

## Some frequently asked questions about the Private / Recreational Pilot Ground School Course

### 1. What's the passing grade in the PPL Ground School Course and how will I be assessed?

To earn the letter of recommendation from the BFC, you need to achieve a minimum grade of 80% on a Final Qualifying Examination conducted by the Brantford Flight Center. This exam is pretty much the same as the one you will write for Transport Canada.

However, there are four sections to this exam: Aeronautics/General Knowledge, Air Law, Meteorology and Navigation. Along with an overall grade of 80%, you must pass *each of these sections* with a minimum of 80%. It's possible to be awarded a partial pass if your overall grade is 80% but you've failed one of the sections. A supplementary test will then be arranged.

But you can't write the BFC Final at the end of the course unless you're ready.

So, there are two Term Tests in the course, each one evaluating your achievement in two of the four areas noted above. The First Term Test assesses your achievement in Aeronautics / General Knowledge and Air Law; the Second Term Test assesses your achievement in Meteorology and Navigation.

There are also weekly online reviews that figure into your Term mark. You need to achieve 80% in each of the four topics to write the BFC Final Qualifying Exam. Failure to do so will result in writing a Supplementary Test in one or more of the topics.

In short, before we send you off to Transport Canada, we want to make sure you're REALLY prepared; that you will not only pass the TC exam, but that you will achieve an excellent grade.

### 2. How much time will I need to spend on ground school between classes? What's the time commitment?



There's a great deal of material to cover. Not only that, but the material is also presented at a fairly quick pace. While 20 evenings are set aside for the course, 3 of those classes are for tests and two half-classes for review. That leaves only 16 evenings of instruction. In order to maximize the learning of all the material, a student must engage in three activities each week: 1) read the recommended section from the text, *From The Ground Up*, ahead of time; 2) listen attentively in class and make careful, detailed and comprehensive notes; 3) thoroughly review those readings and notes. A successful ground school student needs to spend at least an hour each day between classes engaging in these three activities. In short, you need to set aside a minimum of between 6 and 10 hours each week between classes to be successful.



### **3. What happens if I must miss a class?**

A great deal of important material is covered in each class. It's quite difficult to make up for this material if you're absent. That being said, there will always be extenuating circumstances that might prevent a student from attending a class: health, family matters and so forth. A student who misses a class needs to read carefully the recommended sections from the text, *From The Ground Up*, and examine the review questions based on the material covered in that class. Then, with some correspondence help from the instructor, the student should be able to get caught up.

### **4. Is the class presentation sent electronically to students after each class?**

No. To learn effectively, students must listen in class, and make careful, detailed, and comprehensive notes. And if you have a question, don't hesitate to ask!

### **5. Is it permissible to take pictures of the slide presentation?**

No. The BFC PPL Ground School slide presentations are copyrighted. You are NOT permitted to take pictures with your phone.

### **6. Is the instructor available between classes for extra help if I need it?**

Yes! Not only is the instructor available between classes, but he strongly recommends and encourages students to seek help. This will usually pertain to a question on the Review that is sent out following each class. The best way to do this is via email.

### **7. How old do I have to be to start flying lessons and when should I start?**



You can start flying at any time, as long as you can comfortably reach the aircraft controls. There is no minimum age requirement to start taking flying lessons, however you must be at least 14 years old to obtain a Student Pilot Permit which allows you to fly without an instructor on board (solo).

How soon to start? In a word: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! You do not have to wait to start the PPL Ground School Course to begin your flight lessons. Before you can get your Letter of Recommendation from the BFC, you need a minimum of 10 hours of flight instruction. And there are lots of potential impediments: weather, plane availability, instructor availability, interruptions that may come up in

your own schedule. So, the sooner you can get started, the better. You want to make sure you have those 10 hours by the time the Ground School course is completed so you can write the Transport Canada exam without delay.