



RYA Coastal Skipper practical sailing course syllabus

The Coastal Skipper course is intended to teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a yacht safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night.

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 and strategy.
- Knows Customs procedures.

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.

Pilotage

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

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 navigation equipment for planning and undertaking a passage, including the use of waypoints and routes.

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.

Yacht handling under sail

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

Adverse weather conditions

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

Emergency situations

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

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