

Cardinal Buoyage System Located in Bowditch

## Cardinal Buoyage System

This Diagram is NOT included in the USCG exam room as reference material to the student. (This Diagram is found in Nautical Chart No. 1 and Bowditch)

## Introduction

“Cardinal Marks” think of Cardinal Points on a compass rose; North, South, East, West are the bases for this system. The student must know it. Remember the center is the danger area to avoid. Therefore, the mariner always keeps the buoy between the obstruction. (Pass North of a North mark, pass East of an East mark, pass South of a South mark, and West of a West mark.)

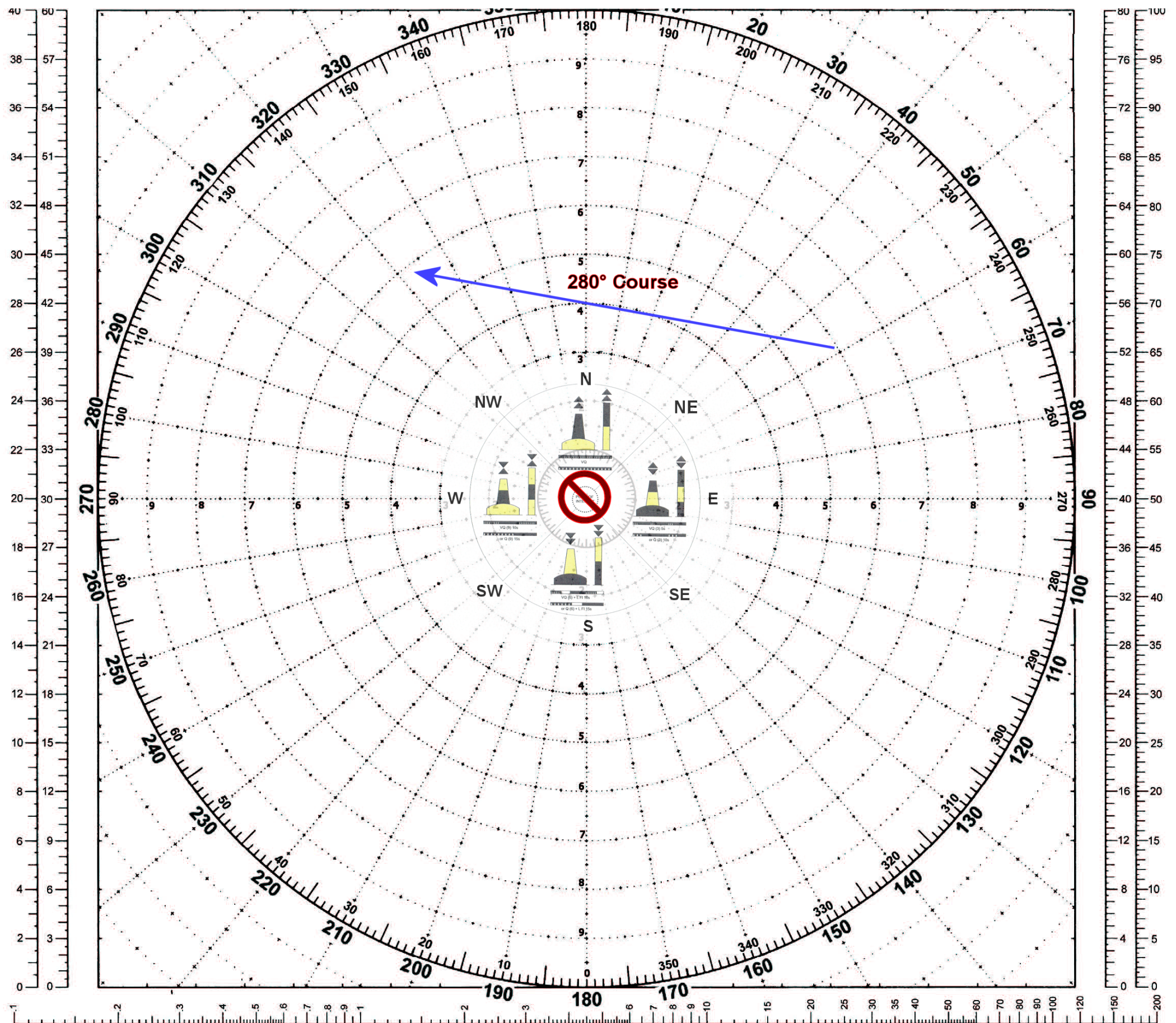
Lights are unique: A memory aid can be like a clock: (12, 3, 6, 9)

North Mark Light is Quick or Very Quick Flashing, East mark group of 3 flashes, South mark group of 6 flashes, West mark group of 9 flashes.

Top marks: North Point up, South Point Down, East points away from each other, and West point towards each other.

The student MUST also memorize the North, South, East, West band color configurations as well.

See USCG question solutions on the following pages.



USCG NGNC Question #46 Maneuvering Board

### USCG NGNC Question #46

While steaming on course  $280^{\circ}\text{T}$ , you sight a buoy showing a very quick flashing (VQ) white light well to port. Maintaining course, you sight another buoy showing a quick flashing (Q) white light. How should you pass?

View Cardinal Buoy Diagram; Very Quick or Quick is a North Mark. Therefore, the mariner will pass North of this mark. If needed for better visual reference, the student can use a maneuvering board. Place the obstruction at the center then place cardinal buoys respectively.