



## Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of British Columbia

### Level Two Guide Exam Information and Itinerary

#### **Certification Overview**

Level Two Guide candidates must satisfy their Examiners that they have solid boating skills (paddle strokes, rescue competency, paddling fitness) as well as the outdoor skills, knowledge, resourcefulness and experience necessary to be useful and reliable leaders with other guides and for clients. They are expected to be competent with all aspects of guiding clients by sea kayaks in remote wilderness settings.

#### **Format**

Participants must come fully prepared to:

- Lead on water sessions
- Rescue and be rescued at any time
- Camp out and prepare their own meals
- Move to another location to obtain suitable conditions

#### **Exam Length**

Two full days including overnight camping (and evenings). Do not plan on having any “spare time”. Your exam may or may not consist of an overnight component – your Examiners will determine this ahead of time and advise you.

#### **Evaluation**

The exam has two main components consisting of a written exam of multiple-choice questions and short answers, and a practical examination requiring demonstrations and scenarios. Each participant will be placed in a leadership position.

#### **Passing**

A minimum grade of 75% is required on the written exam.

The practical exam is divided into sections (e.g., paddling techniques, rescues, navigation, weather, leadership, etc.) and each section has multiple components graded as “pass, weak, or fail”. One “fail” or “weak” for a component (e.g. fails to “fix location” in the Navigation section) results respectively in a fail or weak mark for that section. Three weak components in a section results in a “fail” for that section. To pass the practical exam, no more than 2 sections can be considered “weak”, or one section as a “fail”. **Note:** in order to pass, a candidate cannot fail any of 3 key areas: paddling techniques, rescue techniques, or judgement and leadership section.

Conditional passes may be granted at the discretion of the Examiners and with provisions for re-examination of specific sections within a specific time period.

Failed candidates must wait a minimum of 6 months before re-examination.

#### **Equipment**

Participants will **need** the following for the exam:

- A seaworthy sea kayak
- Paddle & spare paddle
- PFD
- Spray deck
- Tow line
- Rescue stirrup/loop
- Paddle float
- Manual hand held pump
- Overnight camping equipment
- Hand held compass
- Chart of the exam area and chart case
- Wet suit or dry suit (something you can comfortably paddle in)
- Helmet appropriate for dynamic sea kayaking
- Change of warm dry clothing
- Pen, paper, clip board or equivalent
- Food & water for two days
- Emergency insulation & shelter

**Optional equipment**, but highly recommended (the more the better):

- VHF radio
- Flares
- Relevant tide and current books/tables

### **Itinerary**

The specific order for conducting the exam is flexible and is ultimately at the discretion of the Examiners. The following itinerary is an outline of a standard format. All exams will consist of the same content, however presentation may vary.

#### **Day 1 – Start time 8:30 a.m.**

- Registration & administration (waivers, medical forms, etc.)
- Practical navigation exam – use of charts with compasses on land
- Practical weather exam – recording and understanding weather forecasts
- Pre-trip safety talk and kayak outfitting
- On land and water introductions to kayaking and basic introductory instructions
- Teaching the basics (getting in/out, strokes, in the event of a capsized, etc.)
- Lunch
- Practical rescue exams (solo / assisted / group)
- Intermediate and advanced paddling techniques
- Towing (solo & tandem)
- Paddling in current and/or surf
- Group management in the current and surf zones
- Set up Camp and Dinner break
- Written exam (allow about 1.5 hours)

#### **Day 2 – Start time 8:00 a.m.**

Leadership – participants will take turns leading the group and deal with scenarios and problems as they arise, as well as being observed for the following:

- Group dynamics
- Communication skills
- On-water group management
- Risk assessment
- Route planning
- Lunch (note: may or may not occur during someone's group leading time)
- Wrap up

**End time will vary depending on the number of participants in the exam. Ideally, this will not be later than 5 p.m., however it may go later. Consists of individual debriefing and recognition of pass, conditional, or fail.**

### **Notes**

- Do not make any other plans during the exam period
- All fees must be paid prior to exam commencement
- A medical form & liability waiver must be read, filled out and signed prior to exam
- Participants must come fully prepared and equipped for the exam
- Participants must be prepared to relocate during the exam and must not rely upon Examiners to provide transportation