Pre RYA VHF Radio Course

As from January 2014 the RYA VHF Short Range Certificate course has changed in format to come into line with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications (CEPT).

The course tuition is now 10 hours instead of 8 hours, you have the options to take the course in a classroom or via the RYA Online VHF Radio course; whichever method you choose you will have to attend a final exam at a recognized RYA Training Centre.

The minimum age you can take the RYA VHF Radio Course is 16 years old.

Available options:

- Take the course in a classroom over 2 days covering the full 10 hour course, followed by the RYA Short Range Certificate examination by a separate RYA appointed assessor.
- Take the course via blended learning, you will be sent the RYA Short Range Certificate course pack before you attend the course, this pack contains the RYA VHF Radio handbook (SRCP1) and the RYA Application Form for the licence. You will be required to undertake 2 hours of pre course learning, you will then attend the full 8 hour classroom day tuition followed by the RYA Short Range Certificate examination.
- You can also take the course via the RYA interactive website using a PC, MAC or iPad, the online course takes 6 to 8 hours to complete, you will also have to take a 20 question online pre knowledge test before you can apply to a RYA Training Centre for the final examination.

Since you have chosen to take the blended learning option, you will have to undergo 2 hours of home learning before you attend the 8 hour classroom tuition.

On the next pages are some questions based on the knowledge you will require to have before you attend the classroom course, please make sure you return your completed answers back to us before or on the day of your course.

Please use the RYA VHF Radio handbook to answer the questions; we have placed the corresponding page numbers next to the questions.

Please make sure you answer the questions in full.
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Pre Course Knowledge Questions

**General Questions: Pages 6 -14**

1.1 What does VHF Stand for?

1.2 Your Antenna height is 16 Metres what is your radio horizon?

1.3 Name two types of Marine VHF Radio commonly used onboard a leisure craft?

1.4 Name three shore based Marine VHF Radio users?

1.5 What types of batteries are commonly found in handheld Marine Radios?
2.1 Who in the UK issues the Ships Radio Licences?

2.2 How much is the fine if you infringe the Radio regulations in the UK?

2.3 In order to use a VHF Radio onboard a boat you need two different licences. Name both?

2.4 How long is the Ship Radio Licence valid for?

2.5 What does MMSI stand for?

2.6 What VHF Radio channels can a Coastal Radio (Marina) use?

2.7 How would you know if your set was type approved?

2.8 Are you allowed to intercept radio communications that are not intended for public use?
3.1 What is the Squelch control used for?

3.2 What is the maximum power allowed to be used on a fixed Marine Band Radio?

3.3 Why is it best to use Low power when communicating with a vessel close to you?

3.4 What is the importance of Channel 16?

3.5 What does PTT stand for?

3.6 Why should you listen before making a transmission?

3.7 What is the difference between a Simplex and Duplex channel?

3.8 What is special about VHF Channel 70?
4.1 How far away from your mouth should you place the microphone?

4.2 Name two ways of identifying yourself on the Marine Band Radio?

4.3 When calling another vessel on 16 who has control of allocating the channel number to change to?

4.4 When calling the Coastguard who chooses the working channel to move to?

4.5 With whom can you make a Radio check with?

4.6 If your initial call goes unanswered how long do the regulation state you have to wait before you call again?

4.7 Is over and out a recognised Proword?

4.8 Complete the following Letters in phonic alphabet?
   B. F. K.
   Z. L. W.

4.9 Out of the following words which one is not a pro word?
   Over. Out. Wait. This Is. Roger, correction, Read Back
5.1 It is important you know how to draft a MAYDAY Call and message using Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and to be able to transmit a MAYDAY by voice on VHF CH16, the following Mnemonic may help. MIPDANIO

M    Mayday
I    Identity (Name, Callsign, MMSI)
P    Position
D    Distress
A    Assistance Required
N    Number of persons onboard
I    Information ie Taking to the Liferaft
O    Over

Using the following information write down below the MAYDAY Call and Message-
You and your two crew have found a fire in the engine room, the fire is out of control, you’re in position 55° 21’.600 North 004° 15’.850 West your vessel is called the Blue Minstral, callsign MKD9G your MMSI Number is 235899894 you are taking to the liferaft.

M x3
This is
I x1
P
D
A
N
I
O

On the classroom based course/exam you will press the Red DSC Button and will transmit a Mayday Call and message.
5.2 If your Mayday message is not received by another station what action should you take?

5.3 What power setting would you transmit a Mayday call?

5.4 Are you allowed to use CH16 for routine communications if there is a Distress ongoing that you are not apart off?

5.5 When the Distress has been dealt with and the VHF CH16 is free to use again for routine communications what prowords would you hear?
6.1 What is the proword for Urgency?

6.2 Define an urgency situation?

6.3 Which of the following statements isn’t an Urgency situation?

- Broken steerage.
- Crew with a broken leg.
- Broken down and heading for a lee shore.
- Broken mast.
- Crew member is suffering a heart attack.

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**Safety Procedures: Pages 54**

7.1 What is the pro word for Safety?

7.2 Why would a safety call be transmitted? Name two reasons.

1. 

2.
8.1 What does GMDSS stand for?

8.2 What Sea area are the North and South poles in?

8.3 What year did the new GMDSS Regulations come into force?

8.4 What are the two frequencies used to transmit NAVTEX?

8.5 What does EPIRB stand for?

8.6 What is the homing signal frequency for an EPIRB?

8.7 With whom should you register an EPIRB in the UK?

8.8 What does SART stand for?

8.9 How high is it recommended to mount a SART in a Liferaft?

Please make sure you return this questionnaire to your Instructor on the day of your course, you will be asked further questions on the course to check your depth of knowledge.

If you have any questions before the course please contact your Instructor.

Paul Harrison T: 07704 143747