

Boatmaster's Licence – Tier 2 Level 2 MCA Oral Examination – Syllabus

The syllabus below will be modified by the MCA examiner to **take into account the local area of operation, type of vessel and the equipment onboard the vessel.** Relevant endorsement questions should also be sampled from the syllabus in SI 3223/2006 Schedule 4 Part 1 Section 19.

For instance, it is unlikely that vessels operating solely on canals will be provided with a compass and an applicant would not be examined in this subject.

A. PRACTICAL TEST (This test should take place on a vessel of a type for which the applicant is requiring a licence).

(1) **BOAT HANDLING:** Berthing and unberthing. Coming to and weighing anchor. Making fast to and leaving a buoy. Boat manoeuvring in confined waters. Turning short round. Knowledge and effect of transverse thrust. Steering a compass course and taking a rough bearing. Use of locks. Practical demonstration on the use of VHF on board the applicant's vessel.

B. ORAL EXAMINATION

(1) **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:** Recovery of man overboard. Loss of engines. Loss of steering ability. Action to take in the event of collision. Grounding. Accident to crew member or passenger. Use of extinguishing appliances. Use of lifesaving appliances. Search and rescue techniques in bad weather or reduced visibility. Choosing an appropriate area for beaching.

(2) **REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA:** A practical knowledge of the Rule of the Road as appropriate to the area of operation. A full knowledge of the regulations. Keeping a good lookout.

(3) **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND REGULATIONS:** Knowledge of the contents of The Waterways Code for Boaters (canal vessels only). Local signals and traffic regulations. Local marks—to include buoyage, lights, leading lights and marks. Local dangers to navigation—minimum and maximum depths over banks, etc., obstructions, currents and abnormal tidal streams. Local safe landing places in differing weather conditions. A general knowledge of the times and heights of spring tides. Safe compass courses in and out of local harbours. Any other item of local knowledge which the examiner may deem to be necessary. A thorough knowledge of the local regulations and bye-laws. The locality of and means of communication with proximate Coastguard-Rescue Centres.

(4) **SEAMANSHIP:** Common nautical terms. Interaction with other vessels. Operation of vessel equipment. COSWOP, LOLER/ PUWER regulations as applicable to vessel.

(5) CHARTWORK: The meaning of common chart symbols. The use of Tidal Diamonds. Position fixing. Magnetic variation and deviation. Courses to steer allowing for current and leeway. Familiarity with the use of parallel rules, dividers, compasses, etc.

(6) LIFE-SAVING AND FIRE-FIGHTING APPLIANCES: A knowledge of the statutory requirements and appreciation of the fact that the person in charge of a vessel must be satisfied that the life-saving and fire-fighting appliances are properly maintained. Use and deployment of inflatable liferafts and inflatable or rescue boats. Inflatable liferaft and boat servicing requirements. Hydrostatic release units. Maintenance and care of buoyant apparatus.

(7) DISTRESS SIGNALS: Knowledge of the contents of Annex IV of the Collision Regulations and the operation of the signals and equipment required to be carried in the applicant's vessel. Coastguard response to distress signals.

(8) LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS PASSENGERS AND CREW: Safe access. Safe working practices. Passenger Certificate and the law regarding it.

(9) WEATHER: Sources of information. Local conditions and effects. Signs of approaching bad weather.

(10) FIRST AID: An elementary knowledge of First Aid and the use of the equipment carried onboard.

(11) ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE: Basic knowledge of day to day engine and battery checks. The requirement for servicing and routine maintenance of propulsion and auxiliary machinery.

(12) PUBLICATIONS: Local Notices to Mariners. Admiralty Notices to Mariners. Merchant Shipping Notices (as applicable). Statutory Instruments (as applicable).

(13) UK PREVENTION OF POLLUTION REGULATIONS: A general appreciation of the Regulations applicable to the prevention of pollution.

(14) RADAR AND NAVAIDS: Knowledge of the use of Radar, Echo Sounder and GPS or other position-finding device fitted on board the applicant's vessel.

(15) BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF VESSEL CONSTRUCTION AND STABILITY: General ideas on ship construction and on plans available on board the vessel, where these are carried. Maintaining watertight sub-division. General pumping arrangements. Outline knowledge of the effect on stability of loading, discharging, weight distribution and slack tanks. Outline knowledge of freeboard and trim. The use of stability and hydrostatic data where provided.