

	RECREATION AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SOUTH AFRICA	RAASA Postnet Suite #118 Private Bag X1037 Germiston 1400
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GENERAL

New On-line Exams - Category WCM, CCM, LSA, GYRO, TMG

Effective date: 09 January 2014

This year will see the introduction of the new online exams. The following information will help Instructors to prepare their students for this process. Instructors should regularly review the RAASA website for Circulars pertaining to the online exams.

Enough time is provided for both Instructors and students to familiarise themselves with the recommended publications when preparing for the exams, thereby gaining a better knowledge of the relevant subjects.

Whilst in the past, mock exams were made available, it is recognised that the exam questions and the mocks were almost identical and students could therefore prepare for their exams by way of ROTE learning. The new exams will prevent this method of learning and will require students to be better prepared and understand their subjects well.

No mock exams have been compiled at this time, however Instructors and ATO's are encouraged using their own manual exams for student preparation and perhaps even setting a mark required by the school before students attempt the on-line exams.

A real effort should be made by students to achieve a high mark on their first or second attempt at the on-line exam.

There are five main points to be considered in preparation for the new exams;

- 1) Expected Dates of Exam Implementation
- 2) The question methodology and percentage weighting.
- 3) Number of questions and pass mark.
- 4) Category Specific Exams.
- 5) Source study material.

1) Expected Dates of Exam Implementation.

In April 2014 the first 4 subjects will be made available on-line;
Air-law, Meteorology, Navigation and Human Performance.

In July 2014 the following;
Aircraft Technical - General
Principles of Flight- General

And shortly thereafter the Category Specific Exams (See point 4 below).

2) The question methodology and percentage weighting.

Previously the on-line exams presented a student with a number of questions each carrying the same percentage mark or score for a correct answer. The new on-line exams will offer the student questions which carry scores of either 2%, 3% or 4% based on the degree of difficulty of the question.

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The questioning format principally presents itself in four methods:

1a) statement based questions; e.g: "No person shall act as a flight crew member of an aircraft if, prior to each flight, the expected flight time exceeds, or is likely to exceed, the permissible hour aggregate of ;" ...then select A,B,C or D.

1b) A pure question; Is there a difference between height and altitude?

1c) Fill in the missing sections; A statement is made with missing words and the student will select which "words" from the available answers are required to complete the statement correctly.

1d) Calculation based questions. Used mainly in Navigation and Meteorology.

Students are advised to read the questions very carefully and then review all of the possible answers before just selecting an answer that sounds or initially looks correct. Each question is presented with 4 possible answers. One is 'very, or completely' correct, the others may be part correct or completely wrong!

3) Number of questions and pass mark.

Each exam presents the student with 37 questions. The student receives 18 questions with a 2% score each, 12 questions with a 3% score each and 7 questions with a 4% score each giving a possible mark of 100%. So if a student correctly marked all of the 2% and 3% questions, but did not attempt any 4% questions, they will not achieve a pass.

75% remains the required pass mark.

Time allowed: 1.5 hours for each exam

4) Category Specific Exams

The exams as listed in Point 1 above are based on general knowledge and all Categories as applicable to this circular will be required to write the general exams.

Later, a "Category Specific" exam will be made available on-line. This is only expected after July 2014.

For example: Weight Shift Microlight pilots will write a WCM specific exam and this exam will contain questions which are relevant only to this discipline of flight.

In the meantime, Instructors and ATO's should compile their own relevant exams to test their students knowledge on either WCM, CCM, LSA, TMG and GYRO with respects to any/only relevant parts of Air-law, Principles of Flight, Aircraft Technical and Meteorology.

Once the on-line exams become available the student would be required to write and pass this exam on-line only.

5) Source Study Material.

As a guideline Instructors should refer to and assist their students to study using the following publications:

Air-Law: The CARS and CATS as published on the www.caa.co.za site and the RAASA handbook "South African Civil Aviation Regulations for Recreational Pilots - Second edition or later". Parts 24, 44, 62, 67, 91 and 94.

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Aircraft Technical and Principles of flight:

FAA - A pilots handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge. Jim Davis - PPL Handbook , Avex Air Notes (ATG and POF).

Meteorology and Navigation:

Jim Davis - PPL Handbook, Aviation Weather for South Africa - Gerhard Venter, Avex Air Notes (Met and Nav).

The Pilots Radio Handbook - Dietlind Lempp.

Human Performance:

Jim Davis - PPL Handbook, FAA - A pilots handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge. Avex Air Notes and FAA Glider Pilot Handbook.

For the Category Specific exams:

WCM - Microlight Pilots Handbook -Brian Cosgrove, FAA-Weightshift Pilot Handbook.

TMG - FAA Glider Pilot Handbook,

LSA, CCM - FAA - A pilots handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge.

Jim Davis - PPL and Microlight Pilots Handbook -Brian Cosgrove.

GYRO - FAA Gyrocopter Pilots Handbook.

And, any other publication that an Instructor feels will benefit the students understanding of the subject material.

NB: No Meteorology, Navigation or Air-law questions are based on publications written for Aviators outside of South Africa.

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