

Watchleader Syllabus

1. Preparation for sea

- Is able to prepare a yacht for sea, including engine checks, selection of sails, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below.

2. Deck work

- Can reef, shake out reefs and change sails to suit prevailing conditions
- Can prepare an anchor, mooring warps and take charge on deck when mooring alongside, coming to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor and slipping from a buoy or an alongside berth

3. Navigation

Is proficient in chart work and routine navigational duties on passage including:

- Taking and plotting visual fixes
- Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
- Use of waypoints
- Working up DR and EP
- Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
- Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift
- Knowledge of IALA buoyage
- Maintenance of navigational records
- Use of echo sounder and lead line

4. Pilotage

- Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbour
- Understands the use of leading and clearing lines.
- Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

5. Meteorology

- Knows sources of forecast information
- Can interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid

6. Rule of the road

- Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

7. Maintenance and repair work

- Understands and is able to carry out maintenance tasks
- Knows the properties and uses of common synthetic fibre ropes

8. Engines

- Knows how to change fuel and water filters, pump impeller and to bleed the fuel system

9. Victualling

- Understands how to victual a yacht

10. Emergency situations

- Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard
- Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft
- Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message
- Understands how to secure a tow
- Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue

11. General organization

- Understands the organisation and is fully competent to take charge of a watch at sea and in harbour