

# RYA Day Skipper Practical Syllabus

## 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, harbour
- Understands the use of leading and clearing lines
- Use of transits and surroundings as aids to pilotage

## 5. Meteorology

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

## 6. Rule of the road

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

## 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
- Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing

## 12. 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

## 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.