

Yachtmaster Offshore

The Yachtmaster Offshore is competent to skipper a cruising yacht on any passage during which the yacht is no more than 150 miles from harbour.

Full details of the exam syllabus and requirements are shown the RYA's Sail Cruising Logbook (code G15) and Motor Cruising Logbook (code G18), both available from the webshop (see right).

Yachtmaster Offshore practical exams can be taken under sail or power and your certificate will be endorsed accordingly. The candidate or a training centre provides the boat and the RYA provides an examiner.

There is no formal training course leading up to the exam, but those who have not previously taken RYA courses often find it useful to book themselves in for some informal training at an RYA centre prior to their exam. This training can be tailor-made to your specific needs and helps to fill any gaps in your knowledge that may become apparent.

	YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE EXAM PRE-REQUISITES
Minimum seetime	50 days, 2,500 miles including at least 5 passages over 60 miles measured along the rhumb line from the port of departure to the destination, acting as skipper for at least two of these passages and including two which have involved overnight passages. 5 days experience as skipper. At least half this mileage and passages must be in tidal waters. All qualifying seetime must be within 10 years prior to the exam.
Form of exam	Practical
Certification required	A restricted (VHF only) Radio Operators Certificate or a GMDSS Short Range Certificate or higher grade of marine radio certificate. A valid first aid certificate* (first aid qualifications held by Police, Fire and Armed Services are acceptable).
Minimum exam duration	8-12 hours for 1 candidate, 10-18 hours for 2 candidates. No more than two candidates can be examined in 24 hours and no more than four candidates can be examined in one 2 day session.
Minimum age	18

The exam will include an assessment of your skippering skills, boat handling, general seamanship, navigation, safety awareness and knowledge of the IRPCS, meteorology and signals.

Definition of a Passage

- Qualifying passages for Yachtmaster Ocean and Offshore should be non stop by the shortest navigable route with no change of skipper. Passages such as recognised races which may not comply exactly with these requirements may be submitted to the RYA for approval before the voyage.
- Trainee skippers undertaking 60 mile passages are strongly advised to obtain a Coastal Skipper qualification first.
- For Ocean passages the following definition will apply. "Throughout the passage the candidate must have acted in a responsible capacity either in sole charge of a watch or as a skipper".
- Ocean candidates may take their sights on a shorter passage than the qualifying passage. The examiner will determine whether the candidate is competent at astro navigation.

Examiners are responsible for establishing the level of a candidates competence during the exam. Where a candidate's qualifying mileage is doubtful examiners will question the candidate carefully.