



U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

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PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS for SEAMAN APPRENTICE

1. Introduction

This document is for cadets who currently hold the rank of Seaman Recruit.

2. PQS Qualifiers

Qualifiers for this PQS must be approved personnel SC-4 or higher or adult volunteers who have completed OPD 101.

3. Demonstrating proficiency

Qualifiers may sign off any individual skill once the cadet has demonstrated the skill without error, hesitation, or aid. Exceptions are noted below.

4. Standards

Reminder: As a PQS qualifier, you uphold the standard of excellence for the unit and are the key to the cadets' future success. By initialing the box, you are verifying that they can demonstrate the skill to anyone at any time to your standards. Maintain the unit's standards; do not sign off if you are not confident of the cadet's ability to CONSISTENTLY perform the skill.

To successfully meet the standards outlined in this Performance Qualification Standard (PQS), a cadet must complete all listed tasks to the standards listed. This cannot be done immediately following instruction. Allow time for practice and true mastery. Similarly, retesting should not be done soon after initial testing.

Your reputation as a trusted PQS qualifier is put at risk any time you give your signature to someone who has not earned it.

5. Drill and Ceremonies

Drill movements must be correctly executed immediately following the order given, without the option of immediate retries. (Time given for additional practice as explained above.)

As stated above, the standard of '5 out of 5 attempts' does not mean back-to-back tries. It means a cadet must correctly complete the movement five different times, with any error in the movement, which would reset the count to zero.

Cadets should be given other commands in between to ensure true mastery of the movement, showing the importance of being precise and adaptable. The recommended method for large groups is to do this similar to a drill down/knockout drill. Additional qualifiers should be on hand to monitor each cadet's movements.

6. **General Sea Cadet knowledge**

Cadets should be able to recite the advancement requirements without hesitation or assistance every time they are asked.

- a. **General Orders:** To pass this requirement, cadets need to accurately recite three different General Orders without making any mistakes. They are to be given 6 total attempts to perform this. i.e., they may have an average of 1 retry.
 - Select 3 general orders at random (e.g., roll dice, pull playing cards) Do not always ask the same three for all cadets.
 - Cadets must repeat the General Order verbatim (word for word).
 - If the cadet catches themselves making a mistake or needs to start over, they can begin again with the same General Order but they can't skip it.
 - The PQS qualifier can only say "You may start again" or "start again" if a cadet stops, gets confused, or says something wrong but realizes their mistake.
 - If cadets can't correctly recite any one of the three General Orders, end the test, tell them to study more and return at a later time, after at least one hour has passed. (i.e., they cannot immediately retest after looking up the General Order). Do not give them a different General Order to try.
 - Cadets have up to six tries to correctly recite all three selected General Orders right. e.g., If they use four attempts on the first General Order, they must get the other two correct without error.
 - When they return for a retest, they must recite three new General Orders selected by the PQS qualifier, plus the one they had missed before. They are not allowed to just recite the one they missed in the previous attempt.
 - If they fail again, they must retest on a different day. Provide them with guidance on how to effectively memorize and recite the General Orders. (e.g., say it aloud and record themselves)

- b. **Sea Cadet Oath or Anchors Aweigh:** This must be done independently - no prompting other than, saying "begin again" if they falter or make an error in any way. If a cadet misses any part of their verbatim recitations, stop them immediately, this counts as a fail. They may be allowed to try up to two more times. If they miss it on the third attempt, they should be instructed to practice orally and/or write it out several times without a visual aid or assistance until it is firm in their mind. At that point, they may orally retest. It should be on a different day. They may recite it like a poem if they cannot sing.

7. **Endorsements**

Upon attainment of all initials required, it is the cadet's responsibility to submit the completed document to their Leading Petty Officer/Leading Chief Petty Officer for their recommendation.