

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.

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)