Preparing for the CFII Practical Test

Getting Organized

The CFII Practical Test is a fairly straight forward test. The CFII oral portion will include testing of your knowledge of at least four tasks in the Fundamentals of Instruction, at least three tasks in the Technical Subject Area and at least one task in the Preflight Preparation Area. In addition, a preflight lesson on a maneuver from Area of Operation VI through IX will be selected by the examiner.

For the oral portion of the practical test, it is highly recommended that the CFI candidate have up to date FAA Handbooks, Advisory Circulars, PTS Standards, FAR/AIM, Relevant Enroute and Approach Charts, AFD, POH, Airframe, Engine/Propeller Logbooks, and AD Compliance Sheet.  It is also recommended that the CFII candidate have brief lesson plans prepared with key speaking points in order to reference it to teach the required lesson during the oral. A four part format is recommended for teaching both flight and ground lessons as follows:

1. Why – what is the reason why we are learning this? Use a scenario to make this point or if a scenario is not applicable, state the reason why this lesson or skill is useful. This uses the retention principle of association in the Fundamentals of Instruction. For example, a meaningful scenario when teaching a lesson on holding procedures would be to relate it to entering a race track type procedure turn on a specific approach.
2. What – what is the maneuver or principle of the lesson? Describe it in detail as well as how it would be performed. For example, when teaching the lesson on compass turns, it could be incorporated into an approach scenario where compass turning errors would have to be considered.
3. PTS Standards – how will this task be evaluated? For example in teaching a lesson on Precision Approaches, the instrument PTS requires no greater than a ¾ deflection of glideslope and localizer and 0 feet below and 100 above the decision altitude.
4. Common Errors – what are the most common errors as described in the relevant FAA Handbook.

By formatting your lessons plans and teaching the flight lesson in this way you will achieve a consistent approach and one that will lend itself to teaching whether in flight or in a ground lesson. Lesson plans should be no more than 1 page in bullet point format.

It is helpful but not essential to also have a syllabus which organizes the sequence of lesson plans. You can develop these yourself or use established syllabi available from a variety of providers such as Cessna, Jeppesen, etc.

The information contained in the following list should be available for the oral as well as all relevant PTS handbooks. It is also useful to have read FAA Order 8900 and 49 CFR 1553 for current TSA requirements for training U.S. and foreign students. Finally, read in detail the CFII PTS for Airplane & Helicopter as well as the AIM – particularly Chapters 1, 4, and 5 and Part 61 and 91 as they relate to instrument ratings and IFR respectively.

14 CFR Part 1 Definitions & Abbreviations

14 CFR Part 23 Airworthiness Standards

14 CFR Part 39 Airworthiness Directives

14 CFR Part 43 Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance

14 CFR Part 61 Certification of Pilots & Flight Instructors

14 CFR Part 67 Medical Standards & Certification

14 CFR Part 71 Designation of Class A, B, C, D & E Airspace Areas, Air Traffic Service Routes & Reporting Points

14 CFR Part 91 General Operating & Flight Rules

14 CFR Part 95 IFR Altitudes

14 CFR Part 97 Standard Instrument Procedures

NTSB Part 830 Notification & Reporting of Aircraft Accidents & Incidents

AC 00-2 Advisory Circular Checklist

AC 00-6 Aviation Weather

AC 00-45 Aviation Weather Services

AC 60-22 Aeronautical Decision Making

AC 60-28 English Language Skills

AC 61-65 Certification of Pilots and Flight Instructors

AC 61-84 Role of Pre-Flight Preparation

AC 90-42 Traffic Advisory Practices at Uncontrolled Airports

AC 90-48 Pilot’s Role in Collision Avoidance

AC 90-66 Recommended Traffic Patterns at Uncontrolled Airports

AC 90-105 Approval of Guidance for RNP Operations & Baro V Nav in the U.S. National Airspace System

AC 120-51 Crew Resource Management Training

FAA-H-8083-1 Aircraft Weight & Balance Handbook

FAA-H-8083-3 Airplane Flying Handbook

FAA-H-8083-15 Instrument Flying Handbook

FAA-S-8081-12 Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards

FAA-S-8081-14 Private Pilot Practical Test Standards

FAA-H-8083-15 Instrument Flying Handbook

FAA-H-8083-25 Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge

FAA-S-8081-4 Instrument Rating Practical Test Standards

FAA Order 8080.6 Conduct of Airman Knowledge Test

AIM Aeronautical Information Manual

AFD Airport Facility Directory

IAPs Instrument Approach Procedures

DPs Departure Procedures

STARs Standard Terminal Arrivals

NOTAMs Notices to Airmen

OthersEnroute Low Altitude Charts

Appropriate aircraft flight manuals

FAA-approved flight manual supplements

It is unfortunately a common occurrence that during the inspection of the airplane or airplane logbooks, it is discovered by the examiner that the airplane does not meet the standards for airworthiness, and therefore the practical test is terminated resulting in discontinuance.  It is critical, that the CFII candidate conduct a thorough pre-flight of the airplane several days before the planned checkride, inspecting all structural, cosmetic, and operational items to insure compliance and proper endorsements for all Airworthiness Directives to make sure the airplane meets the required standards.  In order to accomplish this the CFI candidate must understand FAR 91.213 and it’s implications in this regard.

4 Day CFII Program Daily Schedule

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| Ground | **INTRODUCTION MATERIAL****I FOI** A Learning ProcessB Human BehaviorC Teaching ProcessD Teaching Methods | **I FOI (Cont’d)**E Critique & EvaluationF CFI ResponsibilitiesG Planning Instruction**II TECHNICAL AREAS**A Instruments & Nav EquipB Aeromedical FactorsC Regulations & PubD Logbook Entries**IV A PREFLIGHT LESSONS** | **III PREFLIGHT PREPARATION**A Weather InformationB X-C Flight Planning**V ATC CLEARANCES**A ATC ClearancesB Dep, ER, Arr Clearances**IV A PREFLIGHT LESSONS** | **IX EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**A Lost CommunicationsB Loss of Primary Flight InstC Engine Failure During FlightAdditional Discussion Material**IV A PREFLIGHT LESSONS** |
| Flight | **III** C Instruments Check**VI INSTRUMENT FLIGHT**A Straight & LevelB TurnsC Change of AirspeedD Constant A/S Climb/DescentE Constant Rate Climb/DescentF Timed TurnsG Steep TurnsH Unusual Attitude Recovery | **VII NAVIGATION SYSTEMS**A Intercepting & Tracking & DME ArcsB Holding Procedures**VIII INSTRUMENT APPROACHES PROCEDURES**A Non PrecisionB PrecisionC Missed ApproachD Circling ApproachE Straight In Approach Landing | **VIII INSTRUMENT APPROACHES PROCEDURES**A Non PrecisionB PrecisionC Missed ApproachD Circling ApproachE Straight In Approach | **VIII INSTRUMENT APPROACHES PROCEDURES**A Non PrecisionB PrecisionC Missed ApproachD Circling ApproachE Straight In Approach |

Additional Discussion Material

* TSA citizenship documentation/security training rules
* How and why ODP’s are established
* Instructor registration with TSA
* Determination of airworthiness
* Use of scenarios
* Risk Management & ADM
* Part 61 simulator use for currency and instrument training
* GPS vs WAAS preflight & operating requirements
* Proper preparation of an instrumenrt student – failure experiences from examiners (PPT)