



RYA Competent Crew practical sailing course syllabus

Aim: To introduce the complete beginner to cruising and to teach personal safety, seamanship, and helmsmanship to the level required to be a useful member of the crew of a cruising yacht.

Knowledge of sea terms and parts of the boat, her rigging and sails

- Sufficient knowledge to understand orders concerning the sailing and day to day running of the boat.

Sail handling

- Bending on, setting, reefing and handling of sails
- Use of sheets and halyards and their associated winches

Ropework

- Handling ropes, including coiling, stowing, securing to cleats and single and double bollards
- Handling warps
- Ability to tie the following knots and know their correct use: figure of eight, clove hitch, rolling hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, single and double sheet bend, reef knot

Fire precautions and fighting

- Awareness of the hazards of fire and the precautions necessary to prevent fire
- Knowledge of the action taken in the event of fire

Personal safety equipment

- Understands and complies with the rules for wearing of safety harnesses, lifejackets and personal buoyancy aids

Man overboard

- Understands the action to be taken to recover a man overboard

Emergency equipment

- Can operate distress flares and knows how they should be used
- Understands how to launch and board a liferaft

Manners and customs

- Understands the accepted practice with regard to: use of burgees and ensigns, prevention of unnecessary noise or disturbance in harbour including courtesies to other craft berthed alongside
- Aware of the responsibility of yacht skippers to protect the environment.

Rules of the Road

- Is able to keep an efficient lookout at sea

Dinghies

- Understands and complies with loading rules
- Is able to handle a dinghy under oars.

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