The Oral Qualifying Examination (hereinafter O) is an old tradition in the Engineering Department, going back more than forty years. It was originally intended to test contextual competence as opposed to book knowledge, and it still serves that original intent. It also satisfies a number of STCW competencies for 1/c cadets.

1. The Senior Engineering Training Officer (SETO) assigns 1/c cadets to individual instructors or ship’s officers for Q-ing in a specific area, i.e., Auxiliaries, Boilers, Electricity, or Main Propulsion. The cadet leadership will assign underclass cadets to first class cadets for 2/c and 3/c Qs.

2. Q grade sheets for each class and area will be available in the Engineering Training Office (ETO) and in the engineroom.

3. Qs are testing competence not only with respect to the machinery aboard the T.S. Empire State, but aboard any ship a graduate may join. Questions should be general as well as specific.

4. Q-ing areas are divided into multiple items (i.e., A.1 or M-4) for each class. Some of these items are direct assessment of OICEW or RPIEW competencies, and therefore must be passed with at least a “Satisfactory” grade. As a matter of policy, all Q items should be passed with a minimum “Satisfactory” grade, or a re-qualification with another officer will be required. The policy is:
   a. The cadet applies in writing for a re-qualification, and SETO shall arrange assignment of officers for re-qualifications.
   b. Officers conducting a re-qualification may, but are not required to, evaluate the qualifications of the cadet relative to individual items that the cadet previously passed.
   c. Upon successful re-qualification, the cadet will receive only a grade of “Satisfactory” for the item previously failed.

5. Completed grade sheets showing the name(s) of the examined cadet(s) must be signed and dated by the Q-ing officer or cadet, and returned to the ETO.