewed after selecting an answer. After reading the Hints and viewing associated graphics, select an answer by either clicking the answer text or letter beside it, or press the letter key corresponding to your choice. The arrow marking your choice will then appear dark blue and the correct answer will be highlighted in light blue.

You can skip a question if you like, or press Previous question to go back. When you reach the end of the set of questions that match your selection criteria, a sign will appear explaining the options. If you want to keep track of a particular question, tag it on this page. Tagged questions are discussed above.

## Hints and Notes and Explanations

All questions include Hints and Notes, which expand on the meaning or purpose of the question, and all answers include Explanations, which provide hotword references to other parts of the course where related details are covered. The Hints and notes can be viewed at any time; the Explanations are only accessible after an answer has been selected.

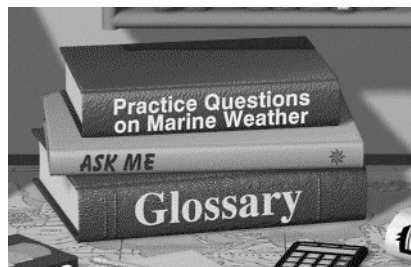
You are strongly encouraged to read the Hints and Explanations for each question as well as checking the cross references provided. This is the intended process for teaching the material; these notes often contain information not included elsewhere in the course. To adequately prepare for certification testing, you will eventually need to answer at least some questions from most of the topics.

You can leave the Practice Questions at any point to pursue details or look up an answer in another part of the course. Return will take you back to where you left off, or starting all over from the Set-up page will do the same since the status of each question is assigned when it is answered.

## Score Page

The Score Page keeps track of your progress with the Practice Questions and records qualifications and progress toward certification. It is intended to be your guide to which parts of the material have been completed and which needs more work.

The Score Page shows your accumulated score for all times you have logged into the program under your reader name. Score is recorded by date and by topic. You must log in to keep a running score of your work. Before logging in, a score for the “unassigned reader” is maintained on the Score Page, but this data is lost once you exit the program. The Score Page can be read from anywhere in the course using the menu bar under File. Note that all questions answered are scored except those answered during certification tests. You can, however, skip a question without answering it, or go back to a previous question and answer it again. Tagged questions can also be answered.



The Ask-Me book on the Library table provides quick answers. Choose a specific question or general topic of interest.

The same question can be answered more than once, but only the latest answer contributes to your score and to the status of the question (answered right or answered wrong), which determines how it is categorized in the “Show only...” selection on the Set-up Page. If you skip a question that you have not previously answered, it remains in the new-question status, even though you have in fact seen it. The accumulated score does not depend on the sequence of questions, nor on what you do before, during, or after a series of answers. The result of each question is scored as it is answered.

The score Details button shows what you missed and got right according to the topic. This will show what areas require more work. See Study Guides for tips on using these records.

The Score History button shows how many times you logged in and answered at least one question. The date is recorded, along with the total number answered, and the percentage correct during that session. This feature is intended to show your progress with time as you work through the material.

**Ask-Me!** ?

<input type="checkbox"/> barometers	<input type="checkbox"/> hurricanes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sailing tactics
<input type="checkbox"/> clouds	<input type="checkbox"/> instrumentation	<input type="checkbox"/> storms
<input type="checkbox"/> computers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> learning weather	<input type="checkbox"/> squalls
<input type="checkbox"/> fog	<input type="checkbox"/> Lows	<input type="checkbox"/> waves
<input type="checkbox"/> forecasting	<input type="checkbox"/> map reading	<input type="checkbox"/> weather reports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fronts	<input type="checkbox"/> pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> weather sources
<input type="checkbox"/> global weather	<input type="checkbox"/> rain	<input type="checkbox"/> wind and terrain
<input type="checkbox"/> Highs	<input type="checkbox"/> navigation	<input type="checkbox"/> wind

☐ Show only new questions    **All off/on**    **View questions**

**Reset Ask-me records**

To keep track of certification qualifications, when 100 questions have been answered correctly from any combination of topics on any level, a red check will appear beside that requirement on the Score Page. Likewise, a mark will appear when 150

In the Ask-Me! book you can choose questions from multiple areas of interest. Each question you view will be marked with a red check. If you have logged in, you can select to show only those questions you have not seen.

**Library** **M** **A** **R** **K** **Tools** **Return**

**Ask-Me!** ?

☐ What are the advantages of computer learning, as opposed to more traditional learning from books?

☐ If I learn weather based on American or British examples only, will these prepare me for practical application of marine weather throughout the world I in Australia, for example?

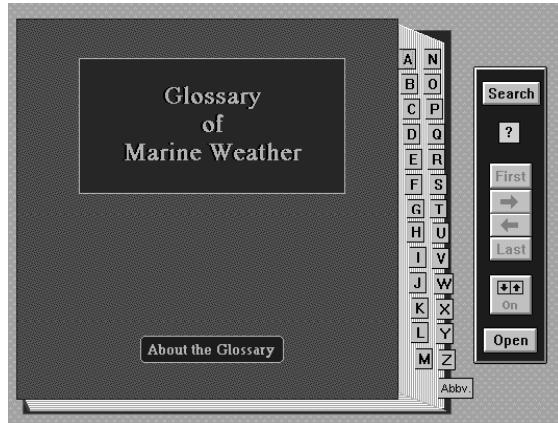
☐ Is forecasting bad weather the main weather challenge for sailors underway?

☐ Why is it so hard to gain practical experience about weather at sea?

First  
→  
←  
Last

**Return to keywords**

have been answered correctly, and when a total of 50 advanced questions have been answered correctly. All correct answers apply to this accumulation regardless of whether they were answered before or after taking certification tests. Questions answered during a certification test, however, are not counted. See certification for a discussion of qualifications. Also see notes on the "Value of logging in" which is under Help topic Menu Options, in subtopic File.



**Certification score** is also accessed from the Score Page. This tells your intermediate progress while in the process of taking any one of the required set of 4 certification tests. Refer to this during certification tests to keep track of your status as you proceed. It tells the number missed in each part and the percent correct. An accumulated score for the completed parts is also presented. A total of 10 questions at most can be missed.

The Index page of the Glossary book gives you access to the full index of terms and graphics.

## Ask-me Book

The Ask-me book is a place where you can ask the computer questions. It is a collection of commonly questions about marine weather, as well as some questions that cover aspects of weather that are not so common. The latter are intended to highlight what might not have been considered otherwise. In many instances, these questions could have been written to begin as "Did you know that..."



Click on any Article book on the shelf in the Library or from the Menu bar under Tools for detailed information on each topic.

The Ask-me questions are a teaching tool as well as a source of quick answers. In most cases the answers are brief, with cross references to other places in the course where more information can be found. To use this feature, go to the Ask-Me! Book from the Library Page or menu bar. At the keywords page, select those words that relate to the question you have in mind. Without a specific question in mind, just choose a topic of interest. Then press View questions to see a list of related questions. Click a question to view its answer.

Each question you view will then be marked with a red check to remind you that you have seen that answer. You also have the option to reset these records. Resetting these does not reset your score page data. You also have the option to select only those questions that you have not seen earlier.

Sometimes the material in this book serves to answer or elaborate on some point in another part of the course. When this happens you will be offered the opportunity to go straight to a particular question with a hotword in the form, AM-305. Clicking this word will send you directly to the answer to Ask-me question number 305.

## **Glossary**

The Glossary is an extensive list of illustrated terms in marine weather and related subjects. With a mouse click, you can get into the Glossary from any part of the program and then return to where you were.

There are several ways to access the Glossary. You can go straight to the Glossary Book itself from the Library Page or the menu bar under Library (alt L G I). This takes you to the full index of terms, which are then displayed by page with graphics presented as thumbnail prints. Click a thumbnail print to view the full graphic.

Alternatively, you can enter a pop up window view of the Glossary text using the Glossary search mode. This is available from the menu bar (alt L G S) or from the toolpad button called "Gloss." From the keyboard Ctrl+G will also open the Glossary search window. Just type the word of interest and the word list will scroll to the nearest term. Press enter to go to the highlighted term.

In this mode, the definition of a term appears in a pop up window. This is the same window that pops up whenever you click a blue hotword that is linked to the Glossary. Cross referenced terms can be checked within the window and graphics can also be viewed, but this will close the glossary window itself. For convenience, the glossary window closes whenever you click outside of it or press any key.

Throughout the program, terms that appear in the Glossary are often shown in blue, which means they are hotwords that will take you directly to that word in the Glossary. Also, any term used in the Glossary which is itself a Glossary entry is shown in blue, so you can switch to that term by clicking it, and then return to the original term.

The Glossary can be used to clarify terms or it can be used as a starting point for gathering information on a particular subject or term. Many Glossary entries include cross references to other sections of the course where the term is a key element of the material. See Help topic on Navigation to see how these hotwords take you from place to place in the course.



A complete list of **abbreviations** used in the course is available from the Glossary. It is also available from the menu bar (alt T T A) and toolpad. Terms in the abbreviations list are linked directly to the Glossary. See discussion under tools in the Help topic Menu options. Notes on the origin of the Glossary are included on the cover of the Glossary.

**Computer terminology** especially as related to communications is presented in a separate list of terms in a graphics window. It is also accessible from the Glossary or in the computer section of the Source Book.

## Articles

The Articles Book is where we store discussion of special topics or an elaboration of some basic topic. Barometers, for example, are discussed in great detail in this section. Many of the articles are based on earlier magazine articles of the author. In other cases, we have used this format simply to store a set of facts or references related to specific topics.

A list of the articles is available from anywhere in the course from the menu bar under Tools/Contents then select Articles. You can navigate directly to an article from that list or go the more graphic route through the Articles Book on the Library page. The text of the articles is linked to the Glossary to facilitate reading about a new subject. They are also illustrated with graphics.

## Resources

The Resource Book includes an assortment of references and tools for application and research in marine weather. The individual entries are selected from the Index Page of the Resource Book. From there, you can choose from several options, each of which is explained. In several cases throughout the book, a cross-linked reference to a resource item will take you directly to that topic, thus skipping the index page.

It is intended that the Resource Book will remain a valuable asset to your weather studies after the training aspect of the program is completed. Within the Resource Book are various catalogs of information, as well as dedicated computers for weather computations and a general calculator for solving mathematical problems in the Practice Questions. See Disclaimer about dated data.

Some of the resources are presented in a graphics viewer and these can be opened on top of the current page without leaving it. Other resources require navigating to another part of the course.



The Index Page of the Resource Book offers an option of viewing “Brief descriptions” of each. This is a convenient way to skim over all of them to see what is there. You can also navigate to any one of them from that list of descriptions.

The Contents option under Tools in the menu bar also lists all resources and is a way to go to them directly.