

COASTAL SKIPPER COURSE SYLLABUS

This is an advanced course in navigation and meteorology for candidates for the Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate. The syllabus makes some provision for the revision of subjects in the Day Skipper Course but those who have not acquired the knowledge set out in the Day Skipper Course are unlikely to be able to assimilate all the subjects covered in this advanced course in the time available.

The assumed level of knowledge before starting this course is the Day Skipper Shorebased Course.

SECTION 1: POSITION

- Dead reckoning and estimated position
- Satellite-derived position
- Use of waypoints to fix position
- Radar fixes
- Techniques of visual fixing
- Fixes using a mixture of position lines
- Relative accuracy of different methods of position fixing
- Areas of uncertainty

SECTION 2: THE MAGNETIC COMPASS

- Allowance for variation
- Change of variation with time and position
- Causes of deviation
- Swing for deviation (but not correction)
- Allowance for deviation
- Different types of compass

SECTION 3: TIDES

- Causes of tides – springs and neaps
- Tide tables – sources
- Tidal levels and datum
- Standard and secondary ports
- Tidal anomalies (Solent, etc)

SECTION 4: TIDAL STREAMS

- Sources of tidal information
- Tidal stream information in sailing
- Directions and Yachtsmen's Almanacs
- Allowance for tidal streams in computing
- A course to steer
- Tide rips, over falls and races
- Tidal observation buoys, beacons etc.

SECTION 5: BUOYAGE

- IALA system buoyage in Region A
- Limitations of buoys as navigational aids

SECTION 6: LIGHTS

- Characteristics
- Ranges – visual, luminous and nominal
- Rising and dipping distance
- Light lists

SECTION 7: PILOTAGE

- Harbour regulations and control signals
- Methods of pre-planning
- Clearing lines
- Use of soundings
- Transits and leading lines

SECTION 8: GPS & CHART PLOTTERS

- Principles of operation and limitations of use
- Raster and vector charts
- Datum
- Importance of confirmation of position by an Independent source and keeping a separate record of position
- Importance of paper charts

SECTION 9: ECHO SOUNDERS

- Principles of operation and limitations of use

SECTION 10: LOGS (SPEED & DISTANCE)

- Operation and limitations of use

SECTION 11: DECK LOG

- Importance of log as yacht's official document
- Layout of log, hourly and occasional entries

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CONT.

SECTION 12: METEOROLOGY

- Basic terms, the Beaufort Scale
- Air masses
- Cloud types
- Weather patterns associated with pressure & frontal systems
- Sources of weather forecasts
- Ability to interpret a shipping forecast, weather fax, & weather satellite information.
- Land and sea breezes
- Sea fog
- Use of a barometer as a forecasting aid

SECTION 13: RULES OF THE ROAD

- A sound knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, except Annexes 1 and 3

SECTION 14: SAFETY AT SEA

- Personal safety, use of lifejackets, safety harnesses, and lifelines
- Fire prevention and fire fighting
- Distress signals
- Coastguard and Boat Safety Scheme
- Preparation for heavy weather
- Liferaft and Helicopter rescue
- Understanding the capabilities of vessel and basic knowledge of stability

SECTION 15: NAVIGATION IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY

- Precautions to be taken in fog
- Limitations to safe navigation imposed by fog
- Navigation strategy in poor visibility

SECTION 16: PASSAGE PLANNING

- Preparation of charts and notebook for route Planning and making, use at sea
- Customs regulations as they apply to vessels
- Routine for navigating in coastal waters
- Strategy for course laying
- Use of waypoints and routes
- Use of weather forecast information for passage planning strategy
- Sources of local and national regulations

SECTION 17: MARINE ENVIRONMENT

- Responsibility to minimise pollution and protect the marine environment