U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration

FAA-S-8081-9E

Flight Instructor Instrument
For Airplane & Helicopter
Practical Test Standards

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC 20591

Aviation Supplies & Academics, Inc.
Newcastle, WA 98059

U.S. Department
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FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR INSTRUMENT
Practical Test Standards
for
Airplane Rating and Helicopter Rating

November 2023

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Washington, DC 20591

Foreword

FAA-S-8081-9E, Flight Instructor Instrument Practical Test Standards for Airplane Rating and Helicopter Rating is published by the FAA to establish the standards for flight instructor instrument practical test for airplane and helicopter ratings.

FAA-S-8081-9E supersedes FAA-S-8081-9D, Flight Instructor Instrument Practical Test Standards for Airplane and Helicopter with Changes 1 & 2, dated July 2010.

Major Enhancements

- All references were reviewed and updated throughout the PTS.
- Changed “cockpit” to “flight deck” throughout the PTS.
- The following changes were made to the Introduction:
  - Updated reference list in “PTS Description” section
  - Updated “Abbreviations/Acronyms” section
  - Updated “Practical Test Prerequisites” section
  - Updated “Aircraft and Equipment Requirements” section
  - Added “Evaluator Responsibility” section
  - Updated Task Table
  - Updated Checklists
- Single-Pilot Resource Management sub paragraph 1-6 was removed.
- Appendix 2 – Non-FSTD Device Credit was removed.
- Appendix 3 – Judgement Assessment Matrix was removed.

Table of Contents

I. AREA OF OPERATION: FUNDAMENTALS OF INSTRUCTING

NOTE: The evaluator shall select at least TASK E, F, and G and one other task.

A. TASK: LEARNING PROCESS

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of the learning process by describing:

1. Learning theories.
2. Characteristics of learning.
3. Principles of learning.
4. Levels of learning.
5. Learning physical skills.
6. Memory.
7. Transfer of learning.

B. TASK: HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of human behavior and effective communication as it applies to the teaching/learning process by describing:

1. Human behavior—
   a. control of human behavior.
   b. human needs.
   c. defense mechanisms.
   d. the flight instructor as a practical psychologist.
2. Effective communication
   a. basic elements of communication.
   b. barriers of effective communication.
   c. developing communication skills.

C. TASK: TEACHING PROCESS

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of the teaching process by describing:

1. Preparation of a lesson for a ground or flight instructional period.
2. Presentation methods.
3. Application, by the student, of the material or procedure that was presented.
4. Review and evaluation of student performance.
5. Problem-based learning.

D. TASK: TEACHING METHODS

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of teaching methods by describing:

1. Material organization.
2. The lecture method.
3. The cooperative or group learning method.
4. The guided discussion method.
5. The demonstration-performance method.
6. Computer-based training method.
7. Scenario-based training method.

E. TASK: CRITIQUE AND EVALUATION

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of critique and evaluation by explaining:

1. Critique—
    a. purpose and characteristics of an effective critique.
    b. methods and ground rules for a critique.
2. Evaluation—
    a. characteristics of effective oral questions and what types to avoid.
    b. responses to student questions.
    c. characteristics and development of effective written test.
    d. characteristics and uses of performance tests, specifically, the FAA PTS.
    e. collaborative assessment (or LCG).

F. TASK: FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR CHARACTERISTICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of instructor responsibilities and professionalism by describing:

1. Aviation instructor responsibilities in—
    a. providing adequate instruction.
    b. establishing standards of performance.
    c. emphasizing the positive.
2. Flight instructor responsibilities in—
    a. providing student pilot evaluation and supervision.
    b. preparing practical test recommendations and endorsements.
    c. determining requirements for conducting additional training and endorsement requirements.
3. Professionalism as an instructor by—
    a. explaining important personal characteristics.
    b. describing methods to minimize student frustration.

G. TASK: PLANNING INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY

REFERENCE: FAA-H-8083-9.

Objective. To determine that the applicant exhibits instructional knowledge of the elements of planning instructional activity by describing:

1. Developing objectives and standards for a course of training.
2. Theory of building blocks of learning.
3. Requirements for developing a training syllabus.
4. Purpose and characteristics of a lesson plan.
5. How a scenario-based lesson is developed.

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FAA Certification Standards available from ASA:

Airman Certification Standards

- **Private Pilot** Airplane
- **Private Pilot** Rotorcraft Helicopter
- **Instrument Rating** Airplane
- **Instrument Rating** Helicopter
- **Commercial Pilot** Airplane
- **Commercial Pilot** Rotorcraft Helicopter
- **Flight Instructor** Airplane
- **Flight Instructor** Rotorcraft Helicopter
- **Airline Transport Pilot and Type Rating** Airplane
- **Remote Pilot** Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- **Aviation Mechanic** General, Airframe, Powerplant

Practical Test Standards

- **Aircraft Dispatcher**
- **Flight Instructor** Instrument Airplane & Helicopter

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