



RYA Shore based Theory Courses

Essential Navigation and Seamanship Course

The Essential Navigation and Seamanship course provides an introduction to the basic skills required before taking a small boat to sea or taking an active part in running a boat.

Developed by the Royal Yachting Association. It is an introductory program to basic chart work and boating safety. It assumes no prior knowledge and is suitable for finding your way around a harbour or bay while using smaller marine craft such as jet skis, power boats, day sailors or divers. The course can be taken anytime and anywhere as long as you have access to a computer and the internet.

Available online or check our Calendar for Virtual Courses delivered via Zoom

Syllabus:

	Allow Hours
1 - Charts, Publications and Terms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Terms• Chart overview• Introduction to chart datum and depths	1
2- Buoyage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lateral buoys• Cardinal buoys• Where to find information	2
3 – Navigation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plotting a position• Measuring distance and bearing• Position fix• Heading	1
4 – Safety	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal and boat-safety equipment• Safety procedures and briefing• Communications• Engine checks• Rescue procedures	

5 – Anchoring	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to anchor • How to anchor 	
6 – Tides	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal streams • Tidal heights 	
7 – Electronic Navigation	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNSS terms • GNSS use • Using waypoints 	
8 – Rules of the Road	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of collision • Who gives way 	
9 – Weather Forecasts	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of forecast • Terms used in forecast 	
10 – Pilotage	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour information • Transits • Pilotage Plan 	
11 – Passage Planning	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOLAS V requirements • Pre-planning • Chart choice 	

The Course includes

- RYA practice Charts
- RYA Course notes
- Chart Protractor
- Dividers
- Access to Online RYA Course

Interactive courses can be taken anytime, anywhere and at your own speed. All you need is a computer and the internet. The course price is \$355 and we will forward your theory kit by express mail. On successful completion you will receive the RYA Certificate for Essential Navigation.

If you are planning to complete a Day Skipper course, it is not a requirement, we suggest do the Essential Navigation first as many of our students have enjoyed a better outcome.

RYA Day Skipper Shore based Course

A comprehensive introduction to chart work, navigation, meteorology, and the basics of seamanship for Competent Crew. You will find this course invaluable if you want to learn how to start making decisions on board

Course dates as per our [Calendar](#) – either part time, full time or online.

Syllabus:	Allow Hours
1 – Nautical Terms	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parts of a boat and hull• General nautical terminology	
2 – Rope work	0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the properties of synthetic ropes in common use	
3 – Anchor work	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characteristics of different types of anchor• Factors to take into account when anchoring	
4 – Safety	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the safety equipment to be carried, its stowage and use• Fire precautions and firefighting• Use of personal safety equipment, harnesses and life jackets• Ability to send a distress signal by VHF radio• Basic knowledge of rescue procedures including helicopter rescue• Stability	
5 – International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steering and sailing rules• General rules	
6 – Definition of Position, Course and Speed	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latitude and longitude• Knowledge of standard navigational terms• True bearings and courses• The knot	
7 – Navigational Charts and Publications	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information shown on charts, chart symbols and representation Of direction and distance• Navigational publications in common use• Chart correction	
8 – Navigational Drawing Instruments	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of parallel rulers, dividers and proprietary plotting instruments	

9 – Compass	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of variation • Awareness of deviation and its causes • Use of hand-bearing compass 	
10 – Chart work and Navigation – Traditional and Electronic	6.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead reckoning and estimated position including an awareness of leeway • Techniques of visual fixing • Use of GNSS and chart plotters for position fixing • Use of waypoints to fix position • Course to steer 	
11 – Tides and Tidal Streams	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal definitions, levels and datum • Tide tables • Use of admiralty method of determining tidal height at standard port • Awareness of corrections for secondary ports • Use of tidal diamonds and tidal stream atlases for chart work 	
12 – Visual Aids to Navigation	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighthouses and beacons, light characteristics 	
13 – Meteorology	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of broadcast meteorological information • Knowledge of terms used in shipping forecasts, including the • Beaufort Scale, and their significance to small craft • Basic knowledge of highs, lows and fronts 	
14 – Passage Planning	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a navigational plan for short coastal passages • Meteorological considerations in planning short coastal passages • Use of visual confirmation of waypoints on passage • Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source • Keeping a navigational record 	
15 – Navigation in restricted Visibility	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautions to be taken I, and limitations imposed by, fog 	
16 – Pilotage	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of transits, leading lines and clearing lines • IALA system of buoyage (Regions A & B) • Use of sailing directions • Pilotage plans and harbour entry 	
17 – Marine Environment	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for avoiding pollution and protecting the Marine Environment 	

RYA Coastal Skipper/Yacht master Offshore Theory Course

This is an advanced course in navigation and meteorology for candidates for the Coastal Skipper and RYA Yacht master Offshore Shore based Certificate.

The syllabus makes some provision for the revision of subjects in the Day Skipper Course, but those who have not acquired the knowledge set out in the Day Skipper Course are unlikely to be able to assimilate all the subjects covered in the advanced course in the time available.

The assumed level of knowledge before starting this course is the Day Skipper Shore based Course.

Distance-learning students who intend to enter the MCA Large Yacht qualifications, such as Officer of the Watch or Master 3000, will require a formally invigilated exam. This exam will be conducted by an RYA instructor or Examiner through an appropriately qualified RYA recognised training centre

Course dates as per [Calendar](#)

Syllabus	Allow Hours
1- Position	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dead reckoning and estimated position• Satellite-derived position• Use of waypoints to fix position• Radar fixes• Techniques of visual fixing• Fixes using a mixture of position lines• Relative accuracy of different methods of position fixing• Areas of uncertainty	
2 – The Magnetic Compass	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowance for variation• Change of variation with time and position• Causes of deviation• Compass checks for deviation, but not correction• Allowance for deviation• Different types of compass	
3 – Tides	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causes of tides – springs and neaps• Tide tables – sources• Tidal levels and datum• Standard and secondary ports• Tidal anomalies (Solent etc.)	
4 – Tidal Streams	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of tidal information • Tidal stream information in sailing directions and yachtsmen's almanacs • Allowance for tidal streams in computing a course to steer • Tide rips, overfalls and races • Tidal observation buoys, beacons etc. 	
5 – Buoyage	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IALA system buoyage in regions A and B • Limitations of buoys and navigational aids 	
6 – Lights	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics • Ranges – visual, luminous and nominal • Rising and dipping distances • Light lists 	
7 – Pilotage	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour regulations and control signals • Methods of pre-planning • Clearing lines • Use of soundings • Transits and leading lines 	
8 – GNSS and Chart Plotters	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of operation and limitations of use • Raster and vector charts • Datum • The importance of secondary means of position fixing via an independent source and keeping a separate record of position • The importance of paper charts 	
9 – Echo Sounders	0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of operation and limitations of uses 	
10 – Logs (Speed and distance Measuring)	0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of operation and limitations of use 	
11 – Deck Log	0.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the log as a yacht's official document • Layout of log, hourly and occasional entries 	
12 – Meteorology	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic terms, the Beaufort scale • Air masses • Cloud types • Weather patterns associated with pressure and frontal systems • Sources of weather forecasts 	

- Ability to interpret a shipping forecast, weather fax and weather satellite information
 - Land and sea breezes
 - Sea fog
 - Use of a barometer as a forecasting aid
- 13- Rules of the Road** 1
- A sound knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, except Annexes 1 and 3
- 14 – Safety at Sea** 2
- Personal safety, use of life jackets, safety harnesses and lifelines
 - Fire prevention and firefighting
 - Distress signals
 - Coastguard and Boat Safety Scheme
 - Preparation for heavy weather
 - Life rafts and helicopter rescue
 - Understanding of capabilities of vessel and basic knowledge of stability
- 15 – Navigation in Restricted Visibility** 1
- Precautions to be taken in fog
 - Limitations to safe navigation imposed by fog
 - Navigation strategy in poor visibility
- 16 – Passage planning** 5
- Preparation of charts and notebook for route planning & for use on passages at sea
 - Customs regulations as they apply to yachts
 - Routine for navigating in coastal waters
 - Strategy for course laying
 - Use of and visual confirmation of waypoints and routes
 - Use of weather forecast information for passage planning strategy
 - Sources of local and national regulations
- 17 – Marine Environment** 0.5
- The responsibility to minimise pollution and protect the marine environment

Please give us a call on +612 9326 2399 if you have any questions or email info@pacificsailingschool.com.au

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