

ISA Instructor Pre-entry Assessment

In order to qualify for entry onto an ISA instructor-training course you must successfully complete the appropriate 'Instructor Pre-entry Assessment'.

This assessment ensures that you have the pre-requisite skills and knowledge necessary to teach up to Level 3 in the ISA Small Boat Sailing Scheme.

The assessment itself reviews those skills and knowledge covered in The Improving Skills course (Level 3) and The Advanced Sailing Skills Course (Level 4) of the Small Boat Sailing Scheme. The assessment has two parts. Part 1 being an assessment of your sailing skills and Part 2 being an assessment of your background knowledge.

The assessment must be conducted by an ISA SBSS Instructor Trainer. Details of these are published on the ISA website.

The assessment must be conducted in a minimum wind speed of 11 knots and must be undertaken in a sailing dinghy, catamaran or keelboat depending on the type of instructor course that it is required for.

When undertaken in dinghies the assessment will be conducted in a three sail dinghy with trapeze.

When the assessment is undertaken in keelboats spinnakers must be used if conditions permit.

Part 1 - Skills Assessment

You will be asked to complete the following tasks. While doing so you should demonstrate the ability to apply 'the Five Essentials' ie. sail setting, balance, trim, centreboard and course sailed, to each task. The Assessor will be seeking to confirm that you can sail competently and confidently. A more detailed version of each task can be found at www.sailing.ie

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Sail around a triangular course

Sail around Triangular course without a rudder (dinghies & keelboats only)

Sail a tight circular course.

Sail a 'follow my leader' course

Pick up a Man-Overboard dummy

Lee-shore landing and departure (dinghies & catamarans only)

Anchor or pick up a mooring – wind against tide.

Come alongside a moored boat, wind against tide

Recover a capsized dinghy and sail away (dinghies & catamarans only).

Reducing sail while underway (Keelboats only)

Part 2 – Assessment of Background Knowledge

This part of the Instructor Pre-entry assessment will assess the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to become an Instructor teaching up to "Improving Skills" in the ISA Small Boat Sailing Scheme.

Method:

The assessment may be in the form of;

- 1) Aural interview with the Assessor.
- 2) Written answers / calculations done during the assessment.

Original copies of RYA Training Chart 1 will be used for all of the assessment / calculations where a chart is required. Tables used will be the RYA Practice Navigation Tables. Sailors must be informed of this prior to the assessment to allow them to familiarize themselves with the chart.

The assessor will provide sufficient charts and PNTs. Candidates must provide their own stationary, calculators and navigation instruments.

Subject	Method	
Sail & mast controls	Using a three sail boat normally fitted with a trapeze the sailors will be asked to identify any of the boats sail & mast controls, describe how it might be used, and if possible, demonstrate on the boat the effect that control has.	Main sail- Halyard, Cunningham, Out haul, Vang, Battens, Main-sheet, Traveller Telltales. Jib - Halyard, Sheets & Sheeting angles, Telltales. Mast - Rig tension, Spreader length & angles, Mast ram / chocks, Rake.

Compass	<p>The sailor will be asked to;</p> <p>Take a course to steer from a chart and apply it to a compass</p> <p>Plot a magnetic bearing onto a chart</p>	<p>Having been given two points on a chart the sailor should be able to plot a course between the two points onto the chart, Convert this course to a course to steer by applying the appropriate variation and deviation from the compass card provided.</p> <p>Having been given three compass bearings the sailor should be able to plot a position fix onto a chart.</p>
Chart symbols	The sailor will be asked to identify a number of common symbols and features from a chart.	Latitude & longitude, Depth contours, Tidal diamonds, Rocks, Drying areas, Port & Starboard Lateral marks, North, East, South & West Cardinal marks, Special marks, Isolated danger mark & Safe-water mark.
Tides	<p>For a primary port, the sailor will be asked to either;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict the depth of water at a given time and place. • Predict the time at which the water will reach a particular depth at any given time or place. <p>For a position on the coast or in a channel adjacent to a primary port the sailor should be able to <i>estimate</i> the time and direction of maximum and minimum tidal flow.</p>	<p>Given a position on a chart, a time and a set of tide tables for a primary port the sailors should be able to calculate the depth of water at that point.</p> <p>Given a required depth at a position on a chart and a set of tide tables for a primary port the sailors should be able to calculate the time at which the water will be at the depth given.</p> <p>Given a position on a chart, a set of tide tables and a set of tidal charts the sailor should be able to estimate the time and direction of maximum flow and time of minimum tidal flow.</p>
Collision Regulations	<p>Using either an aural interview, written questions or models the sailor will be asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From colour pictures, identify a number of common navigation day marks and described their relevance to sailors. 	Port & Starboard Lateral marks, North, East, South & West Cardinal marks, Special marks, Isolated danger mark & Safe-water mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correctly identify who has priority and correct action by stand on vessel in a number of simple scenarios. 	<p>Sail v's sail Port / starboard, overtaking, windward / leeward</p> <p>Sail v's power meeting vessels, overtaking, restricted manoeuvrability</p> <p>Power v's power meeting vessels, overtaking, towing.</p>
Weather	<p>During an aural interview;</p> <p>The sailor will be asked to describe the prevailing weather patterns and effects for a period of 2 days prior to the assessment.</p> <p>The sailor will be asked to provide a synopsis of the expected weather for the day of the assessment and describe how it might be expected to affect the sailing area used for the assessment.</p> <p>The sailor will be asked to describe the cause of, effects of and features of at least two common weather conditions / features.</p> <p>The sailor will be asked to identify two types of cloud from colour photographs</p> <p>The sailor will be asked to describe identify the prevailing wind speed and direction.</p>	<p>Sea breeze, Radiation Fog, Sea Fog, Thunderstorms, Line squalls, Warm front, Warm sector, Cold front, Cold sector, Occluded fronts, Depressions, Anti cyclones.</p> <p>Cirrus, Cirrostratus, Altostratus, Altocumulus, Stratus, Cumulus, Cumulonimbus, Nimbostratus, Fractostratus, Stratocumulus.</p>
Ropework	The sailor will be asked to tie and describe the appropriate use for three knots	Reef Knot, Bowline, Clove hitch, Round turn & two half hitches, Sheet bent and Rolling hitch, Figure of eight.