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Course									
Course	Start Yachting Practical No minimum age	Basic Navigation and Safety	Competent Crew Practical No minimum age	Day Skipper Shorebased *	Day Skipper Practical + (yacht) Minimum age 16	Watch Leader Practical (Sail training)	Coastal Skipper & Yachtmaster Offshore Shorebased *	Coastal Skipper Practical + Minimum age 17	Yachtmaster Ocean Shorebased
Suggested minimum pre-course experience	None	None	None	Some practical experience desirable	5 days sea time 100 miles 4 night hours	5 days sea time 100 miles 4 night hours	Day Skipper Shorebased course	15 days sea time (2 days as skipper) 300 miles 8 night hours	Coastal & offshore sailing
Assumed knowledge	None	None	None	None	Navigation to Day Skipper Shorebased and basic sailing ability	Navigation to Day Skipper Shorebased and basic sailing ability	Navigation to Day Skipper Shorebased standard	Navigation to Coastal Skipper Shorebased standard. Sailing to Day Skipper Practical standard	Navigation to Coastal Skipper & Yachtmaster Offshore Shorebased standard
Course content	Introduction to sailing and seamanship	Introduces navigation and safety	Basic seamanship & helmsmanship navigation & meteorology	Basic seamanship & introduction to seamanship & navigation	Basic pilotage, boat handling, watch organisation	Navigation, seamanship & meteorology	Offshore & coastal navigation, pilotage coastal & offshore passages	Skippering techniques for & passage planning	Astro-navigation, ocean meteorology
Ability after course	Basic sailing experience	Basic knowledge of navigation and safety	Useful crew member	Background knowledge to skipper a small yacht in familiar waters by day	Skipper a small yacht in familiar waters by day	Take charge of a watch on a sail training vessel	Background knowledge to skipper a yacht on coastal passages by day & night	Skipper a yacht on coastal passages by day & night	Background knowledge to skipper a yacht on ocean passages
Minimum duration	2 days	16 hours	5 days	40 hours plus exam time	5 days	5 days	40 hours plus exam time	5 days	40 hours plus exam time
Course completion certificate									

RYA one day shorebased courses: VHF radio operation, First Aid (both required for a RYA/MCA Yachtmaster qualification), Radar, Sea Survival and Diesel Engine Maintenance.

* Syllabus is the same for sailing and motor cruising yachtsmen * Different courses for tidal and non-tidal waters