

Yachtmaster Offshore candidates will show ability in more complex situations & display a higher level of expertise than Coastal Yachtmaster.

1. International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Questions will be confined to the International Regulations and although candidates must be aware of the existence of Local Regulations, they will not be expected to memorise specific local regulations.

General rules (1-3)
Steering and sailing rules (4-19)
Lights and shapes (20-31)
Sound and light signals (32-37)
Signals for vessels fishing in close proximity
Distress signals (Annex IV)

2. Safety

Candidates will know what safety equipment should be carried on board a yacht based on the RYA Boat Safety Handbook (C8), the ISAF Special Regulations or the Codes of Practice for the safety of Small Commercial Vessels.

Candidates must know the responsibilities of a skipper in relation:

Lifejackets & Safety harnesses
Distress flares
Fire prevention and fighting
Liferafts
Knowledge of rescue procedures
Helicopter rescue

3. Boat Handling

Dropping & weighing anchor under power or sail in various conditions
All berthing and un-berthing situations in various conditions
Recovery of man overboard under power & sail
Towing under open sea conditions and in confined areas
Boat handling in confined areas under sail
Boat handling in heavy weather
Helming techniques and best sail trim
Use of warps for securing in an alongside berth and for shifting berth

4. General Seamanship, including maintenance

Properties, use and care of synthetic fibre ropes
Knots
General deck-work at sea and in harbour
Engine operations and routine checks
Improvisation of jury rigs following gear failure

5. Responsibilities of skipper

Can skipper a yacht and manage the crew
Communication with crew
Delegation of responsibility and watch-keeping organisation
Preparing yacht for sea and for adverse weather
Tactics for heavy weather and restricted visibility
Emergency and distress situations
Victualing for a cruise and feeding at sea
Customs procedures
Standards of behaviour and courtesy

6. Navigation

Charts, navigational publications and sources of navigational information
Chartwork, position fixing and course shaping allowing for tidal stream and leeway
Tide and tidal stream calculations
Buoyage and visual aids to navigation
Navigational Instruments compass, log, echo sounder, radio nav aids
Passage planning and navigational tactics
Pilotage techniques
Navigational records
Limits of navigational accuracy and margins if safety
Use of electronic navigation equipment for passage planning and navigation
Use of waypoints and electronic routing

7. Meteorology

Definition of terms
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

8. Signals

Yachtmaster Coastal & Offshore Candidates must hold VHF SRC Cert.

Crew Equipment List

We provide lifejackets & wet weather gear. You will need to bring with you enough clothing for the course duration and a sleeping bag. Here's a list...

Sea Boots (hiking boots or wellies if you have those)
Sunglasses (Cheap as they may go overboard)
Sun cream
Wash bag & Towel
Torch (Red Light Preferable)
Good sleeping bag & Travel Pillow (if you have 1)
5 pairs of socks minimum
Merino Thermal underwear
2 other thin long-sleeved tops (Running or Hiking clothing is perfect)
Hiking Trousers & Shorts (If we get lucky with weather)
Fleece
Body Warmer (the extra night-time layer)
Woolly hat (Cheap as it may go overboard)
1 full set of street clothes inc. shoes to put on when we are in port (Keep in a plastic bag)
Soft kit bag for easy storage...no suitcases!
1 digital device - preferably a phone
Notebook
Personal Sailing Logbook (if you have one)