

Suggested Answers and Rationale for Lost at Sea Exercise

According to the experts (United States Coast Guard), 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 your survival:

Rank	Item	Rationale
1	Shaving mirror	Critical for signaling
2	2 gallon can of oil/petroleum mixture	Critical for signaling. This mixture will float on water and could be ignited with one of the \$5 bills and a match.
3	5 gallon can of water	Necessary to replace fluids lost through perspiration
4	One case of army rations	Basic food intake
5	20 square feet of opaque plastic	Can be used to collect rain water and provide shelter from the elements
6	2 boxes of chocolate bars	Reserve food supply
7	Fishing kit	Ranked lower than chocolate because there is not guarantee that you will catch any fish, while you already have the chocolate on hand
8	15 ft of nylon rope	Could be used to lash people or equipment together to prevent it being washed overboard
9	Floating seat cushion	A life preserver if someone fell overboard
10	Shark repellent	Has been shown to be effective only 50% of the time.
11	One quart of 160% proof rum	Contains 80% alcohol, which is enough to be used as an anesthetic for any injuries, otherwise of little value. It would cause dehydration if consumed.
12	Small transistor radio	Of no use without a transmitter. You would also be out of range of any radio station
13	Maps of the Pacific Ocean	Worthless without navigation equipment. It does not matter where you are, but where the rescuers are.
14	Mosquito netting	There are NO mosquitos in the mid-Pacific. As for fishing with it? Best to stick with the fishing kit.