



High school students and teachers must complete and pass their Private Pilot Knowledge Test in order to apply for a \$10,000 flight training scholarship. It's not as daunting as it sounds. Please read the following article to help get you started.

Passing Your Private Pilot Knowledge Test

Aeronautical knowledge includes diverse and interesting subjects like aerodynamics, how the systems of the airplane you are flying work, what weather to avoid, FAA regulations, principles of navigation, aeromedical factors, stall/spin awareness, and National Transportation Safety Board incident/accident reporting requirements. The FAA requires that you pass a knowledge test covering these subject areas with a grade of 70 percent or better.

Many flight schools also offer scheduled ground school courses. At others, the instructors provide the ground school in conjunction with the flight briefing and in-flight training time you receive. There are ground schools offered at community colleges and high schools, and there are intensive weekend ground schools.

What is the best way to prepare for the knowledge test? Again, this depends on the individual. If you are not motivated to study on your own, you will probably do better going to a scheduled ground school class twice a week. On the other hand, if you are self-motivated, you'll have no problem with a home-study course, along with some guidance from an instructor. What about the intensive two-day, weekend ground schools? The sole purpose of these intensive courses is to prepare you to answer the FAA test questions, so it will help you in the long run if you have reviewed the material ahead of time. There is a big difference between knowing and understanding, or as Charles Kettering, the inventor of the electric starter, said, "You can know a lot about something and not really understand it."

No matter how you decide to prepare, the best thing you can do to ensure that you understand the material is to use a variety of resources. Read aviation magazines and try different books, tapes, and videos about flying—just because a book comes in a kit from your flight school doesn't mean it's the only one you should read. Perhaps a difficult subject area can be better explained by another author. Most of all, remember that flying lessons and aeronautical study areas are related. Go prepared for each flight lesson by reading ahead so you can get the most out of your investment.

When you're ready to take the knowledge test, you will need to go to a designated testing facility where you will take the test on a computer. The flight school you attend may be set up to administer the test, but you will have to register for the test through the [PSI Website](#). Your test results will be given to you immediately, and you'll want to hold on to them because you'll need to give them to the FAA examiner when you take your practical test. Once you have taken the knowledge test, you have 24 months to complete your practical test, or you'll need to take the knowledge test again.

Private Pilot Knowledge Test preps and self-study courses can be found through various sources on the web like [Gleim Aviation](#), [ASA](#), [King Schools](#), and [Sporty's Pilot Shop](#), to name a few.

****We suggest that you consult with a flight school and/or flight instructor at your local airport before purchasing and using any test preps or self-study courses.****