

Yachtmaster

The RYA YachtMaster program covers three categories

Yachtmaster coastal

Yachtmaster offshore

Yachtmaster ocean

An RYA Yachtmaster Certificate of Competence is often the ultimate aim of aspiring skippers. It is a well-known, highly respected qualification worldwide, proving your experience and competence as a skipper.

The Yachtmaster program includes a fascinating shorebase course help in mileage build up for those who don't have the experience, five day's practical perp course followed by the YM exam.

Yachtmaster Coastal Minimum sea-time

30 days, 2 days as skipper, 800 miles, 12-night hours. If you hold the Coastal Skipper practical course completion certificate this is reduced to 20 days, 2 days as skipper, 400 miles, 12-night hours.

Half the qualifying sea time must be conducted in tidal waters.

All qualifying sea-time must be within 10 years prior to the exam.

Yachtmaster Offshore Minimum sea-time

50 days, 2,500 miles including at least 5 passages over 60 miles acting as skipper\Mate for at least two of these passages and including two which have involved overnight passages.

50 days experience as skipper.

At least half this mileage and passages must be conducted in tidal waters.

All qualifying sea-time must be within 10 years prior to the exam.

Yachtmaster Ocean

The Yachtmaster Ocean is experienced and competent to skipper a yacht on passages of any length in all parts of the world.

Full details of the exam syllabus and requirements are shown in the RYA Yachtmaster Scheme Syllabus.

Yachtmaster Ocean exam pre-requisites

All candidates must have completed a qualifying passage within the past 10 years as skipper or mate in sole charge of a watch on a suitable vessel, which meets the following criteria:

Minimum seatetime

1. The candidate was fully involved in the planning of the passage, including selection of the route, the navigational plan, checking the material condition of the vessel and her equipment, storing with spare gear, water and victuals and organizing the watch-keeping routine.
2. During the passage a minimum non-stop distance of 600 miles must have been run by the log, the yacht must have been at sea continuously for at least 96 hours and the yacht must have been more than 50 miles from land or charted objects capable of being used for navigation/position fixing while sailing a distance of at least 200 miles.
3. To be eligible as an ocean qualifying passage the distance between departure and arrival points by the shortest navigable route must be more than 600 mile.
[See: Information on Qualifying passages.](#)

Form of exam

Oral and written assessment of sights take at sea.

Certification required

RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence,
or
Officer of the Watch (Yachts 3000gt) issued by the Maritime
and Coastguard Agency

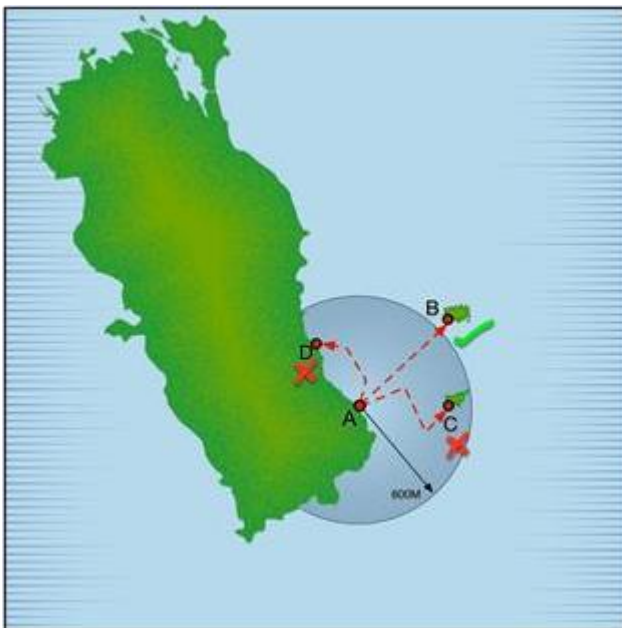
Qualifying passages

Definitions

Passage:

A passage is a non-stop voyage from a departure port / safe haven to a destination port / safe haven. Where a passage must be of a minimum distance to meet exam pre-requisites, the distance should be taken as the shortest navigable route established when planning a safe and efficient passage.

Passages which artificially lengthen the distance will not be accepted. In the example below where the distance run for each passage A-B, A-C and A-D exceeds 600M, only passage A-B would be accepted as a 600M qualifying passage.



The distance measured by log will almost certainly differ from the planned distance due to streams, currents, weather and other navigational factors. Both the planned distance and distance run should exceed the required distance.

Passages such as recognized races which may not comply exactly with these requirements may be submitted to the RYA for consideration before the voyage.

Skipper:

The skipper is the person nominated and responsible for the planning and execution of a passage including vessel and watch management. The skipper is not necessarily the most experienced or qualified person on board but must be the person with responsibility for the safe execution of the passage. If the skipper's role is transferred to another person at any time during a passage then neither person can claim to have skippered that passage.

**Mate:**

For the purpose of qualifying passages, a mate is any person on board who has sole responsibility for managing a navigational watch during a passage. They must be actively engaged in the planning and execution of a passage.

Tidal:

An area is deemed tidal if published stream, current or tidal range data is available, the influence of which is significant enough to require the effects to be taken into account to plan and execute a safe and efficient passage.

Days on board:

A day on board or as skipper is a period of eight consecutive hours living on board, the majority of which the vessel should have been at sea. Periods of less than eight hours cannot be aggregated to make up eight hours. Only one eight-hour period may be counted in any 24 hour period.

Notes:

1. During a qualifying passage there should be no change of skipper or mates. Trainee skippers undertaking 60 mile passages are strongly advised to obtain a Coastal Skipper qualification first.
2. Examiners are responsible for establishing the level of a candidate's competence during the exam. During RYA exams candidates will be questioned extensively about their qualifying passages, mileage and sea time.

Additional for RYA Yachtmaster Ocean:

3. Candidates on Ocean qualifying passages must have acted in a capacity of either mate or skipper throughout the entire passage.
4. If circumstances prevent astro sights being taken on the ocean qualifying passage candidates may take their sights on another shorter passage. Such sights must be taken whilst the vessel is on passage and out of sight of land or charted objects capable of being used for navigation/position fixing. The examiner will determine whether the candidate is competent at astro navigation.
5. Qualifying passages, sea time and days as skipper must take place on a suitably sized vessel appropriate to the discipline being examined, as detailed below.