



PILOT RISE
LLC

CFI Study Guide

About

This guide is to provide a general path for learner CFIs to follow in order to pass the required written exams and prepare for ground and flight training. For example, this guide will not provide training information but rather references to learn or review important knowledge.

Written Exams

For CFI-A (airplane), each learner must complete the Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI) and Flight Instructor Airplane (FIA) written tests. Unlike previous written tests, these do not require an instructor endorsement to take.

Fundamentals of Instructing - FOI Written:

Questions: 50

Time Limit: 1.5 hours

This written test is not required under certain circumstances. If the learner is a certified teacher in any state, they may not need to take this test.

For MOST, this written is among the hardest taken. This also applies to the oral portion covering Fundamentals of Instructing as well. This is because it covers new information not related to flying aircraft.

Flight Instructor Airplane - FIA Written:

Questions: 100

Time Limit: 2.5 hours

Advanced Ground Instructor - AGI Written:

Questions: 100

Time Limit: 2.5 hours

This is NOT required to become a CFI, but it will enable you to hold an advanced ground instructor certificate. For some, this may be beneficial.

Before beginning ground or flight training, each learner CFI SHOULD complete the FIA and FOI written exams. Once again, **an endorsement from an instructor is NOT REQUIRED** for these tests.

In order to prepare for the FOI and FIA writtens, each learner CFI is recommended to use **Sheppard Air**. However, before starting with Sheppard Air, we recommend each learner reviews previous notes from their Private and Commercial training as well as review the Aviation Instructor's Handbook and Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge.

Sheppard Air: <https://www.sheppardair.com/flight-instructor.htm>

Prerequit Study

Before anyone begins ground or flight training for their CFI, they should have a VERY STRONG grasp on the knowledge needed for Private and Commercial pilots. In order to build this strong understanding, learner CFIs should review any video courses they have used previously as well as review the following materials:

- CFI Package (provided with this course)
- [Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge](#)
- [Aeronautical Information Manual](#)
- [Private Pilot ACS](#)
- [Commercial Pilot ACS](#)
- Commercial Pilot Oral Prep Book
- [Airplane Flying Handbook](#)
- [Aviation Weather AC 00-6B](#)
- [Private Carriage Versus Common Carriage AC 120-12A](#)
- Regulations (guide within CFI Package)

A few other useful resources:

- [How to Best Utilize EFBs - VIDEO](#)
- [ADVANCED WEATHER - VIDEO SERIES](#)
- [Miscellaneous Instructing Videos](#)

Fundamentals of Instructing

Learning the Fundamentals of Instructing is often the most challenging part for a learner CFI. One top of learning the basics, applying the theories and teaching methods can be just as challenging. The goal of a CFI is to be an effective TEACHER rather than someone who just explains subjects. There is a MASSIVE difference between teaching someone and explaining a topic to someone. Explaining shows what information you know while teaching is where the CFI transfers their knowledge to the student in an effective way.

Study the following materials to learn the Fundamentals of Instructing in preparation for both the written and ground training:

- [Aviation Instructor's Handbook](#)
- [FOI - CFI Notebook](#)
- [Professional CFI Lesson Plans](#)

HOW TO STUDY

Everyone learns in different ways. Some are visual learners, auditory learners, kinesthetic learners, and/or reading/writing learners.

Each learner CFI should investigate which ways they learn best then change their study habits to maximize learning.

A few tricks to studying:

- Study for short regular periods rather than long periods (this maximizes memory)
- Use MEANINGFUL repetition in relation to one's learning style.
- Making a quizlet set
- Writing down key points in a notebook
- Teaching a friend what one just learned (very effective)
"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough." - Albert Einstein
- Highlighting notes
- Record one's self reading important information to later listen to while driving
- Apply knowledge learned in a practical way
- If a learner does not fully understand a topic, it should not be studied until further clarification can be made.

Starting Ground and Flight Training

Becoming a CFI requires the most amount of ground training out of most certificates compared to flying. If a learner is a skilled pilot, they usually just need to learn how to fly from the right seat, then their skills will transfer within a few flights.

The focus of CFI training is on ground instruction. The course is focused on preparing learner CFIs for providing excellent instruction. The big difference between pilot certificates and flight instructors is that bad flight instructors won't end up being the only one; they will foster a generation of bad pilots. Remember, as a CFI, be sure to never stop learning, and have an official source ready to back up anything taught.

Before beginning ground or flight training, all CFI applicants will be provided several quizzes by Pilot Rise to complete. They can attempt each one as many as they'd like. Each quiz will require a 100% to continue the course. They will all be open-book. This is to ensure each applicant has the knowledge needed and has practiced researching topics of confusion. After all, a CFI must be able to find answers for their students with an official reference.