

Minimum Seatime required:

- 2 years relevant experience including night pilotage. (As a guide 30 days, 2 days as skipper, 800 miles, 12 night hours).

Recommended:

- RYA Level 2 Powerboat Certificate or equivalent knowledge
- RYA Intermediate Powerboat Certificate or equivalent knowledge
- RYA Day Skipper shorebased navigation course completion certificate, or equivalent knowledge

Course Syllabus

1 Preparation for sea

- Preparation of vessel
- Safety brief
- Stowing and securing gear for coastal passages
- Engine operations and routine checks, fuel systems, kill cord
- Fuel system, bleeding, changing filters and impellers

2 Boat handling

- Hull forms and their handling characteristics, propeller configurations.
- Knowledge of action to be taken in rough weather
- Significance of tidal stream on sea conditions
- Steering and power control through waves
- Understanding and correct use of power trim and tabs
- Towing, under open sea conditions and in confined areas
- Strategy up and downwind and in heavy weather

Awareness of the effects of wind and tide when manoeuvring, including

- Steering to transits and in buoyed channels
- Turning in a confined space
- All berthing and un-berthing
- Picking up and leaving a mooring buoy
- Anchoring
- Recovery of man overboard
- Awareness of ground speed and ability to hold the boat on station

3 Responsibilities of skipper

- Can skipper the vessel with effective crew communication
 - Preparing the vessel for sea and for adverse weather
 - Tactics for heavy weather and restricted visibility
 - Emergency and distress situations
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- Customs procedures
- Courtesy to other water users

4 Passage making and Pilotage

Your chart work and theory knowledge will include:

- Charts, navigational publications and sources of navigational information
- Chart work, including position fixing and shaping course to allow for tide
- Tidal heights and depths
- Buoyage and visual aids to navigation
- Instruments, including compasses, logs, echo sounders, radio nav aids and chartwork instruments
- Passage planning and navigational tactics
- Importance of pre-planning
- High speed navigation, pre-planning and execution
- Use of electronic navigation (GPS & Radar)
- Pilotage techniques and plans for entry into or departure from harbour
- Use of leading and clearing lines, transits and soundings as aids to pilotage
- Navigational records
- Limits of navigational accuracy and margins of safety
- Lee shore dangers

You should be able to enter and depart from a charted port by day or night. You will be given a pilotage exercise and ask you to explain your planning. You will need to be aware of the problems of collision avoidance and how to determine your position by night.

5 Meteorology

You should be able to use weather and tidal information to predict likely sea conditions and make passage planning decisions.

- Definition of terms including the Beaufort Scale, and their significance to small craft.
- Sources of weather forecasts
- Weather systems and local weather effects
- Interpretation of weather forecasts, barometric trends and visible phenomena
- Ability to make passage planning decisions based on forecast information

6 Rules of the Road

Application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

You should be able to identify power and sailing vessels by night. Identification of types of ship by night is not required except a knowledge of the lights of tugs and trawlers.

7 Safety

Candidates will be expected to know what safety equipment should be carried on board the vessel, based either on the recommendations in RYA booklet 08, or the Codes of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Vessels. In particular, candidates must know the responsibilities of a skipper in relation to:

- Fire prevention and fighting
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- Hull damage/watertight integrity
 - Medical emergency
 - Towing and being towed
 - VHF emergency procedures
 - Explanation of helicopter rescue procedures
 - Use of flares
 - Man overboard
 - Search patterns
 - Lifejackets
 - Life rafts
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