Sea Kayak Leader

Assessment Guide

For Assessors and Candidates

Photo: Mark Rayward 2 Explore

Assessment Notes

This Assessment Guide is to assist assessors with judging a candidates competency. All judgements must be based on current best practice and industry standards. This guide is also to help candidates know what they will be assessed on and what assessment tasks they will be asked to complete.

- Assessors can use 3 types of direct evidence to judge a candidates competency:
  - Workbook answers.
  - Observation of practical tasks.
  - Questioning and discussion.
- Evidence of personal paddling skills can be demonstrated through games, warm-up activities or drills. While these would normally be demonstrated as part of the personal competence part of the assessment, they could be demonstrated as part of the model student day.
- Candidates are required to manage a number of rescue scenarios. These would normally be done with other candidates as part of the personal competence part of the assessment. The expected standard for these tasks is that each candidate has a turn being the leader and that they must have control of the group throughout the task. No person or equipment should be at risk of being blown away or drifting apart from the group.

Technical Competence

1. **Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of sea kayaking gear and equipment.**

   The candidate will:

- Use equipment that is in good condition and is well maintained.
- Complete a pre-activity check of equipment for damage and fit.
- Uses equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current best practice.
- Adjust foot pegs so they have control of the rudder and kayak stability.
- Ensure all hatches are sealed and their hand pump is securely attached to their sea kayak.
- Stow safety equipment appropriate for intended trip and have the minimum following safety equipment; flares, either a VHF radio or a cell phone, a first aid kit, hand pump and a tow line.
- Choose clothing and footwear that is appropriate for the season and weather.
- Correctly fit their PFD.
- Correctly fit spray deck to their sea kayak.
- For all equipment used demonstrate and/or be able to describe; the properties, common use, advantages, limitations, minimisation of wear, damage checking and storage.

2. **Demonstrate effective personal paddling skills on flat or sheltered water.**

    The candidate will demonstrate the following using a single sea kayak:

- Entering the water using a method appropriate to the location.
- Launching and landing from a beach in surf up to 0.5m
- Forward and reverse paddling.
- Forward and reverse sweep strokes on both sides and used in combination.
- Simple draw strokes on both sides to move kayak 1m sideways.
- Support strokes on both sides to recover from 45°.
- Stopping within 3 strokes from fast paddling.
- Using a combination of strokes, edging and railing, to manoeuvre around objects, other craft and to raft up.

3. **Demonstrate effective rescue techniques and management on flat or sheltered water.**

    The candidate will demonstrate the following using a single sea kayak. Tasks may be combined as a scenario and times adjusted accordingly:

- A wet exit with a spray deck.
- Assisted self-rescue and re-entry completed (kayak pumped out, spray deck secure, ready to paddle) in under 3 minutes (assisted means use of paddle float or similar aid)
- Unassisted self-rescue and re-entry completed (kayak pumped out, spray deck secure, ready to paddle) in under 3 minutes (unassisted means 'John Wayne' or straddle type re-entry.
- Effective swimming in normal paddling gear to release a trapped paddler, and to retrieve and gather together equipment.
- A rescue and re-entry of a paddler who has capsized from a single kayak completed (kayak pumped out, spray deck secure, ready to paddle) in under 2 minutes.
- A rescue and re-entry of two paddlers who have capsized from a double kayak completed (kayak pumped out, spray deck secure, ready to paddle) in under 5 minutes.
- Assisting a paddler who is weak, cold or injured back into their kayak using a stirrup or similar aid – to be completed as part of the double kayak capsize scenario and demonstrating sound prioritisation of tasks, communication, and situational management.
- Using an effective quick response towline system to tow a kayak or an unconscious swimmer and be able to release the tow immediately if required.
- Using an effective long towline system to tow a kayak and paddler, and be able to release the tow immediately if required.

The Environment

4. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills.

The candidate will:

- Obtain a relevant weather forecast for the planned sea kayaking session/trip and provide a verbal summary of the forecast.
- Describe the implications of the weather forecast for the planned sea kayaking session/trip and make decisions about the session/trip based on the forecast.
- Observe any changes to the weather and modify the session/trip if necessary.

5. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited.

The candidate will:

- Provide interpretive information about the natural or cultural history of the area.
- Provide interpretive information about local flora and fauna.

6. Understand and role model accepted environmental practices.

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate or describe awareness of responsibilities for sites visited and to land owners and other users.
- Role model Leave No Trace principles and/or the New Zealand Environmental Care Code.

Group Management and Leadership

7. Lead and manage a group sea kayaking on flat or sheltered water.

The candidate will be responsible for a group of participants sea kayaking in a flat or sheltered water environment for a minimum of 1 hour and demonstrate:

- Preparing and briefing the group including setting boundaries/safe areas and ground rules.
- Manage time appropriately in relation to the activity/trip plan and conditions.
- Coaching, encouraging, motivating participants to ensure they are interested, engaged and have a fun and positive experience.
- Effective management of the group on the water including keeping the group together and a system for accounting for everyone.
- Managing capsizes and gear recovery efficiently.
- Establishing rapport with participants and an awareness of the emotional, cultural and other needs of the group.

8. Demonstrate effective safety management.

The candidate will:

- Leave intentions information with an appropriate group/organisation/person.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the risks and appropriate risk management strategies for a flat or sheltered water environment.
- Select a suitable venue/trip and demonstrate an awareness of any location specific hazards.
- Stow safety equipment appropriate for intended trip and have the minimum following safety equipment; flares, either a VHF radio or a cell phone, a first aid kit, hand pump and a tow line.
- Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their participants.
- Demonstrate safe practices and good judgement and decision making within the scope of this qualification.

Instruction

9. Plan and prepare an introductory sea kayak experience.

The candidate will prepare a written plan which will contain the following information:

- A clearly defined purpose and session appropriate for the group.
- A logical sequence of progressions and activities.
- Any consent or access issues.
- A gear list for participants and a group gear list.
- A weather forecast.
- Risk and hazard identification and management.
- Emergency procedures.

10. Instruct a group in the sea kayaking skills required for a positive introductory experience.

The candidate will provide participants with effective instruction in the following sea kayaking skills:

- Selection and fitting of sea kayak, paddle, PFD and clothing appropriate for the conditions.
- Carrying and packing kayaks.
- Getting into and out of kayak at water's edge.
- Forward and backwards paddling.
- Turning and use of rudder.
- Stopping.

The candidate will use:

- A logical sequence of progressions.
- Clear demonstrations and explanations.