
GENERAL NOTES TO INSTRUCTORS

- The reason for this course is to introduce navigation and safety to new students who may not normally go on longer shorebased courses. These students may want this knowledge because they use the boat as a tool, such as skiers, fishing, diving, canoeing etc or crew who want to take a more active part in running the boat. Please establish your students boating interests so that you can run the course accordingly.
- Because of the large amount of information to be covered, a lesson plan should be drawn up and careful timings made so that the content can be covered in 16hrs. It is not normally envisaged that homework is set.
- The hardest part of the course will be 'what not to cover' as it would be all too easy to spend too long explaining complicated background theory. For example, at this level we are presuming that just the application of variation is taught by placing the offset on the plotter scale and reading it off, rather than teaching lengthy mnemonics and difficult sums. The same is true for many subjects in the syllabus. Stress that background knowledge is available on the Day Skipper Shorebased Course.
- Poor communication between the instructor and the student can result in the student being unsure of the standard required and consequently failing to complete the course. Feedback is essential.
- Please note that some of the navigation exercises are set to build theoretical skill and may not reflect fully the practical approach to a real situation.
- The course will benefit from the use of teaching aids so that the subject can be taught in a 'practical and hands-on' way. This is especially true when teaching the safety and safety briefing parts of the syllabus.

NOTES ON COURSE MATERIAL

- The certificates have been included in the student packs and will require collecting and keeping by the instructor until the course end. The certificates should be collected on the first course meeting.
- The notes printed on pages 2 to 4 of the Exercise and course information book (BNS1) provide students with information about the course and the equipment they will require to complete it.
- It is assumed that the instructor will teach a session, followed by working through the Exercise and Course Information Booklet (BNS1) with the students, or something similar. Many of the questions are multiple-choice so that the student can always have the correct answers to hand rather than remembering lots of new information.

- Exercises 1-11 may be worked in any order and the booklet will provide the student and the instructor with a method of monitoring progress throughout the course. For ease, nearly all of the chartwork exercises can be completed on the top half of RYA Chart 3, within the area called 'Northern Territories'. The instructor can point students to question starting points to save time, where appropriate.
- All questions concerning chartwork and tidal predictions refer to the information given in the RYA Training Almanac. All students require a copy of the edition. The Basic Navigation and Safety Course Notes supplied with the pack are designed as an aide-memoire, not as the definitive course textbook. Please ensure that your students are aware of this. There are many RYA titles that can be used to supplement this course.
- Although the Admiralty/RYA Chart Plotter CD is included in the course pack, it is not suggested that it is used by the students on the course, unless time allows. However, it is a very useful teaching aid if the plotter software is projected or its images used on an OHP, it can quickly steer students to the correct part of the chart for an exercise or help visualise tidal streams.
- Amendments to the course material, RYA Training Almanac and Charts are posted on the RYA website. Please check the website before telephoning the RYA office as the website can give an immediate answer whereas only one or two people in the office will be able to do the same. The current location for the amendments is:
www.rya.org.uk/WorkingWithUs/instructors/instructorresources
- **Instructors are asked to impress upon students that RYA Training Charts are a compilation of numerous charts, thus making it impossible to use them for navigation at sea.**

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES

- There is no formal assessment on this course. The candidate should have taken a full and active part of the course and performed adequately throughout.
- The pass/failure decision for the certificate should be made primarily on the basis of whether or not you feel that a student has an understanding of the principles taught during the course. If the certificate is not awarded, the instructor should debrief the student tactfully and positively indicating that he or she would benefit from re-taking the course. In no way should the lack of an RYA certificate dampen any enthusiasm to go afloat.