

Lost At Sea

Background: You have chartered a yacht with two friends, for the holiday trip of a lifetime across the Atlantic Ocean. Because none of you have any previous sailing experience, you have hired an experienced skipper and two-person crew. Unfortunately, in the mid-Atlantic, a fierce fire breaks out in the ship's galley and the skipper and crew have been lost whilst trying to fight the blaze. Much of the yacht is destroyed and is slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because vital navigational and radio equipment have been damaged in the fire. Your best estimate is that you are many hundreds of miles from the nearest landfall. You and your friends have managed to save 15 items, undamaged and intact after the fire. In addition, you have salvaged a three-person rubber life craft and a box of matches.

Task: After all members have finished reading the instructions, begin discussions to come up with a decision on a ranking of the 15 items in order of importance. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important and so forth until you have ranked all 15 items.

Note that on the basis of the total information available to you as a group, one of the four applicants is unambiguously the best according to expert opinion.

After about 15 minutes, your group will be prompted for your final choices and the reasons behind them. Please have one group member respond.

Items:

- **A sextant**
- **A shaving mirror**
- **A quantity of mosquito netting**
- **A 25 liter container of water**
- **A case of army rations**
- **Maps of the Atlantic Ocean**
- **A floating seat cushion**
- **A 10 liter can of oil/petrol mixture**
- **A small transistor radio**
- **20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting**
- **A can of shark repellent**
- **One bottle of 160 proof rum**
- **15 feet of nylon rope**
- **2 boxes of chocolate bars**
- **An ocean fishing kit & pole**