



RYA Coastal/Yachtmaster Shorebased Course (40 Hours)

The RYA Coastal skipper/yachtmaster Shorebased Course is an advanced course covering Navigation, Meteorology, and Collision Regulations. It is a must for those working towards taking the Coastal skipper or Yacht master offshore exams.

It is an intensive course covering advanced navigation techniques including position fixing, course shaping and plotting, tidal knowledge, and use of almanacs, Admiralty publications and electronic position finding equipment.

Meteorology tuition includes the taking and interpretation of forecasts, plotting of weather systems and weather prediction using barometers and by observation. You are shown how to use this information when planning and executing passage plans.

The international regulations for prevention of collisions at sea are dealt with in detail.

There are three exams, one each on navigation, meteorology, and collision regulations.

On successful completion you will be awarded the RYA Coastal/Yachtmaster Shorebased Course Certificate

We recommend the Day Skipper Shorebased Course has been completed or knowledge to that level, before attending this Course.

Syllabus

Position

- .Dead reckoning and estimated position
- .Satellite-derived position
- .Use of waypoints to fix position
- .Radar fixes
- .Techniques of visual fixing
- .Fixes using a mixture of position lines
- .Relative accuracy of different methods of position fixing, Areas of uncertainty

The magnetic compass

- .Allowance for variation
- Change of variation with time and position
- Causes for deviation
- Swing for deviation (but not correction)
- Allowance for deviation
- Different types of compass

Tides

- Causes of tides – Springs and Neaps
- Tide tables – sources
- Tidal levels and datum
- Standard and secondary ports
- Tidal anomalies (Solent, etc)

Tidal streams

- Sources of tidal information
- Tidal stream information in sailing directions and Yachtsmen's Almanacs
- Allowance for tidal streams in computing a course to steer
- Tide rips, overfalls and races
- Tidal observation buoys, beacons etc

Buoyage

- IALA system buoyage in Region A
- Limitations of buoys as navigational aids

Lights

- Characteristics
- Ranges – visual, luminous and nominal
- Rising and dipping distances
- Light lists

Pilotage

- Harbour regulations and control signals
- Methods of pre-planning
- Clearing lines
- Use of soundings
- Transits and leading lines

GPS and chart plotters

- Principles of operation and limitations of use
- Raster and vector charts
- Datum
- Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source and keeping a separate record of position
- Importance of paper charts

Echo sounders

- Principles of operation and limitations of use

Logs (speed and distance measuring)

- Principles of operation and limitations of use

Deck log

- Importance of log as yacht's official document
- Layout of log, hourly and occasional entries

Meteorology

- Basic terms, the Beaufort scale
- Air masses
- Cloud types
- Weather patterns associated with pressure and frontal systems
- Sources of weather forecasts
- Ability to interpret a shipping forecast, weatherfax and weather satellite information
- Land and sea breezes
- Sea fog
- Use of a barometer as a forecasting aid

Rule of the road

- A sound knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, except Annexes 1 and 3

Safety at sea

- Personal safety, use of lifejackets, safety harnesses and lifelines
- Fire prevention and fire fighting
- Distress signals
- Coastguard and Boat Safety Scheme
- Preparation for heavy weather
- Liferrafts and helicopter rescue
- Understanding of capabilities of vessel and basic knowledge of stability

Navigation in restricted visibility

- Precautions to be taken in fog
- Limitations to safe navigation imposed by fog
- Navigation strategy in poor visibility

Passage planning

- Preparation of charts and notebook for route planning and making, and use at sea
- Customs regulations as they apply to yachts
- Routine for navigating in coastal waters
- Strategy for course laying
- Use of waypoints and routes
- Use of weather forecast information for passage planning strategy
- Sources of local and national regulations

Marine environment

- Responsibility to minimise pollution and protect the marine environment