

YACHTMASTER COURSE SYLLABUS

This 5-day course is for the highly experienced, and the aim is to prepare you for the RYA/DOT Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate examination. The qualification is highly regarded worldwide.

Although the syllabus is the same as that of Coastal Skipper, the Yachtmaster candidate needs to be more experienced. The minimum pre-course criteria therefore is 50 days on board, 2,500 miles, 5 days as skipper, 5 passages over 60 miles including 2 as skipper and 2 overnight. This experience must have been gained within the last 10 years. You must also hold the VHF or SRC Radio Operators Certificate and a current recognised First Aid Certificate.

Whilst living on board, you will cover passage planning and implementation, navigation and pilotage in restricted visibility, emergency situations, meteorology, the skipper's role and perfecting boat-handling skills. A thorough knowledge of the shorebased syllabus, including IRPCS, lights and shapes, sound signals and meteorology is essential. The instructor will assess your needs in relation to the syllabus and structure the course accordingly.

SECTION A: COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum sea time (within 10 years of exam): 50 days (5 as skipper), 2,500 miles, 5 passages over 60 miles including 2 overnight and 2 as skipper.

SECTION B: COURSE SYLLABUS

Passage Planning:

To enable the student to plan a coastal passage including a consideration of the capability of the yacht, navigation, victualling, weather, ports of refuge, tidal heights and tidal streams, publications required and strategy.

Knowledge of customs and procedures.

Preparation for sea:

That you are aware of safety equipment required for an offshore passage.

Can prepare a yacht for sea including stowage, safety briefing, watch keeping, delegating responsibilities and equipment and engine checks.

Pilotage:

Can prepare a pilotage plan with consideration of soundings, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port and harbour regulations and tidal considerations.

Can pilot a yacht by day and by night.

Passage making and ability as skipper:

To ensure you can take charge of a yacht and direct the crew

- Can organise the navigation, deckwork and domestic duties of a yacht on passage

- Is aware of the significance of meteorological trends

- Is aware of crew welfare on passage

- Understand the practical use and limitations of electronic navigational aids including GPS

Yacht handling under power:

That you can control the yacht effectively in a confined space under power.

All berthing & unberthing situations in various conditions of wind & tide.

Yacht handling under sail:

That you can use the sails to control the yacht in a confined space.

Anchoring & mooring in various conditions of wind & tide.

Can sail efficiently on all points of sail.

Adverse weather conditions:

Can prepare & handle a yacht in heavy weather & strong winds.

Navigate and general conduct in restricted visibility.

Emergency situations:

Can recover a man overboard under sail or power.

Understands the action to be taken when abandoning to the liferaft and during helicopter and lifeboat rescues.

SECTION C: RYA/MCA YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE EXAM

200€ plus examiners expenses & fuel (on motor exams) to be shared between candidates

- Certificates required: VHF radio operators certificate & First Aid certificate

- Sea Survival & medical report for commercial endorsement (extra)

SECTION D: QUALIFICATION PERMIT

The Yachtmaster Offshore permits command of a private yacht up to 200 tons and 150 nautical miles offshore.

The Yachtmaster Offshore with a commercial endorsement permits command of a yacht used for commercial purposes to be able to carry a maximum of 12 passengers on a vessel up to 24 metres and 150 nautical miles offshore.