



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
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

FAA-S-8081-9E

**FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR INSTRUMENT
Practical Test Standards
for
Airplane Rating and Helicopter Rating**

November 2023

Flight Standards Service
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

Introduction.....	7
General Information.....	7
PTS Concept.....	7
PTS Description.....	7
Abbreviations/Acronyms.....	9
Use of the PTS.....	11
Special Emphasis Areas.....	12
Aircraft and Equipment Requirements.....	13
Use of FAA-Approved FSTD.....	14
Evaluator Responsibility.....	15
Flight Instructor Responsibility.....	17
Satisfactory Performance.....	18
Unsatisfactory Performance.....	19
Letter of Discontinuance.....	19
ADM, Risk Management, CRM, SRM.....	19
Applicant's Use of Checklists.....	20
Use of Distractions During Practical Tests.....	20
Positive Exchange of Flight Controls.....	20
Emphasis on Attitude Instrument Flying and Partial Panel Skills.....	21
Addition of an Instrument Rating to a Flight Instructor Certificate.....	22
Renewal or Reinstatement of a Flight Instructor.....	23

CHECKLISTS

Applicant's Practical Test Checklist.....	24
Evaluator's Practical Test Checklist.....	25

AREAS OF OPERATION

I. FUNDAMENTALS OF INSTRUCTING

A. Learning Process.....	27
B. Human Behavior and Effective Communication.....	27
C. Teaching Process.....	28
D. Teaching Methods.....	28
E. Critique and Evaluation.....	28
F. Flight Instructor Characteristics and Responsibilities.....	29
G. Planning Instructional Activity.....	29

II. TECHNICAL SUBJECT AREAS

A. Aircraft Flight Instruments and Navigation Equipment	30
B. Aeromedical Factors	31
C. Regulations and Publications Related to IFR Operations	31
D. Logbook Entries Related to Instrument Instruction.....	32

III. PREFLIGHT PREPARATION

A. Weather Information	33
B. Cross-Country Flight Planning.....	33
C. Instrument Flight deck Check	34

IV. PREFLIGHT LESSON ON A MANEUVER TO BE PERFORMED IN FLIGHT

A. Maneuver Lesson	35
--------------------------	----

V. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CLEARANCES AND PROCEDURES

A. Air Traffic Control Clearances.....	36
B. Compliance With Departure, En Route, and Arrival Procedures and Clearances.....	36

VI. FLIGHT BY REFERENCE TO INSTRUMENTS

A. Straight-and-Level Flight	38
B. Turns	38
C. Change of Airspeed in Straight-and-Level and Turning Flight..	39
D. Constant Airspeed Climbs and Descents	40
E. Constant Rate Climbs and Descents.....	40
F. Timed Turns to Magnetic Compass Headings	41
G. Steep Turns	42
H. Recovery From Unusual Flight Attitudes	43

VII. NAVIGATION AIDS

A. Intercepting and Tracking Navigational Systems and DME Arcs	44
B. Holding Procedures	45

VIII. INSTRUMENT APPROACH PROCEDURES

A. Nonprecision Instrument Approach	46
B. Precision Instrument Approach	47
C. Missed Approach.....	48
D. Circling Approach (Airplane).....	49
E. Landing From a Straight-In Approach.....	50

IX. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

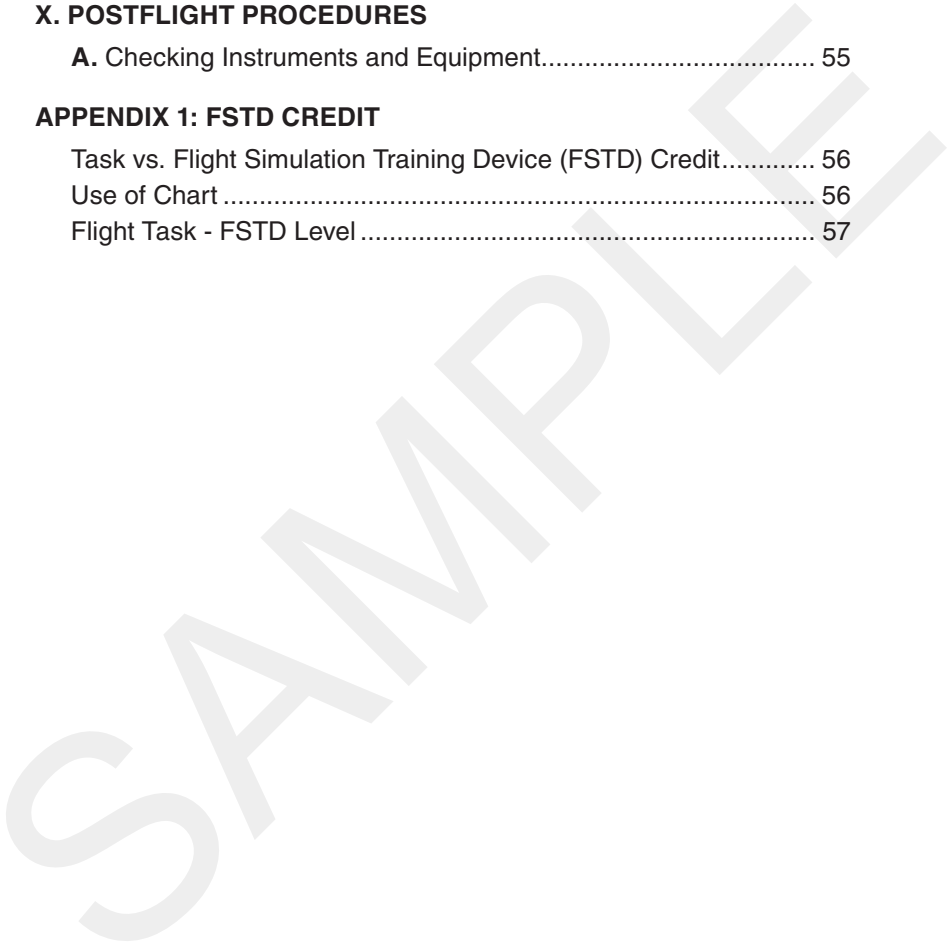
A. Loss of Communications51
B. Approach With Loss of Primary Flight Instrument Indicators51
C. Engine Failure During Straight-and-Level Flight and Turns
 (Multiengine)..... 52
D. Instrument Approach—One Engine Inoperative (Multiengine). 53

X. POSTFLIGHT PROCEDURES

A. Checking Instruments and Equipment..... 55

APPENDIX 1: FSTD CREDIT

Task vs. Flight Simulation Training Device (FSTD) Credit..... 56
Use of Chart 56
Flight Task - FSTD Level 57



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.

Flight Instructor Instrument

For Airplane & Helicopter

Practical Test Standards

FAA-S-8081-9E

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

Visit asa2fly.com/ptsupdate for FAA revisions affecting this title.



Aviation Supplies & Academics, Inc.
7005 132nd Place SE
Newcastle, Washington 98059 USA
425-235-1500 | asa2fly.com

ASA-8081-9E