

RYA Day Skipper Practical Syllabus

The Day Skipper course teaches pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the required standard to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in familiar waters.

Preparation for sea

- Knows basic stability and buoyancy concepts for small vessels
- 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 alongside berth

Navigation

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

- Knowledge of the use and limitations of AIS
- Taking and plotting visual fixes - Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing - Use of waypoints - Working up to Dead Reckoning (DR) and Estimated Position (EP) – Using secondary means for position fixing - Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams - Working out a course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift - Knowledge of IALA buoyage - Maintenance of navigational records - Use of echo sounder or lead line

Pilotage

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

Meteorology

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

Rules of the road

- Has a working knowledge and practical understanding of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea – Demonstrates suitable awareness of other water users both at sea and in close-quarters manoeuvring

Maintenance and repair work

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

Engines

- Has a working knowledge of the prevention of common engine faults and is competent in the following areas:
 - the need for periodic maintenance checks on engines and electrical systems – requirements for toolkits, spares and lubricants, location of filters and bleed points for fuel, tension of drive belts and how to adjust or replace them.
 - Knows how to carry out checks before starting, whilst running and after stopping – clean and change fuel and water filters, pump impeller - estimate fuel consumption at various speeds, - carry out basic troubleshooting

Victualling

- Understands how to victual a yacht appropriately for the planned passage

Emergency situations

- Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard - Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft - Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message - Understands how to secure a tow - rescue procedures including helicopter rescue

Yacht handling under power

Can bring a boat safely to and from an alongside berth, mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide - can sail a straight course and turn in a confined space – can anchor in a predetermined position

Yacht Handling under sail

- Can bring a boat safely to and from a mooring buoy and anchor - Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sail

Passage making

- Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and the strength of the crew

Night cruising

- Has experienced sail cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour. Understands the special consideration for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night.