

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical

Course Syllabus and Outcomes

1. Passage Planning

- Knowledge of the effects of fouling on boat speed and fuel consumption
- Understands fuel consumption at different speeds and can calculate fuel required for passage, including reserve
- Understands customs procedures
- Understands stability
- Can plan a coastal passage, taking into consideration the capability of the vessel, navigation, victualling, weather, ports of refuge, tidal heights and tidal streams, publications required, and strategy

2. Preparations for Sea

- Understands what safety equipment is required for offshore passages
- Can prepare a cruising vessel for sea, including stowage, safety briefing, watchkeeping, delegating responsibilities, equipment, and engine checks

3. Pilotage

- Can prepare a pilotage plan, taking into consideration soundings, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port or harbour regulations, and tidal factors
- Can pilot a cruising vessel by day and at night

4. Passage-making and Ability as Skipper

- Understands the practical uses of integrated electronic aids to navigation, including AIS, radar, electronic navigation charts (ENCs), and raster navigational charts (RNCs)
- Can take charge of a yacht and direct the crew
- Can organise the navigation, deck work and domestic duties of a cruising vessel on passage
- Can be aware of the significance of meteorological trends
- Can be aware of crew welfare on passage
- Can use electronic navigational equipment for planning and undertaking a passage, including the use of waypoints and routes

5. Yacht Handling Under Power

- Understands how to identify and take into account wind and current conditions when planning and executing manoeuvres
- Can control the cruising vessel effectively in a confined space under power, including all berthing and unberthing situations.
- Can pick up a mooring bow- or stern-to
- Can avoid excessive use of power

6. Yacht Handling under Sail

- Understands how to identify and take into account wind and current conditions when planning and executing manoeuvres
- Can use the sails to control the yacht in a confined space
- Can consistently pick up a mooring
- Can sail efficiently on all points of sail, including downwind techniques

7. Adverse Weather Conditions

- Understands how to handle a cruising vessel in strong winds
- Understands general conduct in restricted visibility

8. Emergency Situations

- Understands the actions to be taken when abandoning to a life raft, and during helicopter and lifeboat rescues
- Understands how to carry out the aftercare requirements on a casualty who has been in the water
- Can describe to a crew member the effects of cold-water shock on a casualty who has been in the water
- Can recover a man overboard under power
- Can recover a man overboard under sail

The aim of the course is to teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a cruising yacht safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night, with significant night hours and watch-keeping rotas.

