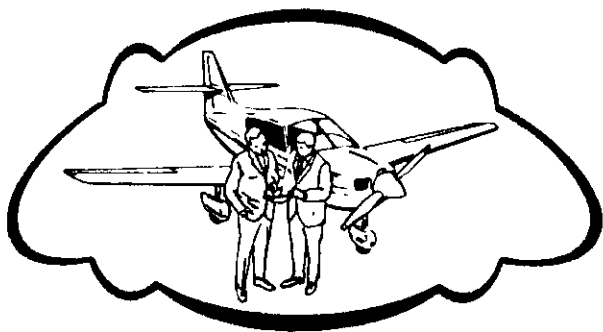


AC 61-58A

PRACTICAL TEST GUIDE



FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR



REVISED 1978

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

PRACTICAL TEST GUIDE

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

Airplane
Single-engine
Multiengine

Rotorcraft
Helicopter
Gyroplane

Glider

Instrument
Airplane
Helicopter

Revised 1978

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Flight Standards Service

APPLICANT'S TEST CHECKLIST

(Suggested)

APPOINTMENT WITH INSPECTOR/EXAMINER

Name _____

Time/Date _____

ACCEPTABLE AIRCRAFT WITH DUAL CONTROLS

- ☐ Aircraft Documents:
 - Airworthiness Certificate
 - Registration Certificate
 - Operating Limitations
 - Pilot's Operating Handbook/Aircraft Flight Manual

- ☐ Aircraft Maintenance Records:
 - Airworthiness Inspections

- ☐ FCC Station License

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

- ☐ Lesson Plan Form
- ☐ View-Limiting Device
- ☐ Aircraft Checklist

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Pilot Certificate
- ☐ Medical Certificate
- ☐ Signed Recommendation
- ☐ Written Test Results
- ☐ Logbook
- ☐ Notice of Disapproval (if applicable)
- ☐ Approved School Graduation Certificate (if applicable)
- ☐ FCC Radiotelephone Operator Permit

PREFACE

This guide was prepared by the Flight Standards Service of the Federal Aviation Administration to assist the instructor applicant in preparing for the Flight Instructor practical test.

In preparing for the test, the applicant should also refer to the applicable Federal Aviation Regulations; the current editions of the FAA Airman's Information Manual; AC 60-14, Aviation Instructor's Handbook; AC 61-21, Flight Training Handbook; AC 61-13, Basic Helicopter Handbook; or AC 61-27, Instrument Flying Handbook, as appropriate. If a flight instructor glider rating is sought, the applicant should refer to training publications approved by the Soaring Society of America, Inc.

In addition to providing help to the applicant and the applicant's instructor, this publication provides guidance to the FAA Inspector/Examiner in conducting the flight instructor practical test.

This edition supersedes Advisory Circular 61-58, Flight Instructor Practical Test Guide, dated 1973.

Comments about this guide may be sent to:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
Flight Standards National Field Office
Examinations Standards Branch, AFS-590
P.O. Box 25082
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125**

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U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402
Stock Number 050-001-00076-3

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pilot certification requires that applicants demonstrate competency in the appropriate *pilot operations* listed in Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 61. Pilot operations are related procedures and maneuvers which involve the skills and knowledge required of a person to function safely and efficiently as a pilot. The procedures and maneuvers are described in various pilot training manuals, and in the appropriate FAA flight test guide for each certification/rating area.

Part 61 *does not* list the procedures and maneuvers to be used by flight instructors in teaching pilot operations. Instead, the instructor has the responsibility for selecting the appropriate procedures and maneuvers, as training devices, which will help students understand the basic principles involved in performing each required pilot operation.

To teach a student a specific pilot operation, the flight instructor must be able to perform correctly the procedures and maneuvers associated with that pilot operation. The flight instructor is also required to know the purpose and limitations of each procedure or maneuver involved in that specific pilot operation. In addition, the flight instructor must be able to select and effectively convey the elements of each procedure or maneuver in a manner that is

based on the personal evaluation of the aptitude, background, and deficiencies of the student being trained.

Flight Instructor Practical Test

The flight instructor practical test will consist of an oral and a flight test on the items specified by subparagraphs (1) through (6) of § 61.187(a) of Part 61. This includes teaching techniques and the performance and analysis of standard flight training procedures and maneuvers appropriate to the instructor rating sought. The flight training procedures and maneuvers that the instructor applicant may be asked to demonstrate will be selected by the Inspector/Examiner at the time of the test. These training procedures and maneuvers, with the exception of the spin (airplanes and gliders) and autorotative touchdown (helicopters), are contained in the FAA Private, Commercial, and Instrument Pilot Flight Test Guides appropriate to the category and/or class rating sought.

Use of This Guide

In outlining the items to be covered on the oral and flight portions of the flight instructor practical test, this guide serves to explain the test requirements of §§61.183(e) and 61.187(a) (1) through (6). The guide provides the **Objective, Description, and Acceptable Performance Guidelines** for each item in the test.

The **Objective** states briefly the purpose of each item, and provides the goal(s) to be attained.

The **Description** explains how the objective of the item can best be fulfilled.

The **Acceptable Performance Guidelines** set forth the standards which should be used by the Inspector/Examiner in deciding whether the objective of the item has been met.

The applicant's performance will be evaluated on the teaching skills displayed and on the analysis of the flight training procedures and maneuvers demonstrated. During the flight portion of the practical test, failure to observe safe practices or to exercise proper vigilance and take positive action to ensure an adequately cleared flight area shall disqualify the applicant.

The applicant will be expected to know the meaning and significance of the aircraft performance speeds that are important to the pilot, and to be able to readily determine these speeds for the aircraft to be used.

The applicant should note that the *Flight Instructor Practical Test Guide* differs from Private, Commercial, and Instrument Pilot Flight Test Guides in that its items are *specifically required*, rather than optionally selected by the Inspector/Examiner conducting the test. Only under *Performance and Analysis of Standard Flight Training Procedures and Maneuvers* is the Inspector/Examiner authorized to select or "sample" items.

INSTRUCTOR PRACTICAL TEST PREREQUISITES

An applicant for a flight instructor practical test is required by Federal Aviation Regulations to have:

1. Passed the appropriate flight instructor written test(s) within 24 months before the date of the application for the practical test;
2. A commercial pilot or airline transport pilot certificate with an aircraft rating appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought;
3. An instrument rating, if applying for an airplane or an instrument instructor rating;
4. The prescribed aeronautical experience and instruction for a flight instructor certificate with the rating sought;
5. A first or second class medical certificate issued within the past 12 months (in the case of a flight instructor glider rating, a certificate stating that no known medical deficiency exists);
6. Reached the age of 18 years; and
7. A logbook endorsement from a certificated instructor certifying that the applicant has been given flight instruction in the items required by § 61.187(a), and that the applicant has been found competent to pass a practical test on these items.

AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE PRACTICAL TEST

The instructor applicant is required by FAR 61.45 to provide an airworthy certificated aircraft for use during the practical test. This section further requires that the aircraft—

1. Have fully functioning dual controls, except as provided for in FAR 61.45(c) and 61.45(e); and
2. Be capable of all the pilot operations appropriate for the instructor rating sought and have no operating limitations which prohibit the performance of those operations. A complex airplane (retractable gear, flaps, and controllable prop) need be furnished for demonstrating only the pilot operations requiring such equipment. If an airplane or instrument instructor rating is sought, the aircraft must also have adequate flight instruments to enable the applicant to control the aircraft without the aid of outside references.

The instructor applicant is also required by FAR 61.45 to furnish satisfactory equipment that excludes outside visual references if applying for a flight test which involves flight maneuvers solely by reference to instruments.

In addition, if the applicant is applying for an instrument instructor rating, the radio equipment required is that which is necessary for communications with ATC and for the performance of VOR, ADF, and ILS (glide slope and localizer) approaches. See FAR 61.65(c) and FAR 61.65(d).

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR PRACTICAL TEST

Oral Test

I. Preparation of Flight Lesson Plan

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant can develop an organized and effective flight lesson appropriate to a student with specified educational and general experience who is at a specified stage of flight training.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be requested to prepare, *after* reporting for the test, a lesson for a student with the background, flight experience, and aptitude specified by the Inspector/Examiner. A previously prepared lesson plan will not be accepted. The lesson plan should include at least:

- a. The student's name and date of the lesson;
- b. The lesson subject (assigned by the Inspector/Examiner);
- c. Objectives of the lesson;
- d. Flight elements involved;
- e. Schedule of training within lesson;
- f. Equipment to be used;
- g. Instructor's actions;
- h. Student's actions; and
- i. Evaluation standards.

The assigned lesson will be appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought and consist primarily of a demonstration of dual flight instruction given by the applicant. The lesson

should take no more than one hour of flight time.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The instructor applicant shall be able to prepare, in not more than 20 minutes, a flight lesson appropriate for the specified "student." The lesson plan shall be appropriate to the assumed background, flight experience, and aptitude of the "student" and in sufficient detail for the training proposed. The evaluation standards for completion of the lesson shall match the lesson objective.

II. EVALUATION OF STUDENT FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant can evaluate a student pilot's competency and decide when the student is ready for more advanced instruction, solo privileges, or flight test recommendation.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be asked to describe in detail the procedure and standards used for determining when a student is ready for more advanced instruction, endorsement for first solo or solo cross-country flight, or a flight test recommendation. Specifically, this may include evaluations leading to any of the following:

- a. Initial takeoff and landing instruction;
- b. Certificate endorsement for first solo;
- c. Certificate endorsement for solo in additional type of aircraft;

- d. Certificate endorsement for first solo cross-country;
- e. Logbook endorsement for continuing solo operations;
- f. Logbook endorsement for a specific cross-country flight;
- g. Recommendation for a flight test for a pilot certificate, instrument rating, or additional aircraft rating.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The evaluation standards which the instructor applicant proposes to use for determining when to issue any of the authorizations or endorsements listed in the "Description" above shall be appropriate to the operating privileges to be extended. These standards must be sufficient to establish the student's ability to conduct the operations involved safely, under normal flight conditions and situations, and to cope with foreseeable emergencies.

III. EFFECTIVE PREFLIGHT AND POSTFLIGHT INSTRUCTION

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant has a basic understanding of how people learn, the steps in the teaching process, and the principles of effective communications, and can apply this knowledge during the preflight briefing and postflight critique.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be required to discuss human behavior and the learning process, communication and

teaching processes, and the elements of preflight briefings and postflight critiques. In addition, the applicant will be asked to present to the Inspector/Examiner, as would be presented to a student, a preflight briefing appropriate to the lesson plan developed under Oral Test, Item I (page 6 of this guide). A postflight critique following the presentation listed under Flight Test, Item I (page 13 of this guide) will also be required of the instructor applicant.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The instructor applicant shall comprehensively explain the fundamentals of teaching and learning, and shall properly apply these fundamentals during a preflight briefing and postflight critique for the lesson being given to the Inspector/Examiner.

IV. FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND CERTIFYING PROCEDURES

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant clearly perceives the responsibilities of a certificated flight instructor to a student and understands the authorized student certifications and endorsement procedures.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be asked to describe the responsibilities of a flight instructor in providing correct, adequate flight and ground instruction, and exercising due responsibility toward students and other

pilots. In addition, the applicant will be asked to explain endorsements which are usually entered on students' certificates and logbooks. Specifically, the instructor applicant shall know how to complete and attest to the following:

- a. A logbook entry for each period of flight instruction;
- b. A logbook entry or other certification of ground instruction given;
- c. Endorsement of a Student Pilot Certificate for first solo flight, including the appropriate logbook entry;
- d. Endorsement of a Student Pilot Certificate for solo in an additional make and model of aircraft, including the appropriate logbook entry;
- e. Endorsement of a Student Pilot Certificate for first solo cross-country flight, including the appropriate logbook entry;
- f. Endorsement of a student logbook for continuing solo flights (as required within the past 90 days);
- g. Endorsement of a student logbook for a specific solo cross-country flight, which may include en route stops;
- h. Endorsement of a student logbook for repeated solo flights over a specified course;
- i. Preparation of a recommendation for a pilot flight test, including the appropriate logbook entry; and

- j. Endorsement of a pilot logbook for satisfactory completion of a biennial flight review.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The instructor applicant shall demonstrate a complete awareness of the importance of giving correct, effective, and conscientious instruction, and of the importance of fostering student motivation. The applicant shall correctly describe and demonstrate the accurate execution of each of the items listed under "Description" above.

V. Performance and Analysis of Standard Flight Training Procedures and Maneuvers

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant is familiar with the objectives, performance, and use of each standard flight training procedure or maneuver for each pilot operation that the applicant will be authorized to teach.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be requested to describe in detail the objectives, correct performance, common student errors, and application of flight procedures and maneuvers selected from the flight test guides which are appropriate to the instructor rating sought. The applicant will be questioned sufficiently to determine that personal experience has occurred in performing the procedures and maneuvers being described. In addition, the ap-

plicant will be questioned about airworthiness restrictions to flight operations, and the associated hazards of disregarding those restrictions.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The instructor applicant's descriptions and answers to specific questions shall be accurate and complete. The discussions shall show that the applicant has personally performed each of the standard procedures and maneuvers involved, and has correctly analyzed the elements involved in their performance and in their effective use in training. A lack of knowledge of aircraft airworthiness restrictions to flight operations and the hazards of such operations shall be disqualifying.

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR PRACTICAL TEST

Flight Test

I. Conduct of Flight Lesson

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant can effectively conduct the flight lesson that was planned under Oral Test, Item I (page 6).

1. **Description** The instructor applicant will be requested to conduct the planned flight lessons (the Inspector/Examiner will simulate the role of the "student"). The applicant will be required to conduct the lesson (including the preflight briefing and postflight critique) in the same manner as should be conducted for an actual student. The Inspector/Examiner may ask the applicant to omit portions of the planned lesson to expedite the flight test, and may terminate this phase of the test when satisfied that the applicant is competent in this area.

2. **Acceptable Performance Guidelines** The instructor applicant shall conduct the lesson as planned. The plan shall be modified however, if the "student's" performance calls for special instruction in a particular area, if repetition is needed to reinforce understanding, or if progress is more rapid than expected. The instruction shall be correct, specific, and free of excessive and meaningless explanations.

II. ANALYSIS AND CORRECTION OF STUDENT PILOT FLIGHT ERRORS

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant can accurately analyze student pilot flight errors and can correct those errors effectively.

1. Description The Inspector/Examiner, acting as a student with specified flight experience, will perform the flight maneuvers which were selected from the appropriate flight test guide. The instructor applicant will be asked to judge this performance and correct any detected errors in the most effective manner. The applicant will be expected to analyze the detected errors and make corrections appropriate to the performance of a student with the specified flight experience. The applicant should be prepared to explain to the Inspector/Examiner any errors detected and to give the reasons for the corrective action selected. This analysis may involve the maneuver in the planned lesson or may be other selected training maneuvers.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The instructor applicant shall make accurate observations and analyses of flight errors committed by the "student," and shall recommend corrective action appropriate to the "student's" assumed ability. Consistently correcting errors which are beyond the student's ability to recognize (without explanation) or correcting errors which are nonexistent indicates a poor instructing performance. The

recommended corrective action must be understandable to the "student," and effective in correcting both the error and any misunderstanding which may have caused it.

III. PERFORMANCE AND ANALYSIS OF STANDARD FLIGHT TRAINING PROCEDURES AND MANEUVERS

Objective

To determine that the instructor applicant can perform, analyze, and apply each standard flight training procedure or maneuver to the appropriate pilot operation.

To determine that the airplane and glider instructor applicant can completely recover from incipient or fully developed spins, and that the helicopter instructor applicant can safely accomplish autorotative landings.

1. Description The instructor applicant will be requested to perform flight procedures or maneuvers selected from the flight test guides pertinent to the instructor rating sought. The applicant will be asked to explain the elements involved in any of these procedures or maneuvers and their relation and importance to the correct performance of the whole procedure or maneuver. The applicant will also be asked to identify common errors in student performance and to suggest the most effective corrective action to be taken.

During flight tests in airplanes and gliders, the instructor applicant may be asked to demonstrate the recognition of and recovery from spin situations which might be encountered in poorly executed maneuvers during student training flights. If the Inspector/Examiner places the airplane or glider in such a spin situation, the applicant should inform the Inspector/Examiner when taking control—then the applicant should promptly recover and return the aircraft to normal level flight. **INTENTIONAL SPINNING OF AN AIRCRAFT FOR WHICH THE SPIN MANEUVER IS NOT SPECIFICALLY APPROVED BY THE TYPE CERTIFICATE IS NOT AUTHORIZED.** (At the discretion of the Inspector/Examiner conducting the test, a logbook record attesting to the spin competency of the applicant may be accepted in lieu of the demonstration. FAR 61.45 requires that the logbook record be certified by the flight instructor who conducted the spin instruction. Glider Instructor applicants may demonstrate spin competency in either gliders or airplanes.)

During flight tests in helicopters, the instructor applicant may be asked to accomplish a landing from an autorotative descent as might be necessary in the event of power failure during student training flights. (At the discretion of the Inspector/Examiner conducting the test, a logbook record attesting

to the competency of the applicant in accomplishing autorotative landings may be accepted in lieu of the demonstration. The logbook record shall be certified by the flight instructor who conducted the autorotative landing instruction.) If the Inspector/Examiner requests that a touchdown be made, the applicant should continue the autorotative descent, flare, and touchdown in an appropriate attitude, maintaining positive directional control.

2. Acceptable Performance Guidelines The assigned flight procedures and maneuvers shall be performed to the standards in the pertinent flight test guides.

When a spin demonstration is performed, the applicant shall recognize a spin situation and take prompt, positive control to recover with a minimum loss of altitude.

When a touchdown from an autorotative descent is performed, the applicant shall flare properly and make a timely and effective pitch application. The applicant shall make a smooth touchdown at a safe speed, in an appropriate landing attitude, while maintaining positive directional control.