

Syllabus of Preparatory Maritime Course

(To be completed before a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate may be issued)

Before he/she may be issued with a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate, a member of a crew must hold a certificate of course completion issued by a course organiser approved by the Marine Department.

Course item		Syllabus	Duration (hours)
1.	Local knowledge and pilotage	(1) Limits of sheltered waters and precautions to be taken when proceeding beyond sheltered waters. (2) Principal fairways and traffic separation schemes; and rules governing their use and the conduct of small vessels within them. (3) Speed and other restrictions applicable in Victoria Harbour and typhoon shelters. (4) Prohibited anchorage areas, restricted anchorage areas and restricted areas. (5) Rules governing the use of public piers. (6) Traffic light signals in Ma Wan Channel, their purposes and actions to be taken in response to the signals. (7) Basic knowledge of environmental protection legislation. (8) Requirements for reporting of accidents and method of reporting. (9) The meaning of important/essential international and port signals made by flag, light and sound. (10) Knowledge of the buoyage system in use in Hong Kong waters. (11) Knowledge of the significance of storm signals and sources of information about storms.	14

2.	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea	<p>(1) Sound knowledge of Parts A, B, C and D of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea as applicable to the marine traffic conditions encountered in Hong Kong.</p> <p>(2) Emphasis laid on understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) lights and shapes carried by vessels; (ii) meaning of proper look-out and the need for maintaining a proper look-out; (iii) method of determining risk of collision; (iv) steering and sailing rules, and actions to be taken in typical encounter situations; (v) conduct of vessels in restricted visibility; (vi) manoeuvring and fog sound signals; and (vii) distress signals, with particular emphasis on the signals which might be used by small craft. 	9
3.	Basic knowledge of vessels and seamanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Classification and design of all vessels. (2) Basic navigational equipment on board vessels and their application. (3) Pre-departure preparations. (4) Mooring practices, safe use of ropes and relevant points to note. (5) Handling precautions and procedures in bad weather. (6) Dangers involved in navigating close to large vessels, whether anchored or underway. (7) Precautions to be followed when navigating in areas where approaching vessels may not be observed, at breakwaters and headlands, etc. (8) Basic understanding of terms relating to vessel stability (e.g. “stable”, “unstable”, “neutral equilibrium”, “stiff” and “tender”), and indications of an unstable condition. (9) Securing of cargo on board. 	9

4.	Engine knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Basic knowledge of engine on board and common mechanical failures. (2) Significance of common engine instrument readings, temperature, oil pressure and RPM, and the consequences of any of them indicating readings outside normal limits. Actions to be taken in the event of abnormal engine indications. (3) Hazards of oil fuel and precautions to be taken in filling tanks and storing and handling fuel. Basics of fuel supply systems and rectification of common faults. (4) Safe handling, care and maintenance of batteries. (5) Typical hydraulic steering systems and restoration of steering function in the event of a fault. 	8
5.	Vessel safety and emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Safety training on embarkation and disembarkation. (2) Life-saving appliances on board vessels (including cargo vessels, passenger vessels, etc.) and their use. (3) Fire-fighting appliances on board vessels (including vessels carrying dangerous goods, etc.) and their use. (4) Actions to be taken in the event of collision, grounding, fire, man overboard or flooding. (5) Contingency measures for emergencies (including escape at sea). (6) Safety of children aboard small craft. (7) Safe handling of LPG installations aboard small craft. 	10
Total number of hours			50