

ISF Marlins Test of Spoken English



The ISF Marlins Test Of Spoken English (TOSE) has been developed to help carry out effective assessment of seafarers' oral and aural skills in a one-to-one interview situation. The TOSE can be used to identify the need for training and to assess progress during and / or after training.

Marlins recommends that the TOSE is used in conjunction with the ISF Marlins Test to give a balanced profile of a seafarer's language level and ability. This will ensure a secure and objective assessment of language level (from the computer test) complemented by a personal assessment of communication skills (from the TOSE). The Test of Spoken English is distinctively shipping orientated and provides an opportunity to evaluate seafarers' ability to communicate effectively. It is not designed to test knowledge of seamanship. The test is approved by both the UK MCA and the Irish Maritime Safety Directorate as a means of proving English language competence when applying for CECs.

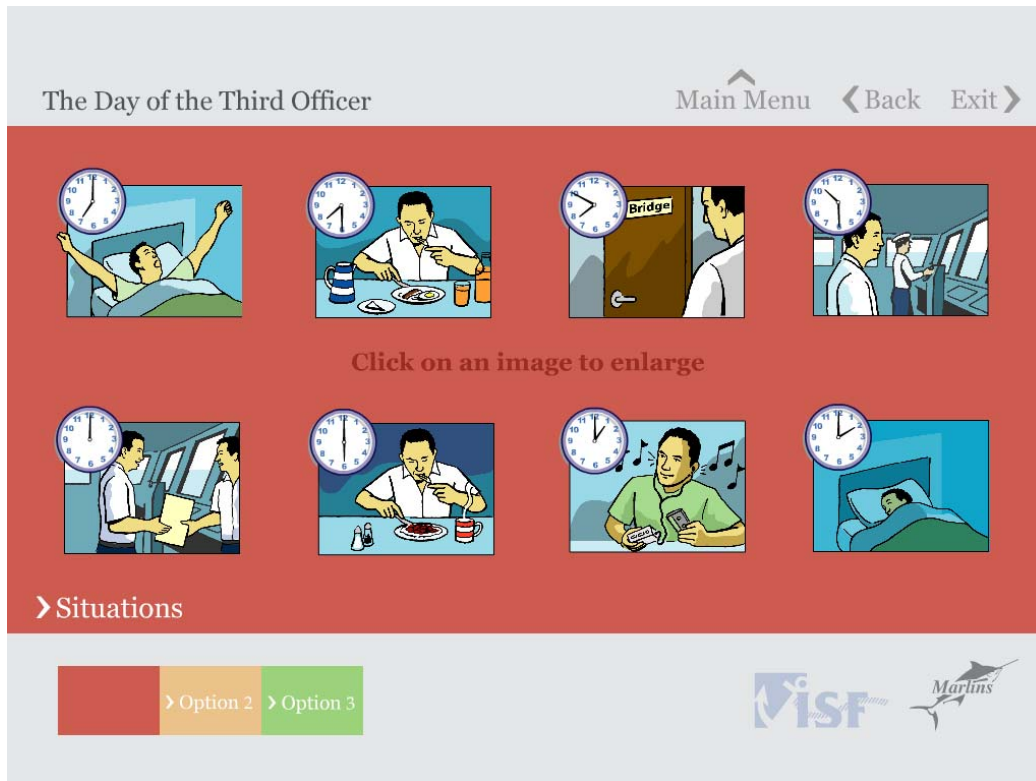
The test material includes a range of visuals, discussion topics and situational prompts at distinct language levels. When carrying out a Marlins Test Of Spoken English, the interviewer proceeds through a series of structured prompts to elicit natural spoken English. There are 3 Options to choose from which represent levels Elementary, Lower-Intermediate and Intermediate+. A set of preliminary questions is posed to ascertain the Option most appropriate for each seafarer. The Interviewer subsequently chooses questions from that level.

Extensive Interviewer's Guidelines are provided with details of how to carry out the test and prompts for questioning at each stage of the test.

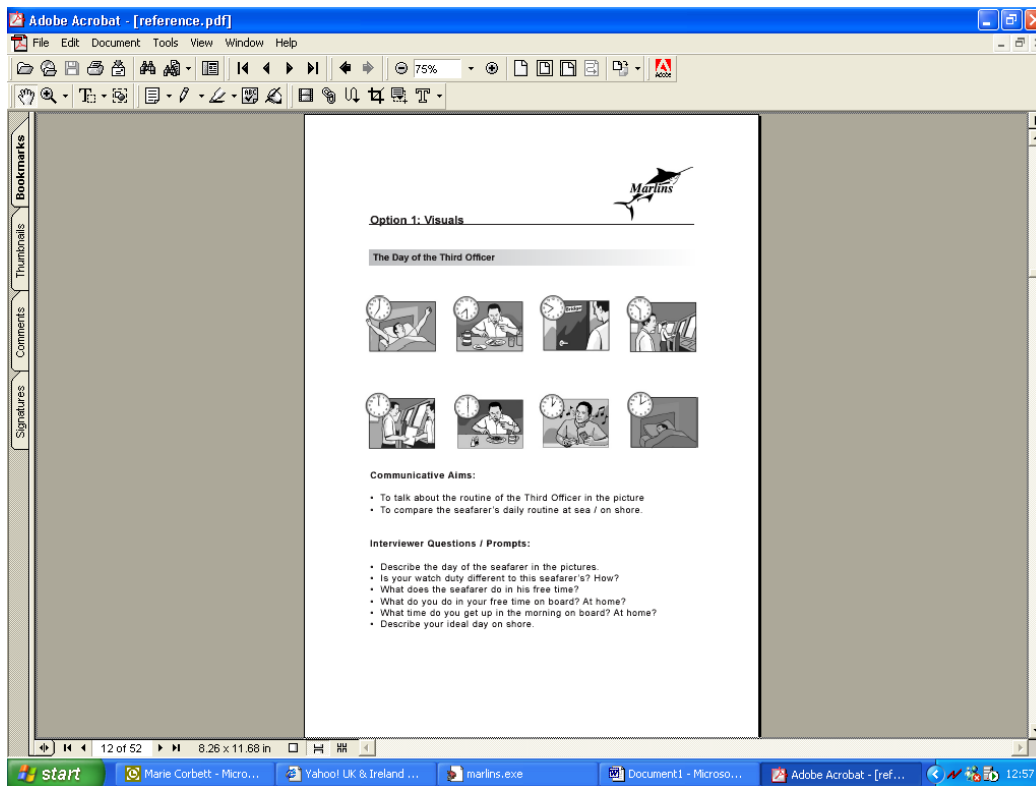
Using a detailed set of descriptors of Spoken Fluency, Spoken Accuracy and Listening Comprehension, the interviewer is able to evaluate each seafarer's English proficiency. The TOSE results can be used to support the ISF Marlins Test results and also to underline specific skill areas that would benefit from improvement during training.



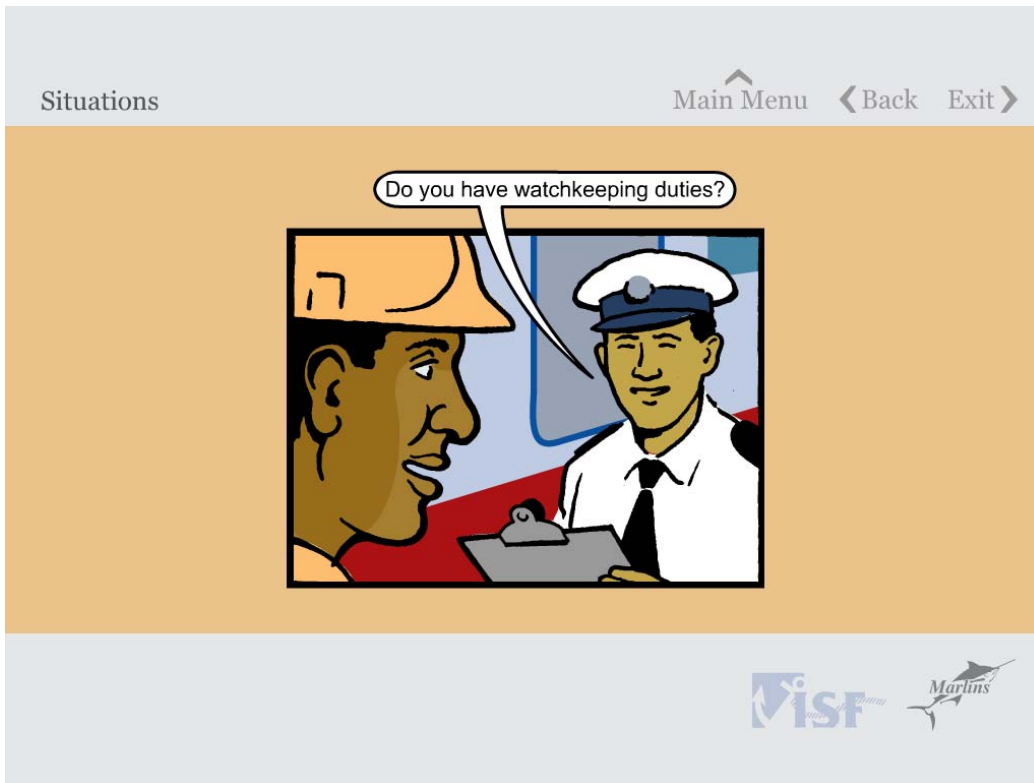
TOSE interviewing in Indonesia



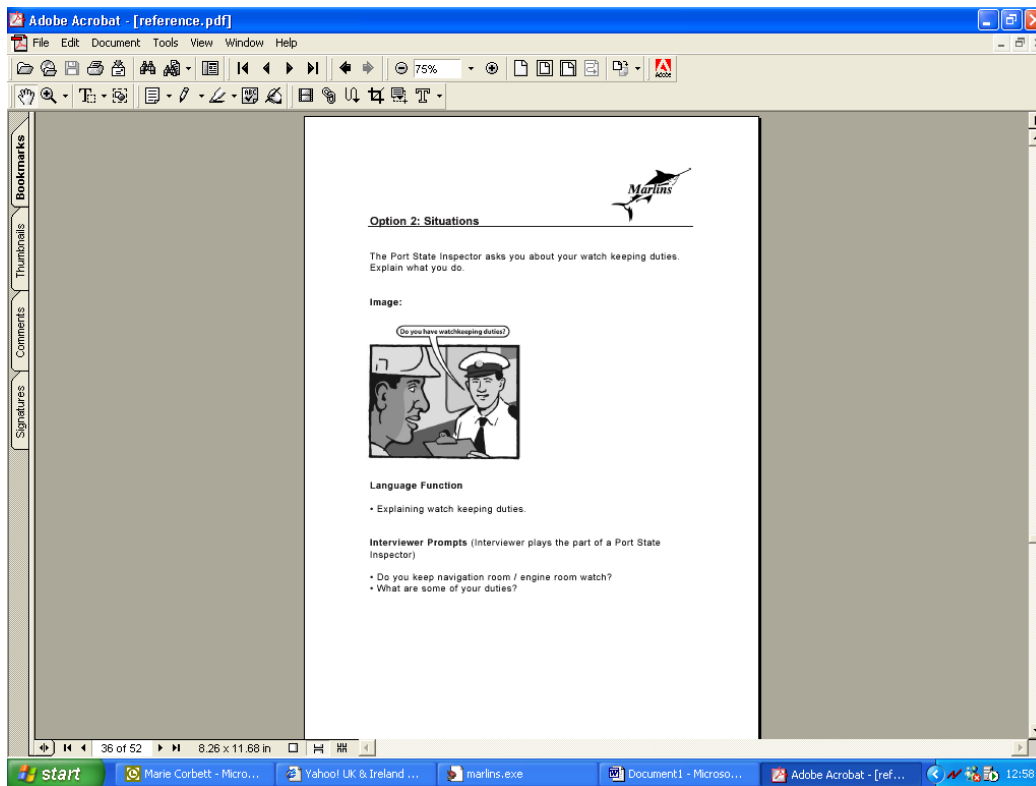
Example of Option 1 – Visuals (talking about a daily routine)



Example of the accompanying Test Materials for the Interviewer for the above question



Example of Option 2 – Situations (Describing duties)





Example of the accompanying Test Materials for the Interviewer for the above question

Discussion Main Menu ◀ Back Exit ▶

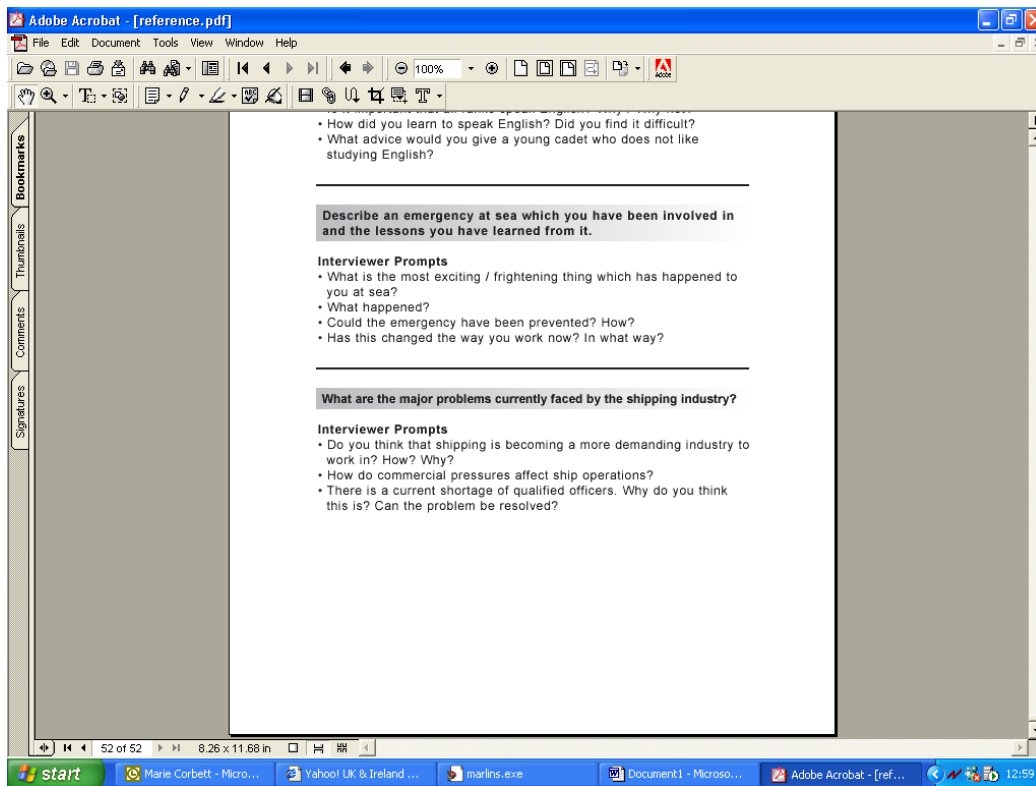
Describe an emergency at sea which you have been involved in and the lessons you have learned from it.

1
2
3
4
5
6

▶ Option 1
▶ Option 2

Example of Option 3 - Discussion



The screenshot shows a PDF document titled 'reference.pdf' in Adobe Acrobat. The document contains the following text:

• How did you learn to speak English? Did you find it difficult?
 • What advice would you give a young cadet who does not like studying English?

Describe an emergency at sea which you have been involved in and the lessons you have learned from it.

Interviewer Prompts

- What is the most exciting / frightening thing which has happened to you at sea?
- What happened?
- Could the emergency have been prevented? How?
- Has this changed the way you work now? In what way?

What are the major problems currently faced by the shipping industry?

Interviewer Prompts

- Do you think that shipping is becoming a more demanding industry to work in? How? Why?
- How do commercial pressures affect ship operations?
- There is a current shortage of qualified officers. Why do you think this is? Can the problem be resolved?

Example of the accompanying Test Materials for the Interviewer for the above question