

Ground Portion – Private Pilot Practical Study Notes

The Practical Test comes from the ACS. If you want to be prepared, be very familiar with the ACS!
These notes cover areas of emphasis

- Check IACRA forms. Be sure to have paper copy of completed IACRA that has been electronically signed by the Recommending Instructor. The Candidate will sign in the presence of the Examiner as the Practical starts.
- Review hours summary to make sure all requirements are met, may look at log book to confirm. Have pertinent flights flagged (like night cross-country and long solo cross-country). Don't "double dip" on Instrument time and Hood time. Check distances on cross-country flights, leg and total.
- Airplane
 - AR(R)OW docs required to be in the airplane
 - Maintenance summary (bring maintenance logbooks, pictures of most recent entries are OK)
 - Maintenance logs should be tabbed
 - ADs – what are they, how are they issued, do any apply to this airplane
 - General mechanical knowledge - engine, fuel, oil systems
 - Systems – what operates on the system, what do you lose, what is backup
 - Electrical
 - Vacuum
 - Pitot-Static
 - Static
- Review weight and balance of the aircraft and what category the plane is in currently.
 - Effects of forward CG vs aft CG
 - Utility category vs the Normal Category. What are they and why do they matter.
 - Be prepared to recalculate weight and balance for a scenario given by the examiner
- Spin Awareness
 - Why do them in Utility category
 - What causes a spin?
 - How to avoid getting in a spin
 - How to recover from a spin (PARE).
- Emergency descent
 - Three reasons (and only three – look at the ACS)
 - How to fly it
- Flight plan for cross-country
 - Why you selected specific route, how you picked checkpoints
 - Why you selected altitude(s)
 - What would you change if the flight had been at night?
- Aircraft performance
 - Explain (from Cruise performance tables) how you computed fuel burn
 - Explain (from Takeoff and Landing tables) how you know that you can use the airports in your cross-country
 - Be prepared to calculate Landing and Takeoff distance for a different airport given a different weather scenario (temperature, winds, etc)

- Three very important areas - **Weather, Airspace, Sectional**
 - Weather - where did you get your weather, what was your process for deciding if weather would be good for your flight, how will you get updates on weather during your flight. Know where to get weather forecast (winds, visibility, and ceiling) if the airport is not served by a TAF.
 - Airspace – five things for each airspace (A to G - all of them!):
 1. How to identify on sectional
 2. How to get into the airspace (radio calls)
 3. Equipment – minimum required for each airspace
 4. Certification for the pilot
 5. VFR Weather minimums (cloud clearances and visibility)
 - Sectional
 - o Any symbol on the sectional is fair game (L*, Wildlife Refuge, obstructions, frequencies, SUAs, TFRs)
 - o Mode C veil, TRSA, Class E to surface
- Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Cause, symptoms, effects, prevention
- Hypoxia. What is the cause, what are symptoms, what are effects, how to recover
- Oxygen requirements and altitudes (12500, 14000, 15000)
- Fuel requirements – VFR day and VFR night
- ELT- difference between 121.5 and 406