

British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Assessment Essential Information for Candidates

Please read these notes carefully - if you have any questions, contact Nick at:
info@kayakessentials.co.uk

Sections highlighted in green indicate required tasks prior to assessment date.
Sections highlighted in red indicate likely tasks during the assessment.

British Canoeing sea kayak leader assessment info can be found here:
www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/sea-kayak-leader/

Start of Assessment

We will meet at an agreed location on the first assessment day.

We will email details of the meeting place, 2-3 days before the assessment date.

Please tell us your accommodation option - where possible, we will arrange a meeting point convenient for all involved. Weather factors will probably dictate where we will meet each day.

Nick Cunliffe is the assessment director and will meet you at 09:00 on the first day.

We will begin with assessment paperwork, Q&A, preparations for the day, etc.

Please bring with you:

- Evidence of British Canoeing registration / check-in
- 1st Aid certificate evidence
- Sea Kayak Leader training completed evidence
- Coastal Navigation certificate
- Evidence of current British Canoeing membership

Sea Kayaking Experience

Please also bring a brief written record of your sea kayaking experience to date:
independent trips, trips with assistant or leader responsibilities, exposure to suitable conditions.

British Canoeing guidelines detail the sea kayaking experience required for this award.

Please also prepare a journey plan for a section of the Anglesey coastline, to include the following:

Suitable journey for 4-5 hours duration, for a group of paddlers capable in moderate conditions.
Please avoid any areas beyond the remit of the sea kayak leader award. Please include:

- Launch / landing points - expected conditions afloat
- Key tidal considerations - directions, speed, timing
- Effect of wind / weather on chosen route - please use available weather / tide resources

Be prepared to lead your journey, with up to date weather forecast, tidal picture, navigation info etc.

It is impossible to make use of all candidates' trip plans - it is therefore likely that we will operate in a coastal venue of the assessors' choosing.

Therefore, please ensure you have an overall picture of the weather / tidal / sea conditions situation for the entire Anglesey coastline, on each day of the assessment.

There will be a brief period of time to plan a new paddling location at the start of each day - but we recommend that you do the foundation work beforehand.

Navigation resources - you may need to navigate on any in-remit section of the Anglesey coastline during the assessment weekend.

We therefore recommend the following map / chart resources:

OS Map Anglesey 1:50 000 (and / or 1: 25 000 West / East Anglesey).

The 1: 50 000 sheet is adequate, combined with appropriate weather / tidal information.

Imray produce a chart covering Cardigan Bay North to Liverpool Bay, which is adequate.

There is also a variety of suitable Admiralty Chart resources.

Tidal planning resources - e.g. Welsh Sea Kayaking, Cruising Guide to Anglesey,

You will need to be able to predict / anticipate tidal movements around the Anglesey coastline.

Please carry leader / group safety equipment for the duration of the assessment, per British Canoeing guidelines for the Sea Kayak Leader award.

During the assessment we will focus on:

- Personal skills (including boat handling / rolling in moderate sea conditions)
- Group leadership / management in moderate sea conditions
- Problem solving / dealing with safety / rescue situations in moderate sea conditions
- Trip planning / practical navigation skills
- Appropriate equipment choices

Weather conditions may require a flexible approach - we will communicate our plans at the start of the assessment, and will be constantly available for questions and clarification.

Group members to lead - we will provide a group for you to lead during periods of the assessment. Depending on availability and other factors, you will be asked to lead a maximum of four paddlers.

Travel to / from paddling venues - you will need to arrange your own travel from our meeting point to each paddling venue. If you want to car-share, please arrange this with other candidates.

Overall Assessment Structure

We aim to run a well organised, positive and appropriately-pitched assessment, following the syllabus of the British Canoeing advanced sea kayak leader award.

We will use the most current British Canoeing syllabus and guidance notes:

www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/sea-kayak-leader/

We will conduct the assessment weekend in a positive, supportive atmosphere - it is our job to create an environment in which you are able to display your skills and experience.

During the assessment we will ask questions, e.g. during planning sessions, following leadership legs, within navigation tasks.

Our purpose is to clarify our understanding of any actions taken by you as a candidate, to explore thought processes, and to establish your knowledge in a specific area.

We will avoid leading or ambiguous questions, and will not seek to trip you up in any way. Questioning is simply an element of any assessment process.

We aim to be clear and understandable in our briefings and communications: **don't hesitate to ask us questions for clarification, to check understanding or for any other reason!**

At the end of the assessment the team of assessors will discuss all information gathered throughout the assessment and will reach decisions regarding your performance against the syllabus of the British Canoeing sea kayak leader award. We will then share those conclusions with each candidate and will set aside time for a 1:1 review / discussion.

If a candidate does not reach the required standard of the award, we will provide specific examples of areas in which performance fell short, and will discuss an action plan to help you prepare for a future successful assessment.

Written feedback of an unsuccessful result will be provided within one week of the assessment.

British Canoeing has an appeals / redress process, in the event that any candidate disagrees with the assessment outcome and is unable to reach a resolution with the assessment team.

Details can be found at the British Canoeing website.

Assessment Postponements / Cancellations

In rare situations it can be necessary to postpone planned British Canoeing sea kayak leader assessments. If conditions do not meet the remit of the award, i.e. if winds are too light to provide adequate sea conditions for the syllabus requirements - or if sea conditions are so rough that it is impossible to commit to any sea kayak journeys on open coastlines - British Canoeing Assessor Guidance Notes require us to postpone or cancel the planned assessment.

In such cases, it is not generally clear that conditions will be unsuitable until within 48 hours of the planned assessment start date.

If weather conditions require a postponement, we will contact all candidates by email 48 hours before the planned assessment with a final decision. Postponements will only happen as a final resort - if conditions clearly will not meet the British Canoeing sea kayak leader remit.

In such a situation, we will refund all course fees paid for the assessment.

We appreciate that candidates will have travel and accommodation commitments, although we are unable to refund these costs.

In the event of a postponement, we advise candidates to discuss refund options with their accommodation / travel providers.

We will also seek to establish an alternative future assessment date that meets the availability of candidates and assessors.

In conclusion, postponements are rare events and we make every effort to run the planned assessment, notwithstanding extreme weather events.

[Overseas /International Candidates](#)

We understand that candidates traveling from overseas will not be able to fly with prohibited items of leader equipment, e.g. distress flares. We will require candidates to obtain all other required safety / leader equipment for the duration of the assessment.

Any borrowed equipment will be assessed as if it were the candidate's own.

Please also read the relevant sections of our Kayak Essentials website for more details re. transport, equipment, accommodation - available at: www.kayakessentials.co.uk

[Course Feedback](#)

British Canoeing is committed to developing the quality of its awards, and welcomes feedback from all course participants. You are invited to use the following link to comment on any aspects of our British Canoeing Leader / Coach training / assessment courses.

<https://goo.gl/forms/7pNoLr1N0J6oJRke2>

[Summary](#)

We want you to feel informed and supported in the assessment process for the British Canoeing sea kayak leader award. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

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