

RYA Powerboat Level 1 & 2 Syllabus

This two day course provides the successful applicant with a sound introduction to boat handling and the associated background knowledge. On completion participants will be entitled to obtain from the RYA the International Certificate of Competence, which is now required by many Continental countries before a boat can be driven or even trailed abroad.

Instruction is given by qualified RYA Instructors on the central reaches of the Thames.

Emphasis is on practical work, with brief theory sessions.

PRACTICAL

LAUNCHING AND RECOVERY : use of trailer, knows consideration of launching and sea conditions, knows number of persons required to launch or recover, knows steep/slippery slipways, beach and lee shores, knows care of trailer bearings, hitch, lashings, ties, lights, winch and has the knowledge of trailer parking.

BOAT HANDLING : Low and high speed turns. Effects of windage. Turning in a confined area. Planing. Propeller immersions and angle. Handling ahead and astern. Ferry glide. Preparation and use of lines. Making fast. Mooring with and against the tide. Turning using warps. Crew communications. Securing to a buoy.

ANCHORING : Types of anchor. Stowage and attachment to boat. Preparation of anchor, chain and warp. Depth of water -- holding ground.

MAN OVERBOARD : Immediate reaction and observation. Correct approach and recovery.

DISABLED CRAFT : Towing and being towed. Agreement of terms for tow (theory).

KNOTS : Round turn and two half hitches. Bowline. Sheet bend. Clove hitch. Securing to cleat.

SECURING TO A BUOY : Understands preparations of mooring warp, use of a boat hook, method of approach, crew communication, making fast, procedure when overshooting and can approach and secure to buoy.

LEAVING AND COMING ALONGSIDE : Understands preparation and use of painter, lines and fenders, attachment to boat, stowage underway, speed and angle of approach, wind effect, method of approaching tidal stream or current and can make fast alongside, use springs and leave – ahead or astern.

THEORY

SAFETY AFLOAT : Safety equipment and its use. Alternative means of propulsion. Flares.. First Aid Kit. Loading -- number of crew. International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCS). Local Rules and Bye Laws. CEVNI rules.

ENGINES AND DRIVES : Differences and advantages. Outboard, inboard and outdrive units. Choice and use of fuels. Siting of fuel tanks and lines. Power tilt and trim. Spares and tool kit. Owner maintenance and breakdown routine.

LAUNCH AND RECOVERY : Use and care of trailer. Trailer parking. Launching from slipway. Lee shores. Road use of trailer.

CONDITIONS : Weather forecasts. Sea states. Tides -- Rule of Twelfths. Neaps and Springs.

TYPES OF CRAFT : Sports boats. Displacement craft. Hull shapes. Advantages and disadvantages of different hull forms.

PERSONAL SAFETY : Clothing and footwear. Personal buoyancy. Personal safety.

NAVIGATION : Buoyage. Charts and symbols. Compass -- steering and handbearing. Tides and tidal streams. Navigation lights (brief test necessary). Use of a GPS.

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Instruction is given in planing craft only.

Price includes logbooks and certification but does not include the cost of the ICC certificate. This is covered by a fee paid directly to the RYA. ICC certificates can take up to 28 days to issue depending on the time of year. A fast track service is available at an extra cost.

(A course would normally last two days except in exceptional circumstances)