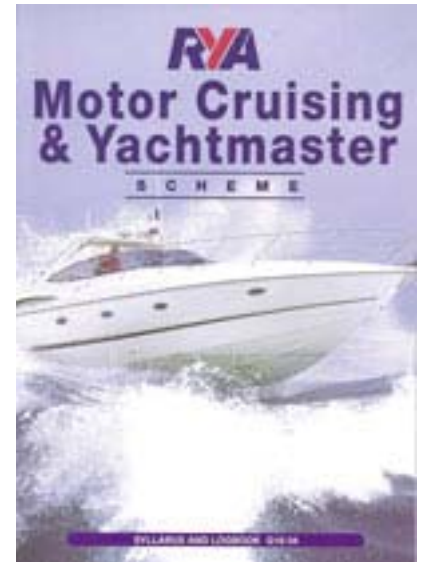


RYA Motor Cruising Scheme Practical Courses - Full Syllabus

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Copies of the RYA Logbook (G18) can be obtained from [Marine Publications](#)



RYA Helmsman's Course

This course aims to teach boat handling and safety within a defined area

A: Theory session

Types of craft

- Sportsboats, motor cruisers planing/displacement
- Types of hull, seakeeping, wash considerations

Engines and drives

- Petrol/diesel
- Single/twin screw
- Shafts/outdrives, outboard, waterjets

Engine operation and maintenance

- Pre-start checks inboards/outboards
- Engine checks while running
- Routine maintenance checks
- Fuel consumption range, reserve, and location of fuel cut-offs
- Basic fault diagnosis

Safety and seamanship

- Personal safety equipment: lifejackets, buoyancy aids, flares, first aid kit
- Anchoring: types, stowage, depth of water, preparation, check holding, weighing (may be done practically)
- Disabled craft, towing
- Fire precautions, extinguishers, fire blankets

Rules of the Road

- Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

B: Practical session

Boat preparation

- Local boating conditions and regulations
- Preparation of boat, lines, fenders
- Safety equipment, lifejackets, dangers, number in boat
- CE marks, loading, effect on handling and performance
- Use of kill cords
- If trailing - number of people for launching/recovery, slipway condition, steep/slippery, wind, tide
- Can tie and knows use of: bowline, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch, single and double sheetbend

Boat handling

- Steering, controls, windage
- Starting and stopping
- Low speed, steering a straight course
- Turning in a confined area
- Effect of wind on bow
- High speed/full power, planing, trim tabs and power trim
- S turns, U turns, stopping from speed
- Displacement craft: handling ahead and astern
- Carrying way

Securing to a buoy

- Preparation of mooring warp and boathook
- Method of approach in various wind and tide conditions
- Crew communication
- Making fast

Berthing alongside

- Preparation and use of lines and springs, fenders, attachment to boat, stowage underway, securing to cleats
- Method of approach in various wind and tide conditions
- Making fast - importance of 'taking a turn'
- Use of springs to leave a berth

Man overboard

- Immediate reaction
- Proper observation of man overboard
- Correct return
- Awareness of propellers
- Final approach and recovery of man overboard

Day Skipper - Tidal Syllabus

The Day Skipper course is taught on board a motor cruiser of at least 7m LOA and aims to teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a motor cruiser safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar.

Preparation for sea

- Is able to prepare a motor cruiser for sea, carry out fuel and engine checks, secure and stow all gear on deck and below

Boat handling

- Can carry out the following manoeuvres under power in various wind and tide conditions. Has understanding of the different styles of hull and propulsion systems
- Steering a straight course
- Turning in a confined space
- Anchoring at a pre-determined position
- Berthing alongside
- Leaving an alongside berth
- Picking up a mooring buoy
- Correct use of power trim and tabs
- Awareness of other water users

Navigation

Is proficient in chart work and can carry out the following tasks:

- Taking and plotting visual fixes
- Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
- Use of waypoints
- Working up DR and EP
- Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
- Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream and leeway
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder

Pilotage

- Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry to, or departure from, harbour
- Understands the use of leading and clearing lines
- Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

Passage making

- Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking into account the relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat, weather, tide and the strength of the crew
- Has been introduced to practical benefits and limitations of GPS

Meteorology

- Knows sources of forecast information
- Can interpret shipping forecasts and use of a barometer as a forecasting aid

Rules of the road

- Has a working knowledge of the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Engines

Has a working knowledge of the prevention of common engine faults and is competent in the following areas:

- Checks before starting, whilst running and after stopping
- Periodic maintenance checks on engines and electrical installations
- Requirements for tool kits, spares and lubricants
- Can clean water filters and knows location of impellers
- Knows location of filters and bleed points for fuel
- Knows tension of drive belts and how to change
- Fuel consumption at various speeds and the effect of fouling

Emergency situations

- Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard
- Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message
- Understands how to secure a tow
- Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue
- Understands distress flares and how to use liferaft

Night cruising

- Has experienced motor cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour, and understands the special considerations for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night

Coastal Skipper - Tidal Syllabus

Aims to teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a motor cruiser of at least 7m LOA safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night

Passage planning

- Can plan a coastal passage including a consideration of the capability of the motor cruiser, navigation, victualling, weather, ports of refuge, tidal heights and tidal streams, publications required and strategy
- Understands fuel consumption at different speeds and can calculate fuel required for passage including reserve
- Aware of the effects of fouling on boat speed and fuel consumption
- Knows customs procedures

Preparation for sea

- Can prepare a pilotage plan, with consideration of soundings, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port or harbour regulations and tidal considerations
- Can pilot a motor cruiser by day and night

Passage making and ability as skipper

- Can take charge of the motor cruiser and direct the crew
- Can organise the navigation, deckwork and domestic duties of a motor cruiser on passage
- Is aware of the significance of meteorological trends
- Is aware of crew welfare on passage
- Can use electronic navigational equipment for pre-planning and undertaking a passage and can update when underway, especially the use of waypoints and routes

Radar

- Understands the use of radar as an aid to navigation, pilotage, collision warning and collision avoidance

Boat handling

- Can control the boat effectively in a confined space including all berthing and unberthing situations in various conditions of winds and tide
- Can berth and unberth in simple situations using one engine on a twin-engined boat. Use of lines during this
- Avoids excessive use of power

Adverse weather conditions

- Preparation for heavy weather and handling in strong winds
- Navigation and general conduct in restricted visibility

Emergency situations

- Recovery of man overboard
- Understands action to be taken when abandoning to the liferaft and during helicopter and lifeboat rescues