

Thank you for choosing to do your Yachtmaster prep week with Ondeck.

There are just a few areas we would like to make pertinent before your arrival. We get candidates with many different backgrounds and experience paths. We find many that have started their careers as deckhands on superyachts that have excellent overall experience and many 1000's of miles but have not necessarily had the time as skipper handling smaller vessels.

Additionally candidates who have built their experience in the Caribbean may not have gained the tidal miles and passages.

For full details of full YM qualifying requirements, please see RYA YM Scheme Syllabus and Log Book G158. We strongly advise having a copy which explains fully all of the requirements for a yachtmaster exam.

By the time you come to do your prep week you should have experience as skipper (sole command) of at least but not limited to the following:

- Sailing onto a mooring/anchorage/ MOB
- Berthing and unberthing in all combinations of wind and tide
- Passage planning, pilotage by day and night, and blind navigation
- All methods of position fixing

The Yachtmaster prep week is an intensive training period designed to prepare candidates for the Yachtmaster examination. It serves as a final review and refinement of skills before taking the examination. **It is not a course for learning new skills; it is focused on refining existing skills.**

Features of a Yachtmaster Prep Week:

- Skill Refinement: Candidates receive focused training to refine their sailing skills, navigation, seamanship, and boat handling techniques.
- Exam Preparation: The prep week aims to ensure candidates are fully prepared and confident in their abilities to meet the standards required for the Yachtmaster examination.
- Mock Assessments: Simulated assessments and mock exams are conducted to replicate the Yachtmaster examination conditions. This allows candidates to familiarise themselves with the format and expectations of the actual assessment.
- Personal Development: Instructors provide guidance and feedback to help candidates improve any areas of weakness identified during training.
- Navigation and Theory: Emphasis is placed on navigation skills, including position fixing, pilotage, blind navigation, passage planning, tidal calculations, meteorology, COLREGs, and other theoretical aspects relevant to the examination.
- Practical Training: Manoeuvring exercises, berthing techniques, sail trim, and emergency procedures are practised extensively to enhance practical abilities.
- Confidence Building: The prep week aims to build confidence in candidates by providing them with the necessary knowledge and practical experience required to successfully pass the Yachtmaster examination.

The Yachtmaster examination is a rigorous assessment of your sailing skills, knowledge, and ability to handle a vessel in various conditions. The prep week serves as a final stage to fine-tune these skills and ensure you are well-prepared for the examination, ultimately increasing your chances of success.

You should use this week to ask questions, seek clarification, and focus on areas you feel less confident in, with the goal of enhancing your overall competency as a Yachtmaster.

In order to check your suitability as a candidate, please answer the following questions honestly:

Have you completed the RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Shorebased course? If not, what courses have you done? The RYA YM theory is very in depth and is not easy even if you have already completed Day Skipper theory. If you don't have the theoretical grounding then jumping straight into YM theory the week before the practical can be a struggle. Consider doing the course some weeks or months ahead so you can begin to put it into practice.

If not, are you confident your shorebased knowledge is up to the standard of the above course? Please note if your knowledge is not up to standard, you will fail the Yachtmaster exam.

Do you have a valid First Aid and VHF radio certificate?

Have you been skipper for at least 5 days?

Have you completed at least 5 passages over 60 miles, 2 of which must have been overnight and two you must have been skipper?

Have you completed at least 2500 nm, at least half of which has to have been in tidal waters, and half on a vessel between 7 and 24m?

Are you confident of berthing a vessel in a marina in all conditions of wind and tide, both alongside and stern or bows to?

Are you confident of anchoring or picking up a mooring ball under all conditions of wind and tide?

Are you confident you can cope with emergencies onboard ie, man overboard?