



# Charles River Canoe & Kayak Paddling Quiz

**As a canoeist, kayaker, or stand-up paddler, where should you travel on the river?**

- A) In the middle of the channel.
- B) Toward the sides of the river, but avoiding areas of limited shoreline access (walls, etc.).

**What should you do if you're about to collide with another boat?**

- A) Stop your boat by putting your paddle in the water, or steer away. Communicate with the other boat (you can use the whistle on your life jacket) and let them know which direction you plan to head.
- B) Pull your paddle out of the water and watch with glee as you ram the other boat.

**What should you do in extreme weather like lightning or high winds?**

- A) Go to shore, secure your boat, find shelter until conditions improve, and contact the rental center if possible.
- B) Hurry back to the rental center so you don't get wet.

**Which is a true statement about rowing shells?**

- A) They move fast and can't see other boats well because they face backwards.
- B) They are not very maneuverable.
- C) Both A and B.

**When encountering waves, you should:**

- A) Steer into them, stay low, and keep paddling!
- B) Stand up in the boat, wave your paddle in the air, and scream!

**When paddling on a windy day, you should:**

- A) Begin by paddling into the wind so it's easy to return.
- B) Head downwind and enjoy the ride – until you have to slog back to the rental center.

**True or False:**

**Canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards have the right of way over any other boat.**

- A) True
- B) False

**How should you cross from one shore to the other?**

- A) Look both ways, wait until it is clear, then paddle directly across the river as quickly as possible.
- B) Cross gradually, spending as much time in the middle of the channel as possible.

**Which is a true statement about sailboats?**

- A) They always have the right of way over other boats, including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards.
- B) They can't see other boats well.
- C) Both A and B.

**How should you pass under bridges and through narrow channels like at the Museum of Science?**

- A) Line up single file and stay to the side until well clear of the bridge or channel. Do not linger.
- B) Paddle down the middle as a group so you block passage of other boats.

**Which is a true statement about dams?**

- A) There are dams at each end of this section of river (ask to see the Charles River Map for locations).
- B) Paddlers are not allowed to portage around the dams or pass through the locks.
- C) Both A and B.

**Which of these are major contributors to boating fatalities?**

- A) Not wearing a lifejacket.
- B) Alcohol consumption.
- C) Both A and B.

**Life Jackets Float – You Don't!  
You must wear your Life Jacket at all times.**