

AAPGAI SINGLE HAND MASTER ASSESSMENT



GENERAL

1. This is a very high standard and challenging assessment; not only of good casting, but also of excellent teaching skills. Candidates should have had many years' experience of guiding and instruction.
2. Candidates must have read and understood the requirements of the Single Hand Master syllabus prior to assessment. It is advised that candidates prepare fully for this demanding assessment. Access to workshops and a mentoring scheme is available through AAPGAI.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

3. At least one balanced, single-handed outfit of your choice that is appropriate for teaching purposes and suitable for river fishing for trout. The maximum rod length is 9ft 6in and the maximum line rating is AFTM 7. The fly line should carry a 9ft tapered leader with a tag of wool or similar material.
4. You may use two setups for the casting assessment: one for the Spey casting section and one for the overhead section. This can either be one rod and two different floating lines, or two completely separate outfits.
5. You will also require a removable sinking tip or a floating line with an integrated sinking tip. The minimum tip length is 7ft and the minimum sink rate is 2in per second.
6. We strongly advise that you carry a spare outfit.
7. Any visual aids you may wish to use for the teaching process as part of your assessment.
8. Suitable clothing for the assessment (e.g. chest waders, jacket, eye protection, safety equipment).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

9. All casts to have a minimum of 30ft of fly line outside the rod tip except when shooting line.
10. You will be examined in detail on your knowledge of the mechanics of each cast (e.g. stance and grip, wrist, arm and body movements, the arc of the rod and correct power application) and your ability to teach in a clear and concise manner. You will also be tested on your ability to diagnose and correct faults.
11. Casts must be performed with a smooth, acceptable and consistent style that demonstrates excellent line control and timing, and which does not result in the appearance of slack line during the casts.
12. All distances are measured from the rod tip to the end of the fly-line and do not include the length of the leader.
13. Variations in casting style are acceptable provided the candidate can demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the alternatives and discuss the merits of each.
14. Casts will normally be carried out on water whilst wading up to thigh depth (and/or off the water at the discretion of the assessors or during adverse weather conditions).
15. The tests may be performed in any order at the discretion of the Assessors or candidate by mutual consent.

16. There will be a minimum of three Master-qualified assessors for every assessment.
17. Candidates should dress accordingly as if you were meeting clients for tuition.
18. There will be a 1-hour written examination on general knowledge of game angling.
19. There will be a 3.5-hour practical assessment. This may be divided into two 1.75-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
20. Candidates may be offered, in the 'Additional Tackle' section, other types of tackle to cast with and explain.
21. There will be a 20-minute presentation/workshop in which you will teach, in depth, a fishing situation with associated casts, to an audience. This will be followed by a 30-45 minute interview and debrief.

TEST CONTENT

SAFETY

22. Keeping people safe in a potentially-dangerous environment is paramount. The candidate should present an in-depth discussion on organising a day for a party of anglers on the river, the hazards involved and how to use best practice (including various items and equipment) to avoid them.

TACKLE

23. A detailed discussion on the merits of materials found in rods, reels, lines etc.; where it all originated and where it may be heading. Reasoned choices of outfits and uses for different fly-fishing situations and teaching scenarios, with in-depth explanations on how it all works efficiently.

ROLL CAST

24. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:
 - (a) Objectives of the Roll Cast. Discuss rod grips, rod positioning, styles of hand, arm and body movements and efficiency. Also discuss anchor points and getting line out.
 - (b) Pros and cons of the Roll Cast.
 - (c) A 30ft (minimum) basic roll cast in which the leader straightens completely, using only one hand, off both shoulders.
 - (d) A 'shooting roll cast' to a minimum of 45ft, using a haul, off both shoulders
 - (e) A roll cast pick-up (as would be used, for example, with a dry fly).
 - (f) Faults and cures.
25. Casts to be performed with clean efficient loops that unroll completely in the air. The line must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

JUMP ROLL CAST

26. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Objectives of the Jump Roll Cast. Discuss rod grips, rod positioning, styles of hand, arm and body movements and efficiency. Also discuss anchor points.
- (b) The pros and cons of the Jump Roll cast.
- (c) A 30ft (minimum) jump roll cast without shooting line, off both shoulders.
- (d) A jump roll cast, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, off both shoulders.
- (e) Faults and cures.

27. Casts must be performed with a minimal anchor aligned with the direction of the cast. Loops must be clean, efficient and unroll completely in the air. The land must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

SINGLE SPEY CAST

28. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Objectives of the Single Spey Cast.
- (b) The pros and cons of the Single Spey Cast.
- (c) A 30ft (minimum) Single Spey Cast to 45 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.
- (d) A Single Spey Cast to 45 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.
- (e) A 30ft (minimum) Single Spey Cast to 90 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.
- (f) A Single Spey Cast to 90 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.
- (g) Faults and cures.

29. Casts must be performed with a minimal anchor aligned with the direction of the cast. Loops must be clean, efficient and unroll completely in the air. The land must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

CIRCLE AND SNAP T CASTS

30. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Objectives of these casts.
- (b) The pros and cons of these casts.
- (c) 30ft (minimum) Circle and Snap T Casts to 45 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.
- (d) Circle and Snap T Casts to 45 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.
- (e) 30ft Circle and Snap T Casts to 90 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.
- (f) Circle and Snap T Casts to 90 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.

(g) Faults and cures.

31. Casts must be performed with a minimal anchor aligned with the direction of the cast. Loops must be clean, efficient and unroll completely in the air. The land must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

DOUBLE SPEY CAST

32. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

(a) Objectives of the Double Spey Cast.

(b) The pros and cons of the Double Spey Cast.

(c) A 30ft (minimum) Double Spey Cast to 45 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.

(d) A Double Spey Cast to 45 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50', using hauling, off both shoulders.

(e) A 30ft Double Spey Cast to 90 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.

(f) A Double Spey Cast to 90 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.

(g) Faults and cures.

33. Casts must be performed with a minimal anchor aligned with the direction of the cast. Loops must be clean, efficient and unroll completely in the air. The land must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

SNAKE ROLL CAST

34. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

(a) Objectives of the Snake Roll Cast.

(b) The pros and cons of the Snake Roll Cast.

(c) A 30ft Snake Roll Cast to 45 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.

(d) A Snake Roll Cast to 45 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.

(e) A 30ft Snake Roll Cast to 90 degrees, without shooting line, off both shoulders.

(f) A Snake Roll Cast to 90 degrees, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft, using hauling, off both shoulders.

(g) Faults and cures.

35. Casts must be performed with a minimal anchor aligned with the direction of the cast. Loops must be clean, efficient and unroll completely in the air. The land must land near straight on delivery and in line with the intended target.

OVERHEAD CAST

36. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Objectives of the Overhead Cast, grips and stances, basic 30ft (minimum) pick up and lay down.
- (b) The pros and cons of casting planes and their alteration.
- (c) 6 false casts, 30ft (minimum) to 35ft (maximum), changing from narrow to open loops on command (2 narrow, 2 open, 2 narrow), off both shoulders, using the same hand.
- (d) 6 false casts in different planes, from vertical to horizontal, off both shoulders.
- (e) Overhead casting into a headwind.
- (f) Overhead casting into a tailwind.
- (g) 30ft (minimum) overhead cast, shooting line to 55ft, without a haul, off both shoulders.
- (h) 30ft (minimum) overhead cast with 30-degree change of direction.
- (i) Create a tailing loop on command, on both the back and forward casts, at a minimum distance of 30ft.
- (j) Faults and cures.

37. Casts must be performed with clean, efficient loops in a near-vertical plane, unless requested otherwise. The fly line must extend fully in the air and land near-straight on delivery, in line with the intended target.

SLACK LINE, MENDES & CURVE CASTS

38. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:
- (a) 30ft (minimum) controlled slack line cast, first with a series of horizontal narrow slack waves, then with a series of wide slack waves.
 - (b) Aerial mends – place an elbow at approximately 5ft, 15ft and 20ft from the rod tip, to the left and right. To be formed after the stop in the forward casting stroke.
 - (c) Aerial mends – place a curve from rod tip to leader at 30ft (minimum), to the left and right. To be formed after the stop in the forward casting stroke.
 - (e) Curve Cast – place left and right curves from rod tip to leader at 30ft (minimum). To be formed before the stop in the forward casting stroke. Show various techniques.
 - (f) 30ft (minimum) hook cast to right then left. Show various techniques.
 - (g) Faults and cures.

ACCURACY

39. The candidate will be given 3 attempts at placing the wool-fly inside a 30-inch diameter hoop. Allowances will be made during adverse weather conditions at the Assessors' discretion - no discussion will be entered into. All measurements for these casts will include the leader and wool.

- (a) Overhead casting, placing fly on target at 20ft, 30ft and 45ft (measured from rod tip), off both shoulders.
- (b) Roll casting to target at 20ft, 30ft and 40ft, off both shoulders.

SINGLE & DOUBLE HAULING

40. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Objectives of the Single and Double Haul casts. The candidate is to discuss (at length) the mechanics of both the Single and Double Haul techniques, paying particular attention to stance (closed and open), casting stroke length, path of the rod tip, line haul, line feed, loop formation, timing, line shoot, rod drift, rod creep etc.
- (b) A single-haul back cast to 30ft (minimum), off both shoulders.
- (c) A single-haul forward cast to 30ft (minimum), off both shoulders.
- (d) Double Hauling. Demonstrate 8 false casts off both shoulders at 30ft (minimum) to 35' (maximum) with well-formed loops, off both shoulders.
- (e) A double haul distance cast, shooting line to a minimum of 70ft (on shoulder).
- (f) A double haul distance cast, shooting line to a minimum of 65ft (off shoulder; facing target).
- (g) Faults and cures.

OTHER TECHNIQUES

41. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) A saltwater-type cast, as if in a craft. With the fly in hand and 20-25ft of line extended from the rod tip, show technique and then shoot line to 60ft with no more than 2-3 false casts.
- (b) Demonstrate a technique to cast a very heavy fly.
- (c) A 180-degree change of direction delivery cast, from downstream to upstream.
- (d) An overhead cast to 20ft with a high obstacle behind.
- (e) An overhead cast where the fly is pitched into the water first at a minimum of 20ft.
- (f) Dealing with a full sunken line.

USE OF SINK TIPS

42. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

- (a) Uses of sink tips in fishing.
- (b) Show techniques for raising a sink tip to the surface.
- (c) Raise a sink tip to the surface and use a Spey cast of your choice to deliver a cast to 45 degrees off both shoulders, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft.
- (d) Raise a sink tip to the surface and use a Spey cast of your choice to deliver a cast to 90 degrees off both shoulders, shooting line to a minimum of 50ft.
- (e) Raise a sink tip to the surface and make an overhead cast to 30 degrees off both shoulders, shooting line to 55ft.

ADDITIONAL TECHNIQUES

43. Clearly explain and demonstrate the following:

(a) Clearly explain and demonstrate use of the tackle and equipment provided for you by the assessors.

(b) Pros and cons of uses for the outfits provided.

(c) Ability to cast with the outfits as requested by the assessors.