

## RYA Day Skipper Practical

### Syllabus

The Day Skipper course teaches pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the required standard to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in familiar waters.

#### 1) 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

#### 2) 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 alongside berth

#### 3) Navigation

Is proficient in chartwork and routine navigational duties on passage including:

- Taking and plotting visual fixes
- Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
- Use of waypoints
- Working up to DR and EP
- Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
- Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder and lead line

#### 4) 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 surroundings as aids to pilotage

## 5) Meteorology

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

## 6) Rules of the road

Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

## 7) Maintenance and repair work

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

## 8) Engines

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

## 9) Victualling

 Understands how to victual a yacht

## 10) Emergency situations

Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard. Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft. Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message. Understands how to secure a tow. Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue

## 11) 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

## 12) Yacht Handling under sail

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

## 13) Passage making

Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and the strength of the crew

## 14) Night cruising

Has experienced sail cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour. Understands the special consideration for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night.