

MARITIME DAY - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

CAPTAIN'S DECISION - A CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

LEVEL: B2

INSTRUCTIONS

- Present students with a scenario where they are ship captains navigating a vessel through an extreme maritime weather situation.
- Students must choose the best course of action to ensure the safety of the crew and ship, explaining their reasoning.

SCENARIO

You are Captain of the ship Ocean Star. The weather forecast warns of a severe storm within 6 hours. You are halfway between two islands. You have **three** options:

1. Change course to avoid the storm.
2. Anchor near a nearby island and wait for the storm to pass.
3. Slow down, reducing speed and bracing for impact.

Which option will you choose and why?

SENTENCE STEMS

"I would choose to _ because _."

"If I don't choose _, the risk would be _."

"The most important thing in my decision is _ because _."

"Another option would be _, but I think _ is better because _."

MARITIME DAY - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

GLOSSARY

- Course: the direction a ship is headed.
- Anchor: a heavy object dropped from a ship to keep it in place.
- Manoeuvre: a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care.
- Storm Surge: a rising of the sea due to atmospheric pressure changes and wind associated with a storm.
- Visibility: how far one can see, especially as affected by weather conditions.
- Navigational Hazard: anything that could cause a ship to run into danger while moving, like rocks or shallow waters.
- Sheltered Waters: areas of the sea that are protected from storms, waves, or strong winds.
- Fuel Reserves: the amount of fuel left in the ship's tanks.
- Windward: the side facing the wind.
- Leeward: the side sheltered from the wind.
- Safety Protocol: a set of actions that should be followed to ensure the crew's safety.

EXAMPLE USING VOCABULARY AND SENTENCE STEMS

"I would decide to change course and head toward Isla Verde because it's safer. By changing course, we can avoid the worst part of the storm and find some protection in sheltered waters. This would lower the risk of a storm surge hitting us. Even though this might consume more fuel, the crew's safety is more important. We also need to be careful of any dangers like rocks or shallow waters near the island. Slowing down could make things worse, especially since visibility will be low in the storm."

MARITIME DAY - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

AGREE OR DISAGREE?

LEVEL: B1/B1+

INSTRUCTIONS

- Present students with a series of statements related to maritime safety.
- Students must decide whether they agree or disagree with each statement and explain why.
- After giving their own answer, they should listen to others' viewpoints and either build on or challenge those perspectives.

STATEMENTS

- "Life jackets are unnecessary in calm seas."
- "Every sailor should be trained in basic first aid."
- "Using radios is the best way for sailors to communicate during emergencies."
- "Ship safety should be the captain's responsibility alone."
- "Ships should only sail when the weather forecast is clear."
- "Every ship should have a doctor on board."
- "It's safer for ships to travel during the day than at night."

SENTENCE STEMS

- "I agree with this statement because..."
- "I disagree because I believe..."
- "Another reason to agree/disagree is..."
- "I see your point, but I think..."

DISCUSSION PROMPT

"Do you think technology is more reliable than human judgment during a storm at sea? Why or why not?"