

# **Pre-Solo Written Exam (ASEL)**

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Student Name

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Exam Administered By

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Date Exam Completed

## Introduction

FAR 61.87(b) specifies that prior to conducting solo flight, a student pilot must demonstrate satisfactory aeronautical knowledge on a knowledge test that is administered and reviewed by the student's authorized instructor and meets the requirements of the section. The test must address the student pilot's knowledge of applicable sections of FAR Parts 61 and 91, airspace rules and procedures for the airport where the solo flight will be performed and flight characteristics and operational limitations for the make and model of aircraft to be flown.

Student pilots should understand that the pre-solo written exam is a separate exam and is different from and in addition to the FAA Recreational or Private Pilot knowledge tests.

## Exam Procedures and Instructions

This pre-solo written exam will be given to a Student Pilot in anticipation of solo flight. This is an "open book" exam. Answers to most questions can be found in either the current FAR/AIM or the Pilots Operating Handbook/Owners Manual for the aircraft to be flown. Each of the questions in this exam requires the Student Pilot to supply an answer rather than choose the correct answer as in most FAA tests. Consequently, some research and digging\* will be required. When the Student Pilot completes the exam, it will be reviewed with the student's instructor. Any incorrect answers will be discussed and corrected.

This is not a pass/fail exam. All questions address important areas that are critical to safe, legal and enjoyable flying. It is most important that the information be known and understood.

## General Questions

1. What personal documents and endorsements are you required to have before you fly solo?

2. What are your limitations as a student pilot regarding carrying of passengers or cargo and flying for compensation or hire?

3. Who has the final authority and responsibility for the operation of the aircraft when you are flying solo?

4. Explain student pilot limitations regarding visibility, ceilings and flight above clouds.

5. Discuss what preflight action concerning the airport and aircraft performance is specified the regulations for a local flight.

6. What are the general requirements pertaining to the use of safety belts and shoulder harnesses?

7. What is the minimum fuel reserve for day VFR flight and on what cruise speed is the fuel reserve based?

8. What aircraft certificates and documents must be on board when you are flying solo?

9. Discuss the right-of-way rules regarding overtaking another aircraft, approaching head-on and another aircraft converging from side.

10. Who has the right-of-way when two aircraft are on final approach to land at the same time?

11. Discuss the regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol and operating an aircraft.

12. At and around your home airport, where is an operating mode C transponder required?

13. If your aircraft has an operating mode C transponder, when is it required to be turned on?

14. Except when necessary for takeoffs and landings, what are the minimum safe altitudes when flying over congested and other than congested areas?

15. List at least three sources for the local altimeter setting at an airport and another alternative if none is available.

16. When practicing steep turns, stalls and maneuvering during slow flight, the entry altitude must allow a recovery to be completed no lower than how many feet AGL? \_\_\_\_\_

17. When is a go-around appropriate?

18. Discuss the steps in the go-around process

19. What general steps should you follow after an engine failure in flight

20. During flight, you begin to see a gradual decrease in power. What is a likely cause and what should be done to remedy the situation?

21. During engine run-up, you cause rocks, debris and propeller blast to be directed toward another aircraft or person. Could this be considered careless reckless operation of an aircraft? Why or why not?

22. What altitudes should you use when operating VFR in level cruising flight at more than 3000 feet AGL and what determines those altitudes?

23. What is the emergency frequency? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Aircraft Questions**

1. List the minimum equipment and instruments that must be working properly in your aircraft for day VFR flight

2. Fill in the V-speed definitions and the corresponding speed for your training airplane.

Definition	Speed
Vs0 _____	_____
Vs1 _____	_____
Vx _____	_____
Vy _____	_____
Vfe _____	_____
Va _____	_____
Vne _____	_____

3. What is the best glide speed for your training airplane? \_\_\_\_\_MPH/KIAS

4. Describe the changes in  $V_g$  and  $V_a$  with changes in the gross weight of an aircraft.

5. What flap settings should be used in your training airplane for the following operations?

Takeoff: Normal \_\_\_\_\_ Short Field \_\_\_\_\_ Soft Field \_\_\_\_\_

Landing: Normal \_\_\_\_\_ Short Field \_\_\_\_\_ Soft Field \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe any limitations on flap use in your training airplane.



7. What grade or grades of fuel can be safely used in your aircraft? What are the colors of the recommended fuels? What happens to the color if two grades are mixed?

8. What are the minimum and maximum oil capacities for your training airplane?

9. Under what circumstances should you use carburetor heat?

10. If during flight, you experience carburetor ice and full carburetor heat is applied, what changes in engine performance would you expect?

11. Under what circumstances could a spin occur in your training aircraft?

12. Describe the spin recovery procedures for your training aircraft.

13. What is the stall speed of your training airplane in a 60 degree bank with flaps up?

### Aircraft Performance

1. Perform the following calculations using the conditions provided:

Field Elevation	1000	T/O Distance (50' obs.)	_____
Temperature	75° F	Rate of Climb	_____
Weight	Max Gross	Landing Distance (50' obs.)	_____
Wind	10 Kt. Headwind		
Runway	Hard Surface		
Altimeter Setting	29.92		

Field Elevation	5500	T/O Distance (50' obs.)	_____
Temperature	90° F	Rate of Climb	_____
Weight	Max Gross	Landing Distance (50' obs.)	_____
Wind	Calm		
Runway	Hard Surface		
Altimeter Setting	29.42		

2. What power setting in your training airplane will yield 75% power at 3000' MSL? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the TAS and fuel flow at the power setting in question 2? \_\_\_\_\_

## Weight and Balance

Enter the current weight and balance information for your training aircraft and then calculate the weight and balance for the conditions given. Use the space provided below.

Empty Wt \_\_\_\_\_ Moment \_\_\_\_\_ Useful Load \_\_\_\_\_ Gross T/O Wt. \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions:

- Full fuel
- 180 lb passenger in each seat,
- 25 lb baggage.

Is this within limits for the weight and balance for the aircraft - If this is over gross weight or out of CG range, alter the load to correct the problem.

## **Airport/Airspace**

1. What are the traffic patterns for each runway at your home airport. What is the MSL altitude for the traffic pattern?

2. How do you enter and exit the traffic pattern at your airport. What radio communications are required?

3. Describe how you would approach and enter the traffic pattern at an uncontrolled airport.

4. What radio calls are recommended as you approach and fly in the traffic pattern at uncontrolled airport?

5. What are the typical dimensions of Class D airspace and what requirement(s) must be met prior to entry?

6. What is CTAF? Explain the CTAF procedures at your home airport.

7. How can you tell if a runway is closed?

8. If you receive ATC instructions that you do not understand or feel may compromise safety, what should you do?

9. What is the meaning of each of the following ATC light signals?

	In Flight	On the Ground
Steady Green	_____	_____
Flashing Green	_____	_____
Steady Red	_____	_____
Flashing Red	_____	_____
White	_____	_____

10. What aircraft equipment and student pilot authorizations are required for a student pilot to fly solo in Class B airspace?

11. Can a student pilot request a special VFR clearance in less than VFR conditions? Explain your answer.

12. A magenta dashed line surrounds certain uncontrolled airports. What does this indicate what its significance to VFR pilots?

13. Provide visibility and cloud clearance requirements for the following airspace.

Class D \_\_\_\_\_

Class E below 10,000 MSL \_\_\_\_\_

Class G below 1,200\* AGL during the day \_\_\_\_\_

Class G below 1,200' AGL night \_\_\_\_\_

14. What are the minimum visibility and ceiling requirements for VFR flight in Class D airspace?

15. Prior to taking the runway at an uncontrolled airport, it is recommended to maneuver the airplane as needed to view the final approach area to confirm that there is no other landing traffic. At an airport with a control tower is this still a recommended maneuver? Explain your answer.