



**PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR LOGBOOK PRIOR TO YOUR COURSE**

**This information is only for students taking exams during a brush up course for Yachtmaster Coastal or Yachtmaster Offshore Certificates of Competence**

**Notes for Sailing Yacht or Motor Cruiser Coastal brush up course.**

The **RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence** examination is the next natural step for those who have completed the **RYA Coastal Skipper course** and have completed some coastal sailing since in order to put the lessons learnt into practice. The holder of an RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence has the knowledge needed to skipper a vessel on coastal passages, but does not necessarily have the experience needed to undertake longer offshore passages. The theory knowledge required for the RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence is the same as that for Yachtmaster Offshore, but less practical experience and skill is required.

During the course you will take command of the vessel on short passages by day and night and practice lots of close quarter's boat handling techniques under sail and power. The instructor will tailor the course to your specific needs however our experience leads us to emphasise the following subjects: passage planning, man overboard recovery, close quarters handling under sail and power, skippering techniques, navigation in restricted visibility, pilotage and knowledge of the International Collision Regulations.

**Ensure you have the following:**

- Restricted (VHF only) Radio Operators Certificate
- A current First Aid Certificate
- The current RYA examination fee (cheque payable to the RYA or Credit/Debit Card – no cash)
- Logged evidence before taking the Coastal Skipper exam demonstrating a minimum sea time of:
  - 30 days seetime
  - 2 days as a skipper
  - Recorded 800 miles
  - 12 night hours
- Please bring a passport size photo

If you hold a Coastal Skipper Practical Course Completion Certificate the seetime is reduced to 20 days (2 days as a skipper), 400 miles and 12 night hours.

**Most candidates who do not pass the examination fail because of a weak theoretical knowledge (International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, lights, shapes, sound signals, weather and chartwork – course to steer, estimated position and tidal heights).** We would recommend that all candidates have completed the Coastal Skipper /Yachtmaster shorebased course recently or revised to that level before taking the examination as there is only time during the practical brush up to test these subjects not to learn them from scratch.

If your practical ability is not up to the standard required, your instructor may recommend that you re-evaluate your expectations and choose a different objective or not take the examination at all. In the brush up course we cannot teach you long term experience, this needs to be achieved beforehand. You will be tested through the examination syllabus and helped to improve your approach to practical examination situations.



## **Notes for Sailing Yacht or Motor Cruiser Yachtmaster brush up course.**

To attain the RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Offshore candidates must pass a practical examination of their skippering ability. A Yachtmaster Offshore is capable of skippering the yacht on extended offshore passages by day or night. He or she will essentially be a much more experienced Coastal Skipper and can do the same things more smoothly, for longer periods and in more arduous conditions.

On a normal five day brush up course your examination is planned to be on the fourth afternoon of your course and will have night hours included, your fellow crew members will act as crew and may be completing different level practical courses to yours. A brush up course is to assess your ability and develop your skills in preparation for an exam at the level of competence, Yachtmaster Offshore.

### **Ensure you have the following:**

- Bring a passport size photo
- Restricted (VHF only) Radio Operators Certificate
- A current First Aid Certificate
- The current RYA examination fee(preferably cheque payable to the RYA or Credit/Debit Card – no cash)
- Logged Evidence in your G15/18 log book before taking the Yachtmaster exam that you have previous experience and **minimum** sea time of:
  - 50 days seetime
  - 5 days as a skipper
  - Recorded 2500 miles (50% of the mileage must be in tidal waters)
  - 5 passages over 60 miles as the crow flies including 2 overnight and 2 as a skipper

The above must be within 10 years of the examination and demonstrate a mix of different conditions, vessels, varying port pilotage and berthing experience.

We would advise that with our experience of successful examinations, if you accidentally run aground or accidentally gybe on a sailing exam, the examiners are instructed to fail the student.

**Most candidates who do not pass the examination fail because of a weak theoretical knowledge (International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, lights, shapes, sound signals, weather and chartwork – course to steer, Estimated Position and tidal heights).** We would recommend that all candidates have completed the Coastal Skipper /Yachtmaster shorebased course recently or revised to that level before taking the examination as there is only time during the practical brush up to test these subjects not to learn them from scratch.

If your practical ability is not up to the standard required, your instructor may recommend that you re-evaluate your expectations and choose a different objective or not take the examination at all. In the brush up course we cannot teach you long term experience, this needs to be achieved beforehand. You will be tested through the examination syllabus and helped to improve your approach to practical examination situations. Examiners expect a high level of expertise, particularly in exercises such as man overboard, mooring the boat, wind awareness or sail trim aboard a yacht.