



Helmsman Course Syllabus

Deck Work

Common nautical terms.

Handling lines/warps and fenders.

Throwing a heaving line or coiled rope.

Knots - clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches, bowline.

Securing to bollards, rings, cleats and mooring stakes.

Helmsmanship and boat handling

Loading and weight distribution.

Steering on a canal or river.

Control of speed.

Interaction and canal effect.

Turning.

Recovery of man overboard.

Berthing and unberthing alongside and between buoys/piles.

Anchoring.

Personal Safety

Identification of risks, including cold shock.

Use of life jackets and buoyancy aids.

Avoidance of personal injury, including crushing of limbs when fending off.

Special risk to children.

Boat Safety

Fire hazards, especially gas and petrol.

Use of fire extinguishers.

Watertight integrity.

Refloating after grounding.

Engines

Engine care. Checks to be carried out before starting and while running.

Routine periodic checks.

Locks

General understanding of maintenance of levels.

Operation of locks

Tending lines in locks.

Safety in locks.

Bridges and Tunnels

General understanding of techniques for bridges and tunnels.

River Techniques

Special attention paid to the effect of the current.

Big river locks controlled by lock keepers.

Collision Avoidance

Steering and Sailing rules of International Regulations for preventing Collisions at Sea.

By-laws and local regulations including traffic signals, signs and priorities.

Awareness of other national and local regulations.

Publications to be carried.

Care of Environment

Avoiding damage to boats, banks, flora and fauna.

Pollution avoidance.

Consideration for other water users.