



YACHTMASTER OCEAN SYLLABUS

The Yachtmaster Ocean Syllabus requires mastery of the Day Skipper, Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster Offshore Syllabuses plus the celestial navigation listed below.

SECTION 1: THE SEXTANT

Candidates must be able to correct a sextant for side error, perpendicularity and index error. They must be able to use the sextant altitude of any celestial body.

SECTION 2: TIME

Candidates must understand the concept of the equation of time and the relationship between UTC (GMT), standard time and zone time.

SECTION 3: THE NAUTICAL ALMANAC

Candidates must be able use the nautical almanac to:

1. Determine the corrections to be used to convert from sextant altitude to true (observed) altitude.
2. Determine the time of twilight and the time of the rising, setting or meridian passage of the sun or moon.
3. Determine the declination and GHA of any listed celestial body.

SECTION 4: LATITUDE BY MERIDIAN PASSAGE OR POLE STAR SIGHT

Candidates must be able to determine latitude by the meridian passage of a celestial body or from a pole star sight.

SECTION 5: SIGHT REDUCTION AND PLOTTING

Candidates must be able to use the sight Reduction Tables for Air Navigation Volumes 1 to 3 (or similar) and the appropriate plotting sheets to:

1. Plan star sights.
2. Reduce sun, moon, planet and star sights.
3. Run up sights from one time to the next.
4. Plot sights on a universal or Mercatorial plotting sheet to obtain a fix.

Candidates must be aware that while electronic calculators and computer programmes are excellent ways to ease the process of sight reduction they are not accepted for exam purposes.

SECTION 6: CHECKING COMPASS DEVIATION USING CELESTIAL BODIES

Candidates must be able to use the amplitude or azimuth of a celestial body to check compass deviation.

