

# Yachtmaster Offshore Exam Syllabus

Candidates may be given the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of competence in the areas listed below. In each section the examiner will expect to see the candidate take full responsibility for the management of the yacht and crew. In Yachtmaster Offshore exams the candidate will be expected to demonstrate competence based on broad experience.

**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 (Annex II) D

Distress signals (Annex IV)

**2. Safety** Candidates will be expected to know what safety equipment should be carried on board a yacht, based either on the recommendations in the RYA Boat Safety Handbook (C8), the ISAF Special Regulations or the Codes of Practice for the safety of Small Commercial Vessels. In particular, candidates must know the responsibilities of a skipper in relation:

Safety harnesses

Lifejackets

Distress flares

Fire prevention and fighting

Liferafts Knowledge of rescue procedures

Helicopter rescue

**3. Boat Handling** Candidates for Coastal Skipper examinations will be expected to answer questions or demonstrate ability in simple situations only. Candidates for Yachtmaster Offshore will be expected to answer questions or demonstrate ability in more complex situations and will also be expected to show a higher level of expertise: Coming to and weighing anchor under power or sail in various conditions of wind and tide All berthing and unberthing situations in various conditions of wind and tide Recovery of man overboard Towing under open sea conditions and in confined areas Boat handling in confined areas under sail Boat handling in heavy weather Helmsmanship and sail trim to sail to best advantage Use of warps for securing in an alongside berth and for shifting berth or winding

**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

Victualling 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 including position fixing and shaping course to allow for tidal stream and leeway

Tide and tidal stream calculations

Buoyage and visual aids to navigation

Instruments including compasses, logs, echo sounders, radio nav aids and chartwork instruments

Passage planning and navigational tactics

Pilotage techniques

Navigational records

Limits of navigational accuracy and margins if safety

Lee shore dangers

Use of electronic navigation aids for passage planning and passage 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**

Candidates for Yachtmaster Offshore and Coastal Skipper must hold the Restricted (VHF only) Certificate of Competence in radiotelephony or a higher grade of certificate in radio telephony.

