

RYA Helmsman's **Course Syllabus**

The aim of this course is to teach boat handling and safety within a defined area. The minimum age for the award of a certificate is 12 years old.

THEORY

1. Types of Craft

- Sports boats, motor cruisers planning/displacement
- Types of hull, sea-keeping, wash considerations

2. Engines and Drives

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

3. Engine Operation & 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

4. 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

5. Rules of the Road

- Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

PRACTICAL

1. 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 training – 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

2. 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, planning, trim tabs and power trim
- S turns, U turns, stopping from speed
- Displacement craft: handling ahead and astern
- Carrying way

3. Securing to a Buoy

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

4. 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

5. Man Overboard

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