

RYA Competent Crew Syllabus

The Competent Crew course introduces the complete beginner to cruising and teaches personal safety, seamanship and helmsmanship to the level required to be a useful member of crew of a cruising yacht.

1) Knowledge of sea terms and parts of a boat, her rigging and sails

- a) Sufficient knowledge to understand orders given concerning the sailing and day to day running of the boat.

2) Sail Handling

- a) Bending on, setting, reefing and handling of sails
- b) Use of sheets and halyards and their associated winches

3) Ropework

- a) Handling ropes, including coiling, stowing, securing to cleats and single and double bollards
- b) Handling warps
- c) Ability to tie the following knots and to know their correct use: figure-of-eight, clove hitch, rolling hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, single and double sheet bend, reef knot

4) Fire precautions and firefighting

- a) Awareness of the hazards of fire and the precautions necessary to prevent fire. Knowledge of the action to be taken in the event of fire

5) Personal safety equipment

- a) Understands and complies with rules for the wearing of safety harnesses, lifejackets and personal buoyancy aids

6) Man overboard

- a) Understands the action to be taken to recover a man overboard

7) Emergency equipment

- a) Can operate distress flares and knows when they should be used
- b) Understands how to launch and board a liferaft

8) Manners and customs

- a) Understands accepted practice with regard to: use of burgees and ensigns, prevention of unnecessary noise or disturbance in harbour including courtesies to other craft berthed
- b) Aware of the responsibility of yacht skippers to protect the environment

9) Rules of the road

- a) Is able to keep an efficient lookout at sea

10) Dinghies

- a) Understands and complies with the loading rules

b) Is able to handle a dinghy under oars

11) Meteorology

a) Awareness of forecasting services and knowledge of the Beaufort scale

12) Seasickness

a) Working efficiency is unaffected/partially affected/severely affected by seasickness

13) Helmsmanship and sailing

a) Understands the basic principles of sailing and can steer and trim sails on all points of sailing

b) Can steer a compass course, under sail and power

14) General duties

a) Has carried out general duties satisfactorily on deck and below decks in connection with the daily routine of the vessel