



RYA Day Skipper Theory Shore-based Course

Course Outline

The RYA Day Skipper Theory Course is a comprehensive introduction to chartwork, navigation, meteorology, and the basics of seamanship. The course is common for sail or motor cruising. The knowledge it gives you is essential before taking the RYA Day Skipper Practical course. Even if you don't intend to take the practical course, the Day Skipper Theory course will help you become much more knowledgeable and safer on the water and increase your enjoyment of boating.

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

Boating is about having fun on the water and we make these classroom courses just as enjoyable. You have to put some work in too but with our help you can master the subject and enjoy a great sense of achievement.

Format Options

Intensive Courses at Chatham:

5 Days (Mon – Fri, 0900 – 1700) or 2 Weekends (eg Sat, Sun + Fri, Sat, Sun, 0900 – 1700)

Hybrid Course – Home Study AND Evening Classes at Chatham or London:

5 Evenings (1 per week – 1830 to 2130). Home study materials provided as for distance learning.

Home Study (Distance Learning)

Comprehensive Home study materials provided. [For further details see the web page.](#)

Combined RYA Day Skipper Theory and Practical (9 Days)

9 Days (Theory: Sat to Tue 0900 – 1700 in classroom. Practical: 1800 Tue – 1500 Sunday on the yacht. [For further details see the web page.](#)

Previous Knowledge/Experience

None essential but some boating experience (eg a competent crew course or helmsman course) is desirable.

Some prior reading recommended if you have time.

Age

There is no minimum or maximum age limit.

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

You will acquire the theoretical knowledge you need for safe navigation of a motor boat or sailing yacht in tidal waters.

What's included

Yours to Keep:

RYA student pack comprising practice charts, Day Skipper Course Notes booklet, RYA Exercises, RYA Electronic Chart Plotter Online access code.

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 5 days and two-weekend courses at Chatham these are available on free loan for the duration of the course. For home study (distance learning) and 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 session.

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.

Hybrid Courses – Home study AND 5 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 5 evenings sessions plus about 40 hours of home study. (Most other schools run courses over 7 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 you fail a paper (we hope not!) you can always do more work and then retake for an additional fee of £50. Evening classes are available at Chatham (winter only) and in London (all year round).

Home Study (Distance Learning. This course is completed entirely at home but with instructor support as necessary. We send you all course materials by courier or post. This includes RYA charts and exercises (hard copy) and the

Elite Sailing course presentations on a USB memory stick. You will need a PC or mac to run the presentations but no internet connection is necessary.

Combined Theory and Practical over 9 Days. Yes – you can complete the whole of the Day Skipper Theory and Practical courses in just 9 consecutive days. This saves you a valuable day and requires only one week off work. The first 4 days (Saturday to Tuesday) are spent in the classroom learning and practising tidal navigation, weather, rules of the road, passage planning, pilotage etc. On the Tuesday evening you move to the boat and begin your 5 days of practical training. [Details Here](#)

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. For evening classes 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 you have no prior map-reading experience we would recommend some prior study – especially before the intensive courses. See Downloads

Next Steps

[Day 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

Customer comments

“This was a great course – very interesting and quite hard work – but enjoyable. Thank you!”

Bob Ratcliffe

“Ten out of ten for top quality instruction and enjoyment.”

Steve Aveline

“Our instructor Graham made the whole course very enjoyable. Good teaching materials and a great format – in a perfect location in London. can’t wait to go and sail!”

Frances Terry



Elite Sailing