

Coastal Chartwork and Passage Quick Reference

A compact Coastal Skipper revision aid for CTS, tides, pilotage, and passage decisions.

Course-to-steer sequence

Keep the geometry clean and label every vector.

- Estimate passage time from distance and boat speed through the water.
- Draw the tidal set and drift for the whole passage time.
- Close the triangle with the water-track vector to the destination.
- Apply leeway, variation, and deviation in the correct order.

Position fixing sequence

Treat every fix as evidence to be checked.

- Use visual bearings, transits, depth contours, radar ranges, and GNSS.
- Correct bearings before plotting where needed.
- For a running fix, advance the earlier position line by the run made.
- Record time, log, course, fix method, and any uncertainty.

Tidal planning prompts

The plan should make tide-driven decisions obvious before departure.

- Standard and secondary port height calculations.
- Tidal diamonds or stream atlases for each leg and hour.
- Tidal gates at races, headlands, bars, locks, and shallow approaches.
- Depth windows using charted depth plus height of tide minus draft and margin.

Pilotage prompts

Pilotage turns a chart route into a sequence the crew can follow.

- Approach bearing, transits, clearing bearings, leading lines, and back bearings.
- Lights, sectors, buoyage, conspicuous objects, and no-go areas.
- Speed limits, VHF calls, traffic, ferry routes, and contingency berths.

Weather decision prompts

Forecasts should be linked to the route, crew, and boat rather than memorised in isolation.

- Wind direction and strength against tide or over shallow water.
- Pressure trend, fronts, visibility, sea state, and lee shores.
- A clear trigger for delaying, shortening, turning back, or using an alternate.

Before committing

Use this final check before departure or an exam passage-plan answer.

- Can every leg be explained in course, distance, time, tide, and hazards?
- Are alternates and abort points usable at the expected tide state?
- Have crew briefing, watchkeeping, safety equipment, and log entries been covered?

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