

Lost at Sea!

In your summer vacation, your group has hired a small yacht. As you sail through the Indian Ocean, a fire starts and most of the yacht and its contents are destroyed. The yacht is slowly sinking and there is only 1 lifeboat. Unfortunately, the lifeboat is very small and you can only take your group and 6 additional pieces of equipment.

You don't know your exact location and all your phones have been destroyed. You guess that you are approximately 400km south of Salalah, Oman. You will probably have to spend about 5-7 days in your lifeboat before you are rescued.

Quick! You have 10 minutes before your boat sinks. Which 6 items are you going to take?

You and your friends can choose from:

- 5 blankets
- 20 bottles of water
- 10 cans of baked beans
- A map of the Indian Ocean
- A book called "English Grammar for Fun"
- A 10 liter can of petrol
- A small make-up mirror & some eye shadow
- A wallet with 23,000 dirhams
- An iPad and charger
- A cigarette lighter
- A tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush
- A 2 meter square plastic sheet
- A bag of spare clothes
- 4.5 meters of nylon rope
- 2 boxes of chocolate bars
- A fishing kit
- A first aid kit

**Will you survive? You need to choose the SIX BEST ITEMS.
GOOD LUCK!**

Lost at Sea!



Choose the six MOST IMPORTANT items. Then rank them from 1 (most important) to 6 (less important)

Very important items. Items you need to take:

Useless items. Which items have no use:

Rank the Items

Rank	Item	Why is it important?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Lost at Sea Exercise

Teacher Notes:

This exercise is designed to develop critical thinking skills and push speaking output. The students work in groups of 3-5.

Part 1

Participants should divide into teams of 3-5 and then be given 10 minutes to choose the 6 best items. Instruct the class to use English only (& try your best to monitor!)

Part 2

Team members *could* then confer for an additional 5 minutes and decide on the team's priority ranking of the 6 items. i.e which is MOST important & why

Part 3

Team members *could* then compare their individual rankings with other groups, and discuss why the scores differ, if applicable. Or, if individuals would re-rank items based on the group discussion, what changed their minds? How were they influenced by the group?

Part 4

Discuss the ranking as a class. Why did they choose each item. Reveal the Coast-Guard ranking.

Lost at Sea Suggested Answers / Rationale

According to the experts (**United States Coastguard**), the basic supplies needed when a person is stranded mid-ocean are:

- articles to attract attention
- and articles to aid survival until rescue arrives.

Without signaling devices, there is almost no chance of being spotted and ultimately rescued. Furthermore, most rescues occur within the first 36 hours and a person can survive with only a minimum of food and water during that period.

So, the following is the order of ranking the items in their importance to survival:

Essential

1. The make-up **mirror** would be critical for signaling.
2. The **petrol** would also be critical for signaling. The mixture will float on water and could be ignited with one of the pieces of paper **money** and a **lighter**.
3. The **water** would be necessary to replenish fluids
4. The **chocolate** bars could provide reserve food supply
5. The **plastic sheet** could be used to collect rain water and provide shelter from the elements.

Optional

6. The cans of **baked beans** are only useful if they can be opened – a can opener anyone?
7. The **fishing kit** is ranked lower than the chocolate because there is no guarantee that you will catch any fish.
8. A **first aid kit** – especially if someone is injured.
9. The nylon **rope** could be used to secure people or equipment to prevent them from being washed overboard.
10. If it is cold then the **blankets** or spare **clothes** could prevent hypothermia. However it's summer vacation so hypothermia shouldn't be an issue.

Worthless

11. the **toothpaste** & toothbrush
12. The **iPad**
13. **Maps** of the Indian Ocean would be worthless without navigation equipment.
14. The **book**



Adapted from: Training Manager Success Strategies
<http://www.training-manager.co.uk>