

RYA COASTAL SKIPPER AND YACHTMASTER SHOREBASED COURSE SYLLABUS

The following is a copy of the syllabus for the Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster shorebased course as detailed in the RYA Sail Cruising & Yachtmaster Scheme Syllabus and Logbook (G15).



Suggested minimum pre-course experience: Day Skipper shorebased course

Assumed knowledge: Navigation to Day Skipper shorebased standard

This is an advanced course in navigation and meteorology for candidates for the Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster Offshore certificate. The syllabus makes some provision for the revision of subjects in the Day Skipper Course but those who have not acquired the knowledge set out in the Day Skipper course are unlikely to be able to assimilate all the subjects covered in this advanced course in the time available.



	Minimum time (hours)	Depth of knowledge*
1. Position	6	
• Dead reckoning and estimated position		B
• Satellite-derived position		A
• Use of waypoints to fix position		A
• Radar fixes		B
• Techniques of visual fixing		B
• Fixes using a mixture of position lines		B
• Relative accuracy of different methods of position fixing		A
• Areas of uncertainty		C
2. The magnetic compass	2	
• Allowance for variation		B
• Change of variation with time and position		B
• Causes of deviation		B
• Swing for deviation (but not correction)		C

	Minimum time (hours)	Depth of knowledge*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowance for deviation • Different types of compass 		C C
3. Tides	4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of tides – Springs and Neaps • Tide tables – sources • Tidal levels and datum • Standard and secondary ports • Tidal anomalies (Solent, etc.) 		C C B B C
4. Tidal Streams	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of tidal information • Tidal stream information in sailing directions and Yachtsman’s Almanacs • Allowance for tidal streams in computing a course to steer • Tide rips, overfalls and races • Tidal observation buoys, beacons, etc 		B B A B B
5. Buoyage	1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IALA system buoyage in Region A • Limitations of buoys as navigational aids 		B C
6. Lights	1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics • Ranges – visual, luminous and nominal • Rising and dipping distances • Lights list 		B C C C
7. Pilotage	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour regulations and control signals • Method of pre-planning • Clearing lines • Use of soundings • Transits and leading lines 		A B A B B
8. GPS and chart plotters	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		A C C A B
9. Echo sounders	½	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of operation and limitations of use 		C
10. Logs (speed and distance measuring)	½	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of operation and limitations of use 		C
11. Deck log	½	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of log as yacht’s official document • Layout of log, hourly and occasional entries 		B B

	Minimum time (hours)	Depth of knowledge*
12. Meteorology	6	
• Basic terms, the Beaufort scale		B
• Air masses		B
• Cloud types		B
• Weather patterns associated with pressure and frontal systems		B
• Sources of weather forecasts		B
• Ability to interpret a shipping forecast, weather fax and weather satellite information		B
• Land and sea breezes		B
• Sea fog		C
• Use of barometer as a forecasting aid		B
13. Rules of the Road	1	
• A sound knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, except Annexes 1 and 3.		A
14. Safety at Sea	2	
• Personal safety, use of lifejackets, safety harnesses and lifelines		B
• Fire prevention and fire fighting		B
• Distress signals		B
• Coastguard and boat safety scheme		C
• Preparation for heavy weather		B
• Liferafts and helicopter rescue		B
• Understanding the capabilities of vessel and basic knowledge of stability		C
15. Navigation in restricted visibility	1	
• Precautions to be taken in fog		B
• Limitations to safe navigation imposed by fog		B
• Navigation strategy in fog		B
16. Passage planning	5	
• Preparation of charts and notebook for route planning and making, and use at sea		B
• Customs regulations as they apply to yachts		C
• Routine navigating in coastal waters		B
• Strategy for course laying		B
• Use of waypoints and routes		A
• Use of weather forecast information for passage planning strategy		B
• Sources of local and national regulations		B
17. Marine environment	½	
• Responsibility to minimise pollution and protecting the marine environment		B

* Depth of knowledge codes: **A** Full knowledge, **B** Working knowledge, **C** Outline knowledge