

# Change Is Coming...Slowly

Too often, policy needs and resources available to develop and implement new ones are in short supply. Thankfully, that's not the case when it comes to revamping the PTS: We now have an opportunity to modernize both the knowledge and the practical test standards.

In April 2012, the FAA and industry concluded an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) on Airmen Testing Standards and Training. I served as an alternate on this committee, backing up the Executive Director of the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE).

Although the ARC was focused on the knowledge test, one of the nine recommendations in its final report called for a single airman testing standard for knowledge and skill requirements that would include the following three elements.

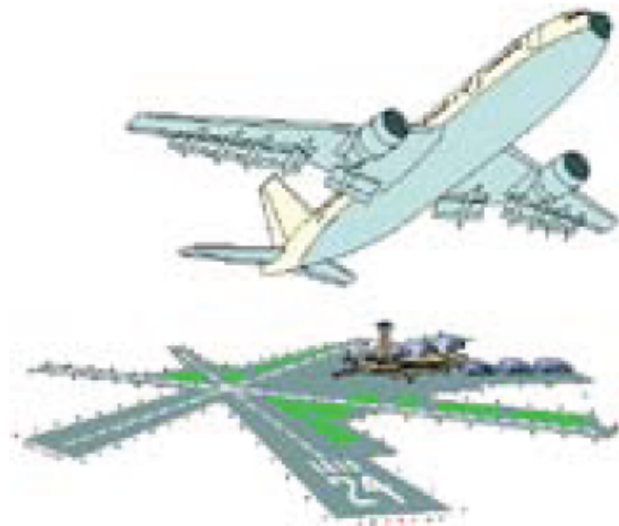
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Risk management

The ARC provided examples of how these elements should be tested and which ones were based on practical demonstration versus those that were based on academic training.

I believe concepts involving restructured practical tests easily could be developed and implemented under this ARC recommendation. It remains to be seen how rapidly FAA will act on the ARC's final report, but the agency accepted all but one of the nine recommendations, including one suggesting development of a single testing standard. The only recommendation rejected by the FAA involved opening the knowledge test question banks to public access, a controversial issue which subsequently has been widely discussed throughout industry.

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## COMMERCIAL PILOT KNOWLEDGE TEST GUIDE



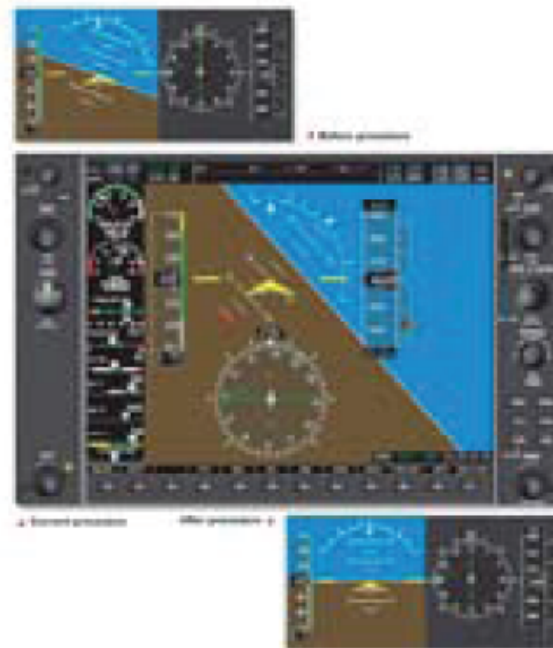
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## INSTRUMENT RATING KNOWLEDGE TEST GUIDE



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