

MIT River Rules Test

Before completing this test, please carefully read through and familiarize yourself with the information contained in the CRAB River Rules Document, the Charles River Upstream and Basin Traffic Maps, and the MIT Rec Sculling Policy Document. Upon completion, you must review your test with a member of the MIT boathouse staff.

1. The traffic pattern on the Charles requires that rowers stay on which side of the river?
2. Because rowers face opposite the direction of travel, from your perspective while rowing, which side of your boat must you always keep closer to shore?

3. Name which city's shore you will stay closer to when traveling in each direction:

Upstream:

Downstream:

4. For safety, you should imagine the river is divided into ____ lanes, and should always stay on the ____ closest to the appropriate shore.
 - a) two, half
 - b) three, third
 - c) four, quarter
 - d) five, fifth
5. Why?
6. Where on the river is there an exception to the rule in #4?
7. What are the best practices when turning and stopping on the river? Circle the correct option of each of the following pairs.
 - a) Turn near bridges and sharp bends in the river
 - b) Turn in locations that allow good visibility in all directions
 - c) If you are in a good location, turn when ready
 - d) Check for both upstream and downstream traffic when turning
 - e) Turn 90° quickly and row straight across the river
 - f) Turn greater than 90° and row across the river at a diagonal

- g) Stop closer to the middle to allow traffic to go by you on either side
- h) Move closer to shore and out of the flow of traffic when stopping

8. When overtaking or passing another boat, on which side should you pass?
9. When one boat is passing another, whose responsibility is it to avoid a collision?
 - a) The boat being overtaken
 - b) The boat passing
 - c) Both boats
 - d) Neither boat
10. When being passed, what should you do to facilitate safe passing?
11. True or False: It is best to use caution and avoid sculling too close to shore due to potential underwater hazards and shallow areas.

Questions 12-15 refer to the Harvard (Mass Ave) Bridge.

12. When traveling upstream through this bridge, which arches can you use? Which arch is painted white?
13. When traveling downstream through this bridge, which arches can you use?
14. The second and third arches from the Boston shore comprise the _____ lane.
15. Travel through the fourth and fifth arches from the Boston shore, and the eighth and ninth arches from the Cambridge shore, is forbidden. Why is that?
16. What is the purpose of the MIT Lane? What are its boundaries?
17. The MIT Lane has crews traveling in both directions within it, and runs in close proximity to upstream traffic heading past the boathouse. Users of the MIT Lane must row slowly and carefully while in it, and actively check for crews coming from the opposite direction. When returning to the docks, rowers must ensure that their bow is always pointed at the boathouse and not any farther to the right. Why is this important?

18. Crews rowing upstream past the MIT boathouse should take caution of MIT boats crossing in and out of the MIT Lane and stay to the ____ as they pass to avoid cutting in to the MIT Lane.
 - a) Left
 - b) Right
 - c) East
 - d) West
19. When returning downstream to the boathouse, when do you cut across the river to enter the MIT Lane?
20. BU Bridge/Boathouse: Upstream crews and scullers must use the second arch from the Cambridge shore because the shore arch is _____.
21. How can you avoid sailboats launching from the BU Sailing Pavilion when coming downstream through the BU bridge?
22. The upper basin at the BU Boathouse is the busiest area on the river, where the Union and MIT Lanes cross traffic regular traffic patterns and crews turn to begin the Head of the Charles pieces or 2000m race pieces in the basin. If scullers or crews want to pause in between pieces, where should they stop and pull to shore?
23. Why?
24. The 2000m race course in the basin is used heavily by collegiate crews on which mornings in the spring?
25. When is the high school varsity course on the Powerhouse Stretch used?
26. Where should a rec sculler get information about any scheduled races or events that might affect their river usage?
27. Powerhouse Stretch (Western Ave and River Street Bridges): This area is used heavily by crews racing side by side, both in practice and in competition. Who has the right of way in this area?
28. To accommodate racing, the center arches of these bridges are:
 - a) For scullers only
 - b) Downstream traffic only

- c) Two-way traffic, staying to the right (starboard) in both directions
- d) Upstream traffic only

29. When are the center arches of the Western and River Street bridges used for upstream traffic only?

30. Weeks Footbridge: What do rowers need to be particularly careful of when going through this bridge?

31. Eliot Bridge: What do rowers need to be particularly careful of near this bridge?

32. How often should you look behind you when rowing small boats?

- a) Once in a while
- b) Every few strokes
- c) Never
- d) It doesn't really matter

33. Why?

34. Rowers share the river with various other users, including kayakers and sailors, who don't follow the same traffic pattern. What is the best way to handle approaching another craft?

- a) Hold course; the other craft will get out of your way
- b) Yell to the other craft to yield right of way to you
- c) Clearly communicate your intended course to the other craft and slow down or wait to pass if necessary
- d) Force the other craft off course in order to stay on yours

35. It's important to approach sailing boats with caution because they are

- a) Larger
- b) Less maneuverable
- c) Faster
- d) Slower

36. True or False: All boathouses have the same launching and landing procedures.

37. True or False: Through traffic has the right of way over launching/landing crafts.

38. When and why is proper lighting for shells important?
39. If your boat flips, how close to shore should you be before you leave the shell and swim for shore?
40. True or False: All small boat rowers must sign out and back in via the sculling log each time they row.
41. If a shell is damaged, where do you report it?
42. Taking out small boats is not allowed under which of these conditions?
- a) Whitecaps in the basin
 - b) Water temperature under 45°
 - c) Combined air and water temperature adding up to less than 100°
 - d) When conditions (wind, temperature, and/or precipitation) present a reasonable risk for hypothermia
 - e) Thunder or lightning in the past thirty minutes
 - f) All of the above
43. Where can current weather conditions, including air and water temperature, be found?
44. During the rec sculling season, there are certain dates where rowing is restricted or not permitted. What are these dates?
45. True or False: Rowers have been seriously injured on the Charles River because they did not follow the traffic patterns.