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Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster Theory Course

Course Outline

This is an advanced course in navigation and meteorology for more experienced skippers and particularly to prepare candidates for Yachtmaster examinations. It includes revision of some aspects of the day skipper shore-based course syllabus but is wider in scope and treats the subject matter in much more depth. It provides all the theoretical knowledge needed to skipper and navigate a yacht safely in tidal waters, inshore or offshore, by day or night.

You will join a small group of other students with similar interests and share the enjoyment of learning new skills. The lessons are interactive so you will have time to complete exercises yourself in class and take part in discussions. There is some homework set after each session and we go over any difficulties at the beginning of the following session. On successful completion of the examination at the end of the course you will be awarded the RYA Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster Shorebased course certificate.

Take your Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster Theory course with Elite Sailing and enjoy:

- Friendly, professional tuition by experienced RYA practical sailing instructors
- Comfortable classrooms in convenient locations in London and at Chatham
- All RYA materials and exams included.
- Elite Sailing's USB Memory with complete course presentation with narrated slides, worked chartwork answers and many more resources to take you beyond the RYA syllabus.

Format Options

Intensive Courses at Chatham:

5 Days (Mon – Fri) plus 1 day for the examinations (normally Saturday but other dates possible).

3 Weekends (Sat, Sun) including the exam on the final weekend

Hybrid Course comprising Home Study AND evening classes at Chatham or London:

7 Evenings + home study (Eves 1830 to 2130)

[Distance Learning \(Home Study\)](#)

What's Included

Yours to Keep:

RYA student pack comprising practice charts, Yachtmaster Course Notes booklet, RYA Exercises, RYA Electronic Chart Plotter code for download.

Elite Sailing Course Presentation USB memory stick. This is a complete audio-visual course presentation plus other useful resources – all on a USB flash memory stick produced by the Elite Sailing school. Its in modular form and you can run it on PC or Mac. Its invaluable to help with homework and provides a permanent asset for revision.

On Loan:

RYA Training Almanac

Additional items needed:

Portland Plotter and Dividers. For 6 days and 3 -weekend courses at Chatham these are available on free loan for the duration of the course. For evening classes students must have their own plotter and dividers. They are available for sale at £25 per set. You can pay for these with the course booking or on arrival on the first evening.

Course Structures:

Intensive courses at Chatham. These are ideal to 'get the job done' in minimum time. They are held on our beautiful Dutch Sailing Klipper 'Maaik Maria' at our [Chatham Marina base](#). – less than an hour from central London. Class times are 0900 to 1700 each day. There is an examination on day 6. Your papers are marked the same day and if you pass you leave with your certificate. We may occasionally schedule the examination day on a day in the following week rather than the Saturday. We also recognise that some students may not be quite ready to take the exams immediately after the course. So you can always ask to either do the exam paper at home (as for distance learning) or you can arrange to come in on another date when we have a free classroom and someone who can invigilate.

Hybrid Courses – Home study AND 7 Evenings. Evening Sessions are usually on the same evening each week. Each session runs from 1830 to 2130. On the first evening students are given all of their course materials – including Elite Sailing's complete course presentation on a USB Flash Memory Stick and a detailed study guide. The modular structure ensures that students know exactly what should be covered each week and these modules are exactly reflected on the USB stick. In each evening session the instructor will introduce the topics for the subsequent week and deal with any problems and questions arising from the preceding week. The evening sessions help students to maintain focus and deal with aspects that are best taught by an instructor face to face. Subjects that can only be learnt by individual study or practice are scheduled for work at home – using the Elite USB Stick and RYA materials. This eliminates unnecessary classroom time so the course can be comfortably completed in 7 evenings sessions plus about 40 hours of home study. (Most other schools run courses over 8 evening sessions plus a whole weekend). If other commitments cause you to miss one or two evenings you can work around the absence using the home study materials and some helpful advice from your instructor. On the last evening you will be given your test papers to complete at home. This allows you more time to complete your studies. When you are ready you take the exam at home and send in your answer papers and charts to Elite Sailing. We then mark your papers and, assuming that you pass, we send you your certificate. If for professional qualifications you need an invigilated exam, you can arrange to come to our classroom at Chatham on a day when the classroom is free and we have someone to invigilate. If you fail a paper (we hope not!) you can always do more work and then retake it for an additional fee of £50. Evening classes are available at [Chatham](#) (winter only) and in [London](#) (all year round).

What will I need to bring?

You should bring a personal notebook (lined or square paper is best, A4 or A5 format) a pencil and soft eraser. For intensive courses we provide tea/coffee and drinking water. You should bring a packed lunch or money to buy something from local outlets. Drinking water may be available at some venues but its best to be self-sufficient.

Books

There is no essential requirement for pre-course reading. However, if your day skipper theory knowledge is very rusty we would recommend some prior study – especially before the intensive courses. See Downloads

Next Steps

[Coastal Skipper Practical Course](#) where you will learn how to apply this knowledge in the real environment.

Downloads

- [Recommended Packing List](#)
- [Directions to Elite Sailing at Chatham Marina](#)
- [Recommended Reading List for Day Skipper Theory](#)

Previous Knowledge/Experience

Theory: Day Skipper Theory Certificate – or equivalent knowledge and experience of navigation of small craft in coastal, tidal waters.

Practical: Day Skipper Practical – and/or some experience as a skipper of a small vessel in coastal waters. If you have no prior knowledge we recommend that you consult an instructor before enrolling.

Age

There is no minimum or maximum age limit.

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

You will have the theoretical knowledge required for the Coastal Skipper Practical course or for the Yachtmaster examinations.



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