



RYA Day Skipper practical sailing course syllabus

The Day Skipper Course is intended to teach; pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar.

Preparation for sea

- Is able to prepare a yacht for sea, including engine checks, selection of sails, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below

Deck work

- Can reef, shake out reefs and change sails to suit prevailing conditions
- Can prepare an anchor, mooring warps and take charge on deck when mooring alongside, coming to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor and slipping from a buoy or an alongside berth

Navigation

Is proficient in chartwork and routine navigational duties on passage including:

- Taking and plotting visual fixes
- Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
- Use of waypoints
- Working up DR and EP
- Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
- Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder and lead line

Pilotage

- Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbour
- Understands the use of leading and clearing lines
- Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

Meteorology

- Knows sources of forecast information
- Can interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid

Rule of the road

- Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Maintenance and repair work

- Understands and is able to carry out maintenance tasks
- Knows the properties and uses of common synthetic fibre ropes

Engines

- Knows how to change fuel and water filters, pump impeller and to bleed the fuel system

Victualling

- Understands how to victual a yacht