

LOST AT SEA-Answers and Rationale

NAME	Expert's REASONING	Expert's RANK
Sextant	Without tables and a chronometer, relatively useless	15
Shaving mirror	Critical for signaling in air-sea rescue	1
Five-gallon can of water	Necessary to replenish loss by perspiration, etc.	3
Mosquito netting	No mosquitos in the mid Pacific	14
One case of C rations	Provides basic food needs	4
Maps of Pacific ocean	Worthless without additional navigation equipment	13
Seat cushion	If someone falls overboard, could help save them	9
Two gallon can of oil-gas mixture	Critical for signaling-could float on water and be ignited with dollar bill and match	2
Small transistor radio	Of little value since there is no transmitter-not going to get many AM stations out here anyway!	12
Shark repellent	Obvious use-stay out of water	10
Twenty square feet of opaque plastic	Used to collect water and provide shelter	5
One quart of 160 proof rum	With 80% alcohol content could provide antiseptic surface treatment for injuries	11
Fifteen feet of nylon rope	Lash equipment and help avoid falling overboard	8
Two boxes of chocolate bars	Reserve food supply	6
Fishing kit	Ranked lower than candy since "a bird in had is worth two in bush" – no guarantee there are fish in area	7

The basic rationale for ranking the signaling devices above the life-sustaining items (food and water) is that without signaling devices there is almost no chance of being spotted and rescued. Furthermore, most rescues occur during the first thirty-six hours and one can survive without food and water during that period.

Scoring

0-25 – Excellent!
 26 – 40 – Good
 41 – 60 – Average
 61 – 80 – Fair
 81+ – Poor