

MCA/RYA YACHTMASTER CHECK LIST

This list is to focus you on some of the common things that an examiner may ask you during the exam. Please ask yourself can you competently talk about/demonstrate the following, if you are unsure of any areas please research the area and also ask your instructor during the week:

GENERAL SEAMANSHIP

- Demonstrate the 8 basic knots – Reef, Figure of Eight, Rolling Hitch, Bowline, Half turn and two half hitches, sheet bend, double sheet bend and clove hitch
- Do I know the type of rigging on yachts –
- Different types of anchors – Bruce, CQR, Danforth, Delta, Fisherman's
- Selection of a suitable anchorage
- Stability of a vessel – what affects it, what is AVS

SAFETY BRIEF

- Engine checks – can I demonstrate to a new crew member how to do the basic engine checks
- Lifejackets – different types, checks, servicing
- Liferaft and HRU – How does it work, its servicing, abandoning to a liferaft
- Flares – types, use, disposal
- Fire extinguishers – types, use, servicing
- Gas – bottle shut off, gas alarms
- Spares
- Man overboard recovery – what to do, lifebuoys, danbuoys etc how do they work
- Use of VHF/DSC radio – Especially how to send a Mayday

NAVIGATION

- Chart projections – Mercator/Transverse Mercator/Gnomonic
- Geodetic Datums
- Variation and Deviation on a compass
- Able to do a Dead Reckoning/Estimated Position
- Able to do a Course To Steer
- Tides – what causes tides
- Able to calculate tidal streams and compute the rates
- Able to calculate tidal heights including secondary ports
- Able to do an offshore passage plan
- Able to do a pilotage plan including turning points, bearings, clearing bearings, contours, buoys, transits, back bearings
- Buoyage – able to identify the 12 different buoys, shape, colour and light sequences
- 3 point fix
- Navigating in fog
- Use of GPS including Cross Track Error (XTE) & Waypoint Webs
- Types of Electronic charts ie Raster or Vector charts
- Use of radar to position fix and for collision avoidance

SAILING/POWER HANDLING

- Points of sail/ sail trim
- Manoeuvring
- Boat handling under power – prop walk, pivot points, effect of wind and tide
- Man overboard recovery
- Springing off – Bow spring and stern spring
- Mooring/dropping anchor under sail and sailing off again
- Securing a tow
- Running aground – actions to take

COLLISION REGULATIONS

- Give way/stand on vessels
- Lights
- Day shapes
- Sound signals

METEOROLOGY

- Principles of weather including coriolis effect
- Beaufort scale
- Formation of a depression
- Cloud formation/types of cloud
- Low pressure and High pressure systems
- Reading and interpreting a synoptic chart
- Sea breezes/land breezes
- Convergence/Divergence
- Fog – advection and radiation