



WESTMINSTER BOATING BASE

RYA Powerboat Level 1 & 2 Course Syllabus

The purpose of this course is to teach boat handling and seamanship in powerboats. The course may be conducted in a variety of boat types, both planning and displacement, and the certificate issued will be endorsed to show the type(s) of boat in which the training took place.

Course Duration: 2 days

PRACTICAL – Section A

Launching and Recovery

Knowledge of:

- Use of a trailer or launching trolley
- Consideration of launching and sea conditions, including hazards and obstructions.
- Number of persons required to launch/recover
- Construction, width and condition of slipway
- Steep/slippery slipways, beach launching, lee shores
- Care of trailer bearings, hitch, lashings, ties, lights and winch
- Trailer parking

Can:

- Prepare the boat, lines, fenders, safety equipment, fuel tanks, lines and secure gear on board.

Boat Handling

Knowledge of:

- Loading: effect on handling and performance, effect on balance and trim, CE plate and manufacturer's recommendation.
- Displacement boats: handling ahead and astern, carrying away.

Understands:

- Crew members: minimum number in high speed craft, keeping a look-out
- Awareness of other water users, including effect of wash
- Steering, controls, effect of current or tidal stream
- High speed manoeuvring: planing, trim tabs and power trim

- Planing boats: propeller angle and immersion, shallow drive, high/low speed handling, tiller/console steering.

Can:

- Carry out pre-start checks, engine starting and stopping
- Demonstrate the use of an appropriate length kill cord at all times
- Carry out low speed manoeuvres including: turning in a confined area, effect of wind on bow and holding off. Demonstrate an awareness of the danger of flooding when going astern.
- Carry out high speed manoeuvres including S-turns and U-turns.

Securing to a buoy

Understands:

- Preparation of mooring warp
- Use of a boat hook
- Method of approach
- Crew communication
- Making fast
- Procedure when overshooting

Can:

- Approach and secure a buoy

Anchoring

Understands:

- Method of approach in various conditions
- Taking way off
- Crew communication • Check holding
- Depth of water, holding ground, scope required

Knowledge of:

- Types of anchor
- Stowage and attachment to boat
- Preparation of anchor, chain and warp
- Weighing anchor

Can:

- Approach and anchor correctly
- Weigh anchor correctly

Leaving and coming alongside

Understands:

- Preparation and use of painter, lines and fenders, attachment to boat, stowage under way
- Speed and angle of approach
- Wind effect
- Method of approach in tidal stream or current

Can:

- Make fast alongside
- Use springs
- Leave – ahead or astern

Man Overboard

Knowledge of:

- Recovery of man overboard

Can:

- Take immediate action
- Observe the man overboard
- Carry out the correct return with awareness of propeller
- Approach and recover the man in the water

THEORY – Section B

Knowledge of:

- Types of craft: advantages and disadvantages of different hull forms with respect to sea keeping ability
- Engines and drives: advantages and disadvantages of outboard, inboard and outdrive units, single and twin screws, choice and use of fuels
- Siting of fuel tanks, fuel lines, batteries, wiring and fire extinguishers
- Routine engine maintenance checks, basic fault diagnosis
- Close down procedure
- Advice to inland drivers about coastal waters
- Use and limitations of GPS

- Application of local byelaws, especially around commercial shipping
- Sources of weather information

Understands:

- Awareness of other water users
- Communication with other craft – hand and sound signals
- Disabled craft
- Emergency action preventing sinking
- Adrift – alternative means of propulsion
- Towing and being towed
- Fire precautions and fire fighting
- Rope work
- Distress signals and the Mayday call

Can:

- Apply IRPCS, principally rules 5,7,8,9, 12-19

COASTAL – Section C

Knowledge of:

- Pilotage and passage planning
- CG66 Small Craft Safety Scheme

Understands:

- Charts, chart symbols, buoyage systems
- Tides and tidal streams

Can:

- Use steering and hand bearing compasses
- Apply Section A on coastal waters