



RYA Advanced Powerboat Course Syllabus

This is the pinnacle of the RYA powerboat scheme; as such students are required to hold a valid first aid certificate and a VHF operator's certificate. Students must be a minimum age of 17 for this course.

On completion of this course students can then put forward to undertake the RYA MCA Advanced powerboat exam.

Preparation for Sea

Can:

- Prepare the powerboat
- Carry out fuel and engine checks
- Stow and secure gear

Boat Handling

Knowledge of:

- Differences for a twin-engine vessel

Understands:

- Characteristics of various hull forms and propeller configurations

Action to be taken in rough weather

Can:

- Demonstrate a practical understanding and correct use of power trip and trim tabs
- Demonstrate an awareness of the effects of wind and tide when maneuvering, including:
 - Steering to transits and in buoyed channels
 - Turning in a confined space
 - Berthing in various conditions of wind and tide
 - Picking up and leaving a mooring buoy
- Demonstrate the use of an appropriate length kill cord at all times



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Passage making and responsibility as Skipper

Understands:

- The importance of pre-trip planning
- Planning and making coastal passages, taking into account the relevant navigational hazards
- The type of boat and the strengths of the crew
- Chart plotters and radar, their advantages and limitations

Can:

- Organise the navigation, safety and welfare of the crew during a powerboat passage
- Navigate at higher speed using time/distance
- Use electronic navigational equipment for planning and undertaking a passage, including the
- Use of waypoints, routes and XTE, SOG, COG, BTW, DTW

Pilotage

Can:

- Carry out pilotage plans and pilotage for entry into or departure from harbour
- Use leading and clearing lines, transits, back bearings and soundings as aids to pilotage
- Use GPS and understand its limitations in pilotage
- Navigate using soundings



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Meteorology

Knowledge of:

- Terms used in shipping forecasts, including the Beaufort scale and their significance to small craft.

Understands:

- Sources of forecast information and interpretation of forecasts including synoptic charts
- The significance of meteorological trends

Can:

- Interpret a Synoptic chart

Rules of the Road Can:

- Apply the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Use of Engines

Knowledge of:

- How to change a propeller
- Propeller diameter and pitch
- Propeller ventilation and cavitation



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Understands:

- Checks to be made before starting, during running and after stopping for diesel and petrol engines
- Periodic checks on engines and electrical system including spark plugs, water filter and pump impellers
- How to bleed the fuel system (diesel), change filters and pump impellers
- Transmission belts
- Spares to be carried
- Emergency Situations Understands:
- Correct action to take in emergency situations
- Fire prevention and fighting
- Hull damage/watertight integrity
- What to do in a medical emergency
- Towing and being towed
- Helicopter rescue procedures
- Use of flares
- Search patterns

Can:

- Pick up a man overboard in all available conditions

Night Cruising

Can:

- Take charge of a powerboat at night, including leaving and entering harbour
- Demonstrate ability at keeping a proper lookout and identifying lit and unlit marks by night.

This information was taken from the RYA powerboat logbook.