



RYA Day Skipper Practical Syllabus

- Preparation for sea

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 an alongside berth.

- Navigation

Is proficient in chart work and routine navigational duties on passage including: Taking and plotting visual fixes; Working up DR and EP; Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing; Use of waypoints; Knowledge of IALA buoyage; Estimating tidal heights and streams; Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift; Maintenance of navigational records; Use of echo sounder and lead line.

- Pilotage

Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbor. Understands the use of leading and clearing lines. Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage.

- Meteorology

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

- Rule of the road

Has a working knowledge of the I.R.P.C.S.

- Maintenance and repair work

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



- Engines

Knows how to change fuel and water filters, pump impeller and how to bleed the fuel system.

- Victualling

Understands how to victual a yacht.

- Emergency situations

Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard. Understands distress flares and how to use a life raft. Can operate a radio telephone and send a distress message. Understands how to secure a tow. Understands 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.

- Yacht handling under sail

Can bring a boat safely to and from a mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide. Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing. Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing.

- Passage making

Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and strength of the crew. Do not forget your passport.