

BCU Five Star Leader Sea Kayak Syllabus

Aim

Successful performance at this level indicates that a candidate has entered a higher level of performance and knowledge, involving a high level of personal skill and leadership in advanced situations. It is a leadership award and the appropriate test for paddlers who wish to lead groups of other paddlers in appropriate locations in advanced tidal waters and in dynamic weather conditions typified by the Climate of the British Isles. The five star leader has the skills and judgement to select appropriate trips for a range of ability levels, however it is not a coaching award and not suitable for introducing beginners to the sport.

Candidates should be assessed to a verifiable common level, regional and climatic variations notwithstanding. When used with the relevant coaching award it shows that the candidate has sufficient expertise to coach and lead groups in more demanding situations.

This award is intended for paddlers who journey on the sea in areas where tidal races, headlands, open crossings, swell and challenging coastlines will be encountered. The award should be accessible to all those people who journey on the sea on a regular basis and should not be seen as the preserve of a few elite performers. It is envisaged that a committed club paddler, sea kayaking regularly in a suitable range of situations, sea areas and conditions should be able to obtain this award within a period of three years.

Pre-requisites

- BCU 4 Star Test
- Recognised First aid award (minimum 16hrs)
- Evidence of a 1 day BCU open water navigation and tidal planning course or similar RYA course.
- Previous Experience: see trainers notes
The candidate must provide documentary evidence of a minimum of 20 varied, quality, advanced sea kayak days in 3 different sea areas .

Due to the nature of this test and its important remit for leadership it is required that candidates show 3 days (2 days and 2 nights) logged experience of training in leadership and personal skills, safety and rescue, and must include an overnight camp. Such experience may be gained on a scheduled course or by informal training endorsed by an active level 5 coach. (UKCC Level 4?). It is also strongly recommended that further endorsed training be undertaken based on the candidates action plan in different sea areas and a variety of environmental conditions.

- Candidates must be 18, or over, at the time of assessment

Craft

Sea Kayak suitable for the remit of the award and the assessment environment

Equipment

Personal and group equipment appropriate for the remit of the award, and relevant to the assessment environment

Assessment Venue

The conditions for the assessment must include:

- Tidal areas
- Periods of no less than Sea state 5 (, or a tidal race, creating similar conditions)
- An exposed rocky coastline with difficult landings and open crossings
- Launching and landing in moderate surf
- Candidates must come prepared to overnight camp

Assessment Duration

2 days (including two evening exercises)

Assessor

Existing A5 sea assessors.

BCU UKCC Level 4 Coach (Sea) or higher or BCU level 5 with specific training and assessment.

Ratio 2:8

The candidate is required to perform all skills on both sides.

If the kayak is fitted with a rudder, it must be disabled for the duration of the assessment.

Part A – Personal Paddling Skills

- A.1 Launching and Landing
- A.2 Efficient and Effective forward paddling
- A.3 Manoeuvring and Control
- A.4 Navigation on the water and in poor visibility
- A.5 Self-rescue
- A.7 Roll in rough water

Part B – Rescue Skills

- B.1 Have knowledge of and Demonstrate skilful application of appropriate and rescue skills
- B.2 Be conversant with different methods of towing

Part C – Safety, Leadership & Group Skills

The following skills will be assessed for use with both experienced and inexperienced advanced environment paddlers:

- C.1 Skilful application of leadership (e.g. CLAP) principles
- C.2 Appropriate leadership strategies, judgement and decision-making
- C.3 Safety awareness and risk management
- C.4 Exercise appropriate Group control and management and show concern for the general welfare of other group members
- C5 Demonstrate the capability to handle a range of incidents.

Part D – Theory

- D.1 Equipment
- D.2 Safety
- D.3 Weather
- D.4 Hypothermia/First aid
- D.5 Access
- D.6 Environment
- D.7 Planning
- D.8 Group Awareness and management
- D.10 Navigation
- D.11 General history
- D.12 Leadership responsibilities
- D.13 Water features / hazards