



# Charles River Canoe & Kayak Fun Paddling Quiz

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

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

**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.

**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 as your boat rams into the other boat.

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

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

**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 struggle against the wind to return to the rental center.

**When encountering waves, you should:**

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

**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 river as possible.

**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 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 sailboats?**

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

**What should you do if you capsize?**

- A) Stay with your boat. Be sure your lifejacket is properly secured. If possible, swim the boat to shore.
- B) If the water is cold, get your body out of the water by climbing onto your overturned boat. If you are very close to shore, consider swimming to shore.
- C) Both A and B.

**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) You may not portage our rented boats around the dams or take them through the locks.
- C) Both A and B.

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

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

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