

RYA Yachtmaster pre requisites

RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal

The RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal has the knowledge needed to skipper a yacht on coastal cruises but does not necessarily have the experience needed to undertake longer passages.

The exam will include an assessment of your skippering skills, boat handling, general seamanship, navigation, safety awareness and knowledge of the IRPCS (collision regulations), meteorology and signals. You will be set tasks to demonstrate your ability and may also be asked questions on any part of the syllabus for all practical and shorebased courses up to Yachtmaster™ Coastal level.

RYA Yachtmaster Coastal exam pre-requisites	
Minimum seetime	<p>Documented minimum sea time¹ completed on a seagoing sailing or motor yacht (as appropriate) in the last 10 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 days at sea on a vessel less than 24m LOA, which may be reduced to 12 days at sea on vessels less than 24m LOA or substituted with 30 days at sea on yachts under 500gt² if an RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course completion certificate or an RYA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence is held³; • 2 days as skipper on a vessel less than 24m LOA; • 800 miles, which may be reduced to 400 miles on vessels less than 24m LOA or substituted with 800 miles at sea on yachts under 500gt² if an RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course completion certificate or an RYA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence is held³; • 12 night hours <p>See: Information on qualifying passages.</p> <p>¹ At least half the qualifying sea time should be gain in tidal waters.</p> <p>² Contact training@rya.org.uk if your sea time is on a yacht greater than 24m and 500gt.</p> <p>³For example, an RYA Yachtmaster Coastal Sail wishing to be examined for RYA Yachtmaster Coastal Power</p>
Form of exam	Practical
Certification required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A GMDSS compliant Marine Radio Operator's Certificate such as the RYA Short Range Certificate or higher. • An RYA First Aid Certificate or another valid first aid certificate, as detailed on the RYA website. • RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course completion certificate (either Sail or Power, as appropriate) ONLY IF claiming reduced sea time detailed above.
Minimum exam duration	6-10 hours for one candidate, 8-14 hours for two candidates
Minimum age	17 at the time of the exam.

Yachtmaster™ Offshore

The Yachtmaster™ Offshore is competent to skipper a cruising yacht on any passage during which the yacht is no more than 150 miles from harbour.

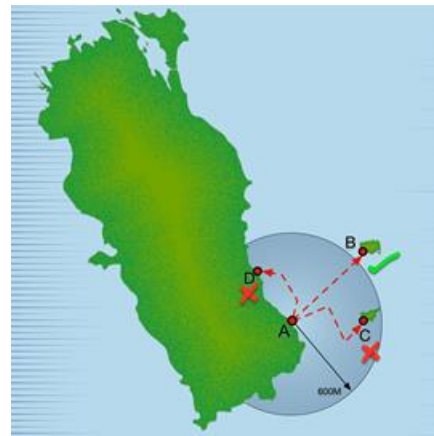
The exam will include an assessment of your skippering skills, boat handling, general seamanship, navigation, safety awareness and knowledge of the IRPCS, meteorology and signals. You will be set tasks to demonstrate your ability and may also be asked questions on any part of the syllabus for all practical and shorebased courses up to Yachtmaster™ Coastal level.

RYA Yachtmaster Offshore exam pre-requisites	
Minimum seetime	<p>Documented minimum sea time¹ completed on a seagoing sailing or motor yacht (as appropriate) in the last 10 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 days at sea on yachts up to 500gt² which may be reduced to 25 days if the candidate already holds an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence³; • 5 days as skipper on vessels less than 24m LOA, which may be reduced to 3 days if the candidate already holds an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence³; • 2500 miles on yachts up to 500gt², which may be reduced to 1250 miles if the candidate already holds an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence³; • 5 passages over 60 miles long, which must include 2 overnight passages and 2 as skipper, which may be reduced to 3 passages including 1 overnight and 1 as skipper if the candidate already holds an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence³. <p>See: Information on qualifying passages</p> <p>¹ At least half the qualifying sea time should be gained in tidal waters and on vessels less than 24m LOA, and all seetime must be on vessels of the same discipline as the exam to be taken, i.e. sail or power.</p> <p>² Contact training@rya.org.uk if your sea time is on a yacht greater than 24m and 500gt.</p> <p>³ For example, an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Sail wishing to be examined for RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Power</p>
Form of exam	Practical
Certification required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A GMDSS compliant Marine Radio Operator's Certificate such as the RYA Short Range Certificate or higher. • An RYA First Aid Certificate or another valid first aid certificate, as detailed on the RYA website.
Minimum exam duration	8-12 hours for 1 candidate, 10-18 hours for 2 candidates.No more than two candidates can be examined in 24 hours and no more than four candidates can be examined in one 2 day session.
Minimum age	18 at the time of the exam

Qualifying passages - Definitions

Passage:

- A passage is a non-stop voyage from a departure port / safe haven to a destination port / safe haven. Where a passage must be of a minimum distance to meet exam pre-requisites, the distance should be taken as the shortest navigable route established when planning a safe and efficient passage.
- Passages which artificially lengthen the distance will not be accepted. In the example below where the distance run for each passage A-B, A-C and A-D exceeds 600M, only passage A-B would be accepted as a 600M qualifying passage.
- The distance measured by log will almost certainly differ from the planned distance due to streams, currents, weather and other navigational factors. Both the planned distance and distance run should exceed the required distance.
- Passages such as recognised races which may not comply exactly with these requirements may be submitted to the RYA for consideration before the voyage.



Skipper:

The skipper is the person nominated and responsible for the planning and execution of a passage including vessel and watch management. The skipper is not necessarily the most experienced or qualified person on board but must be the person with responsibility for the safe execution of the passage. If the skipper's role is transferred to another person at any time during a passage then neither person can claim to have skippered that passage.

Mate:

For the purpose of qualifying passages, a mate is any person on board who has sole responsibility for managing a navigational watch during a passage. They must be actively engaged in the planning and execution of a passage.

Tidal:

An area is deemed tidal if published stream, current or tidal range data is available, the influence of which is significant enough to require the

Days on board:

A day on board or as skipper is a period of eight consecutive hours living on board, the majority of which the vessel should have been at sea. Periods of less than eight hours cannot be aggregated to make up eight hours. Only one eight-hour period may be counted in any 24 hour period.

Notes:

1. During a qualifying passage there should be no change of skipper or mates. Trainee skippers undertaking 60 mile passages are strongly advised to obtain a Coastal Skipper qualification first.
2. Examiners are responsible for establishing the level of a candidate's competence during the exam. During RYA exams candidates will be questioned extensively about their qualifying passages, mileage and sea time.
Additional for RYA Yachtmaster Ocean:
3. Candidates on Ocean qualifying passages must have acted in a capacity of either mate or skipper throughout the entire passage.
4. If circumstances prevent astro sights being taken on the ocean qualifying passage candidates may take their sights on another shorter passage. Such sights must be taken whilst the vessel is on passage and out of sight of land or charted objects capable of being used for navigation/position fixing. The examiner will determine whether the candidate is competent at astro navigation.
5. Qualifying passages, sea time and days as skipper must take place on a suitably sized vessel appropriate to the discipline being examined, as detailed below.

Suitability of vessels for exam pre-requisites for RYA Yachtmaster Coastal, Offshore and Ocean exams:

Vessel size	Sea time - days on board and mileage valid for:	Days as skipper valid for:	Qualifying passages valid for:
Between 7m LWL and 24m LOA	Coastal	Coastal	-
	Offshore	Offshore	Offshore
	Ocean	-	Ocean
Over 24m LOA up to 500gt	Coastal ¹	-	-
	Offshore ¹	-	-
	-	-	Ocean ²

For vessels over 24m LOA greater than 500gt please contact RYA Training².

Notes:

- 1 Up to 50% of the minimum requirement. Evidence of status on board required by testimonial or seaman's discharge book.
- 2 Candidate must hold a suitable Certificate of Competence to act as Officer of the Watch on the passage.

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Year, Period	Details of experience. Boats sailed, sailing area, position on board.	Vessel size/ GT	Power or sail	Estimated			Total or Non Tidal	Skipper's Signature
				Days aboard	Distance logged	Night hours		
			Totals				Tidal	
							Non Tidal	

Year	Departure Port Time and Date	Arrival Port Time and Date	Vessel Size/ GT	Vessel Details Power or Sail	Distance	Capacity Onboard	Skipper's Signature

* Five passages over 60 miles, acting as skipper for at least two of these passages and including two which have involved overnight passages.