

Day Skipper Syllabus

Section	Sub-topic	
Nautical terms	Parts of a boat and hull	
	General nautical terminology	
Ropework	Knowledge of the properties of synthetic ropes in common use	
	Ability to make, and knowledge of the use of: figure of eight, bowline, clove hitch, reef knot, single and double sheet bend, rolling hitch, round turn and two half hitches	
	Securing to cleats, use of winches and general rope handling and mooring	
Anchorwork	Characteristics of different types of anchor	
	Considerations to be taken into account when anchoring	
Safety	Knowledge of the safety equipment to be carried, its stowage and use (RYA booklet C8)	
	Fire precautions and fire fighting	
	Use of personal safety equipment, harnesses and lifejackets	
	Ability to send a distress signal by VHF radiotelephone	
	Basic knowledge of rescue procedures including helicopter rescue	
International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea	Steering and sailing rules (5,7,8,9,10 and 12-19)	
	General rules (all other rules)	
Definition of position, course and speed	Latitude and longitude	
	Knowledge of standard navigational terms	
	True bearings and courses	
	The knot	
Navigational charts and publications	Information shown on charts, chart symbols and representation of direction and distance	
	Navigational publications in common use	
	Chart correction	
Navigational drawing instruments	Use of parallel rulers, dividers and proprietary plotting instruments	
Compasses	Application of variation	
	Awareness of Deviation and its causes	
	Use of hand bearing compass	
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	

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Use of GPS and Chart Plotters	Principles and limitations	
	Datum	
	Confirmation and recording of position	
	Link to paper charts	
	Use of waypoints	
	Use of Electronic Chart Plotter	
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	
Visual aids to navigation	Lighthouses and beacons, light characteristics	
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	
Passage planning	Preparation of navigational plan for short coastal passages	
	Meteorological considerations in planning short coastal passages	
	Use of waypoints on passage	
	Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source	
	Keeping a navigational record	
Navigation in restricted visibility	Precautions to be taken and limitations imposed by fog	
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	
Marine Environment	Responsibility for avoiding pollution and protecting the marine environment	