

# Common Weak Areas Observed On Initial CFI Practical Tests

## Airplanes

### Aerodynamics

- ☐ How lift, weight, thrust, and drag act on aircraft in a climb or descent.
- ☐ Why maneuvering speed varies with weight.
- ☐ Explanation of the relationship between center of pressure and center of gravity.
- ☐ Explanation of trim devices.
- ☐ Explanation of spin entries, spins, and spin recovery techniques.

### Airspace

- ☐ Explanation of communication requirements at an airport with an operating control tower located within class G airspace.
- ☐ Explanation of VFR weather minimums and operational requirements at an airport having class E airspace beginning at the surface.
- ☐ Explanation of class E airspace starting at other than the surface, 700', or 1,200'.
- ☐ How to obtain a special VFR clearance.
- ☐ Explanation of operations within a Terminal Radar Service Area.

### Endorsements

- ☐ Knowledge of logbook endorsements necessary to be eligible for a practical test.
- ☐ Instructor endorsements required from first solo through private-pilot certification.
- ☐ Instructor endorsements for flight and ground instruction given.

### Flight Operations

- ☐ Fundamentals of radio navigation and how to determine a LAT/LONG location.
- ☐ Radio communications, lost radio communications.
- ☐ Aircraft preflight, including knowledge of airworthiness requirements.
- ☐ Detailed knowledge of the aircraft's systems and components.

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### Flight Operations (continued)

- ☐ Landing gear system operation, including malfunction troubleshooting.
- ☐ Steep turns (maintaining angle of bank within PTS standards).
- ☐ Power-on stalls (recover as the stall occurs).
- ☐ Power-off stalls (enter from a descent and recover as the stall occurs).
- ☐ Effective demonstration of cross-control stalls.
- ☐ Effective demonstration of spin recovery (if required).
- ☐ Demonstration of successful simulated emergency approach and landing, short field, soft field, and cross-wind takeoffs and landings.
- ☐ Slips.

### Miscellaneous

- ☐ PTS—Practical Test Standards.
- ☐ CFR regulations, as applicable.
- ☐ FOI—Fundamentals of Instruction.
- ☐ English language.
- ☐ Recognition and prompt recovery from faulty landings (porpoising).
- ☐ Recognizing instructor surveillance/supervision requirements for student pilot solo flights.
- ☐ Recognizing when a student pilot is ready for first solo flight.
- ☐ Instrument instructor applicants not possessing instrument-pilot skill levels.
- ☐ Instructional ability and presentation skills.
- ☐ Aircraft airworthiness determination and maintenance records review.
- ☐ Medical certificate requirements for flight instructors.
- ☐ Limitations on performing flight instruction without a medical certificate.
- ☐ Explanation of minimum equipment lists and special flight permits.
- ☐ Explanation of the FAASTeam (WINGS Program).
- ☐ When discussing a task within an area of operation of the practical test standards, the importance of covering each element included within the task.
- ☐ Gear-up landings—Emphasis on standard procedures, how to verify, final gear checks.

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