

RYA COASTAL SKIPPER PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

The aim of this course is to teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a cruising yacht safely on coastal passages by day and night.

1. Passage planning

- Can plan a coastal passage including a consideration of the capability of the yacht
- Navigation
- Victualling
- Weather
- Ports of refuge
- Tidal heights and tidal streams
- Publications required
- Know Customs procedures

2. Preparation for sea

- Is aware of safety equipment required for offshore passages
- Can prepare a yacht for sea including stowage, safety briefing, watch keeping, delegating responsibilities and equipment and engine checks

3. Pilotage

- Can prepare a pilotage plan, with consideration of surroundings, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port or harbour regulations and tidal considerations.
- Can pilot a yacht by day and night

4. Passage making and ability as skipper

- Can take charge of a yacht and direct the crew
- Can organise the navigation, deckwork, and domestic duties of a yacht on passage
- Is aware of the significance of meteorological trends
- Is aware of crew welfare on passage
- Can use electronic navigational equipment for planning and undertaking a passage, including the use of waypoints and routes

5. Yacht handling under power

- Can control the yacht effectively in a confined space under power
- All berthing and unberthing situations in various conditions of wind and tide

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6. Yacht handling under sail

- Characteristics
- Can use the sails to control the yacht in a confined space
- Anchoring and mooring in various conditions of wind and tide
- Can sail efficiently on all points of sailing

7. Adverse weather conditions

- Preparation for heavy weather and yacht handling in strong winds
- Navigation and general conduct in restricted visibility

8. Emergency situations

- Recovery of man overboard under power and sail
- Understands action to be taken when abandoning to the liferaft and during helicopter and lifeboat rescues