

# RYA Day Skipper Theory (Sail & Motor)

Learn ashore



## Did you know Andrew Simpson Yachting is not-for-profit?

Everything surplus to the running costs of the Centre goes straight back into the Andrew Simpson Foundation to support us in our work to transform the lives of young people through sailing. This means that every time you book a course with us, you are supporting the work of the charity and giving back to young people in your local community!

## Pre-course experience

Some practical sailing or boating experience is desirable in order to get the best value from the course.

## Assumed Knowledge

None

## Student to instructor ratio

8:1

## Duration

5 days classroom-based

## Course content

A comprehensive introduction to chart work, navigation, meteorology and the theoretical basis of vessel management and control. You will find this course invaluable if you want to learn to start making decisions onboard.

### 1. Nautical terms

- Parts of a boat and hull
- General nautical terminology

### 2. Ropework

- Knowledge of the properties of synthetic ropes in common use

### 3. Anchoring

- Characteristics of different types of anchor
- Considerations to be taken into account when anchoring

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## Course content

### 4. Safety

- Knowledge of the safety equipment to be carried, its stowage and use (see RYA Boat Safety Handbook, C8)
- Fire precautions and fire fighting
- Use of personal safety equipment, harnesses and lifejackets.
- Ability to send a distress signal by VHF radio telephone.
- Basic knowledge of rescue procedures including helicopter rescue

### 5. International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

- Steering and sailing rules (5,6,7,8,9,10 and 12-19)
- General rules (all other rules)

### 6. Definition of position, course and speed

- Latitude and longitude
- Knowledge of standard navigational terms
- True bearings and courses
- The knot as measure of speed

### 7. Navigational charts and publications

- Information shown on charts, chart symbols and representation of direction and distance
- Navigational publications in common use
- Chart correction

### 8. Navigational drawing instruments

- Use of parallel rulers, dividers and proprietary plotting instruments

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## Course content

### 9. Compass

- Application of variation
- Awareness of deviation and its causes
- Use of hand-bearing compass

### 10. Chartwork

- Dead reckoning and estimated position including an awareness of leeway
- Techniques of visual fixing
- Satellite-derived positions
- Use of waypoints to fix position
- Course to steer

### 11. Tides and tidal streams

- Tidal definitions, levels and datum
- Tide tables
- Use of Admiralty method of determining tidal height at standard port and awareness of corrections for secondary ports
- Use of tidal diamonds and tidal stream atlases for chartwork

### 12. Visual aids to navigation and chart plotters

- Lighthouses and beacons, light characteristics

### 13. Meteorology

- 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

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## Course content

14. Passage planning
  - Preparation of navigational plan for short coastal passages. Meteorological considerations in planning short coastal passages
  - Use of waypoints on passages. Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source
  - Keeping a navigational watch
15. Navigation in restricted visibility
  - Precautions to be taken in, and limitations imposed by fog
16. Pilotage
  - Use of transits, leading lines and clearing lines
  - IALA system of buoyage for Region A
  - Use of sailing directions
  - Pilotage plans and harbour entry
17. Marine environment
  - Responsibility for avoiding pollution and protecting the marine environment

## What next?

You should consider taking your RYA Day Skipper Practical

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