

Course	Min. age	Aimed at	Skills developed	Entry requirements
Yachtmaster Offshore Examination (Certificate of Competence) [8 to 18 hours depending on number of attendees]	18	Either those keen to work commercially 60/150 miles from a safe haven or experienced leisure users keen to gain the ultimate qualification.	Subject to applying for a Commercial Endorsement qualified to helm a craft up to 24m with 12 passengers up to 60 or 150 miles from a safe haven day or night. (Distance depends on which medical undertaken).	50 days seetime, 5 days as Skipper, 2500 miles with 5 passages over 60 miles including 2 as Skipper and 2 at night. First Aid and VHF also required and Yachtmaster Theory advisable.
Yachtmaster Offshore Exam preparation [Bespoke – typically 2 – 4 days]	18	Those intending to undertake the Yachtmaster Offshore exam. Not RYA certificated and with the syllabus created by the school to address individual needs.	A 'brush up' on all of the areas addressed in the exam with typically passages being undertaken to practice all aspects of passage planning and execution day and night. Focus too on close quarter boat handling.	Should already possess the entry requirements for the exam and be using the course to hone skills.
Yachtmaster Coastal Examination (Certificate of Competence) [6 to 14 hours depending on number of attendees] (formerly Coastal Skipper Examination – pre 2010)	17	Those keen to work commercially 20 miles from a safe haven or experienced leisure users keen to gain the first rung on the Yachtmaster ladder.	Subject to applying for a Commercial Endorsement qualified to helm a craft up to 24m with 12 passengers up to 20 miles from a safe haven day or night.	30 days seetime, 2 days as Skipper, 800 miles, 12 night hours. Reduces to 20 days, 2 days as Skipper, 400 miles and 12 night hours if you possess the RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course completion certificate.
Coastal Skipper Practical [5 days]	16	Those keen to undertake longer passages by day and night.	Competence both during the day and night using electronic and traditional methods to undertake longer coastal passages in a range of conditions.	Theory knowledge to an advanced level (Yachtmaster Theory) and boat handling to the level of Dayskipper Practical although neither qualification needs to be actually held.
Dayskipper Practical [4 days] (Standard entry point for most boaters)	16	Those starting out keen to develop the base skills plus the knowledge and experience to undertake short coastal passages by day.	The ability to handle the vessel in a variety of marina situations coupled to the ability to create and execute entry and exit from ports and harbours plus the knowledge to undertake short coastal passages. A short night passage gives an appreciation of night navigation.	Some experience on a vessel although not necessarily as the Skipper. Completion of the Helmsman course is not required for entry to the course.
Helmsman [2 days]	14	Those just starting out just wanting the skills to operate close inshore and close to home.	Basic boat handling skills plus the competence to undertake short inshore passages and entry through harbours.	None.