



## **Modular Advanced Navigation & Seamanship Course – 2 x 2 Days Bristol Channel Edition**

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# Modular Advanced Navigation & Seamanship Course – 2 x 2 Days (Pre-Yachtmaster Examination)



## Background & Problems Identified

Whilst delivering the RYA Coastal Skipper Theory Course navigation learning aspect, observations of the Instructor, together with feedback from students have not been positive. Exercises based on the abstract almanac and charts cause a perpetual learning struggle with a student's mindset. Overall, there is a collective view that the course does little to instil confidence in preparation for application in the practical environment, and in addition the 6 days is too long. A long time period follows into the practical aspect where the RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course is 5 days. Whilst this is necessary for a class of 5 students (that is allowed under the scheme), it would leave most students frustrated at the time needed allowing for ALL participants practicing their exercises in turn, and develop significant doubts over both cost and time elements efficiency.

## Solution

Swansea Yacht Company has developed a modular course, addressing both theory and practical courses based on the waters of the Bristol Channel in less than half the time previously required. It has been produced with significant feedback, and has undergone rigorous critique in the way its aim and objectives are delivered. The maximum number of students is 3; ideally it can be run with two, and for one student it is subject to a 50% premium.

## Course Aims:

**Module 1 – Theory and key concepts (2 Days)** can be taken with a minimum of time and experience following the award of a RYA Day Skipper, ICC Assessment or Level 2 Powerboat Course. This is the theory element for learning key meteorological, collision regulations and navigation concepts using the Bristol Channel setting to practice processes that will be used whilst undergoing the exam. A learning and reference pack applicable to the Bristol Channel is included.

Cost £225.00 per student. (1 Student is +50%)

**Module 2 – Practical Skills Development (2 Days)** A student having gained the necessary logged miles required for the MCA/RYA Yachtmaster Exam (see Appendix 1) can then take Navigation and seamanship put into practice utilising key strategies, tactics, and rounding up techniques applied in the real world. Cost £250.00 per student. (1 Student is +50%)

*The costs for Module 2 are based on a sail yacht setting - for motor yacht, the instructor cost is £200.00 per day and based on another vessel, (and can be shared by the students attending)*

**Combined Modules (4 Days)** – The modules can be split over two time periods at no additional cost.

Cost £450.00 per student. (1 Student is +50%)

**RYA Coastal Skipper Theory Course Students** can book a 1:1 study day with the instructor – the cost includes the learning pack. £125.00 per student. (1 Student is +50%)

## **Use of X Beat II for the RYA Yachtmaster Sail Exam**

If you complete one or both of the modules with us, the yacht charter is £125.00. (1 Student is +50%)

## Learning Programme/Objectives

### Module 1 – Theory Element

- Day 1 Introduction to learning package and templates, meteorology, collision regulations review, tides – secondary ports and tidal rate computation, using paper and apps. Magnetic variation and deviation, establishing position and course to steer, allowance for leeway, time zones, using text based GPS and paper charts
- Day 2 Pilotage and passage planning, using navigation apps, and GNSS plotters – Supervised Cruise Plan Exercise – Preparation required for practical element days to follow – Review and exercises on safety briefing, routine checks, and navigating in restricted visibility, MOB & search patterns

### Module 2 – Practical Element

- Day 1 Boat & Engine Checks, Safety Brief, Pilotage exercise, 20:20 practice of navigating in restricted visibility (utilise ability to predict current tidal height), XTE ladder navigation exercise, MOB (under sail only as well), anchoring, position navigation exercises
- Day 2 (this can be conducted as an afternoon/evening session) Harbour pilotage exercise, course to steer, and web navigation exercises, radar exercise using VRM, blind navigation exercise, magnetic compass variation exercise, review passage planning task

### Duration of the Course:

Meet at designated location at 0930hrs normally to about 1730hrs

### Course Materials

Reeds Skippers Handbook – This can be purchased pre-course about £7.00 from Wordery (free postage)

Student Learning Pack and Templates – This is supplied on the theory module.

Reeds Nautical Almanac – Students will be able to refer to this document during the course and alternative resources will be signposted.

Imray Bristol Channel Chart Pack – This will be made available on an individual basis during the course.

### CHALLENGING THE STUDENT?

This is an intensive modular course – Coaching and feedback will take place almost continuously. This will include a recommendation on whether to submit to the examination. 1:1 Debrief sessions will occur after each day of the practical sessions.

### Past Students Feedback

ABP & RNLI Coxswain: 'The pack provided was brilliant – I have kept it as my daily reference source. My navigation skills were not up standard. Peter helped me to take it to a level I thought wasn't possible, and provided me with confidence when I needed it most – immediately before the exam'.

**APPENDIX 1**

<p><b>RYA YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE &amp; COASTAL EXAM SYALLABUS CHECKLIST</b></p>
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<b>Qualifying Experience</b>		
<b>Coastal</b>		<b>Offshore</b>
Minimum age = 17 years RYA First Aid Certificate RYA SRC VHF Operator's Licence Seatime - 800 miles logged in last 10 years, 30 days living aboard, 2 days as skipper & 12 night hours <i>Successful Coastal Skipper Course Completion reduces Seatime - 400 miles logged in last 10 years, 20 days living aboard, 2 days as skipper &amp; 12 night hours</i> 50% of the qualifying time must be in tidal waters		Minimum age = 18 years RYA First Aid Certificate RYA SRC VHF Operator's Licence Seatime - 2500 miles logged in last 10 yrs, includes 5 x 60 mile passages (2 as skipper and 2 overnight passages) 50 days living aboard, 5 days as skipper 50% of the qualifying time must be in tidal waters

<b>Exercise</b>		
<b>Responsibilities of Skipper</b>		
Can skipper a yacht, manage/motivate/lead the crew		
Communication with the crew		
Safety & Crew Brief		
Delegation of responsibility and watch-keeping org <sup>n</sup>		
Preparing Yacht for sea & adverse weather		
Boat & Engine Checks		
Sail Selection		
Tactics for heavy weather & restricted visibility		
Emergency and distress situations		
Victualling for a cruise & feeding at sea		
Customs Procedures		
Standards of behaviour and courtesy		
<b>IRPCS - Theory &amp; Practical Application</b>		
General Rules (1-3) Steering & Sailing Rules (4-19)		
Lights & Shapes (20-31), Sound & Light Signals (32-37)		
Signals for vessels fishing in close proximity		
Distress Signals		
<b>Meteorology</b>		
Definition of terms, Sources of weather forecasts		
Weather systems and local weather effects		
Interpretation of weather forecasts, barometer, & visual signs		
Ability to make passage planning decisions based on forecast		

<b>Boat Handling</b>	
Boat control under sail, sail trim, sail selection	
Boat control under power	
Briefing & use of crew	
Deploy/retrieve anchor - power/sail - wind/tide	
Berthing / unberthing with varying wind/tide	
Recovery of MOB - under power, sail or both	
Towing under open sea or confined areas	
Boat handling under confined areas under sail	
Boat handling in heavy weather	
Helm and trim to sail efficiently	
Use of warps for securing in/alongside/shifting/winding	
<b>Navigation</b>	
Charts, navigational publications and information	
Chartwork - position fixing, course for tide & leeway	
Tide and tidal stream calculations	
Buoyage and visual aids to navigation	
Compasses, logs, sounders, plotters, and nav aids	
Navigational records - Keeping the log	
Limits of navigational accuracy & safety margins	
Lee shore dangers	
<b>Navigation in restricted visibility</b>	
Electronics aids for passage planning, navigation & AIS	
Use of waypoints and electronic routing	
<b>Passage Planning</b>	
Selection of Destination	
Selection of Charts (correction)	
Selection of route - entering waypoints	
Prediction of CTS and ETA	
<b>Pilotage</b>	
Pilotage Plan	
Crew briefing and organisation	
Control of boat & Execution of plan	
<b>Safety &amp; General Seamanship</b>	
Stability	
Life Jackets & Safety Harnesses	
Distress Flares & Liferafts	
Fire Prevention & fighting	
Knowledge of rescue procedures	
Heli-vac & Lifeboat Situations	
Properties, use and care of synthetic ropes, knots	
Chafe protection and sail changing	
General deck work at sea and in harbour	
Engine operations and routine checks	
Improvisation of jury rigs following gear failure	