

Pinch Hitter Flight Curriculum

I = Instructor Demonstration

S = Student

Pre-Flight

I Explain to the pinch hitter that many of the preflight activities can be completed by the pinch hitter. Even though the pilot will want to verify items in the pre-flight, the pinch hitter can help backup the pilot and supervise fueling while the pilot is busy with pre-flight activities.

I&S Conduct pre-flight check with emphasis on fuel levels, fuel sumps, and oil. Explain that we do this not because flying is risky. Flying is one of the safest modes of travel because of these activities.

Startup, Run-up, and Taxi

S Once in the airplane (student should be in the right seat) give the checklist to the student. Have the student read the check list to the instructor. This can also be done for the pilot on a regular flight.

I As the instructor moves through the checklist, explain each step and the reason for doing it. Instructor will perform all radio activities at this time.

S Have the student taxi the airplane to the run up area.

Takeoff and Climb

S With coaching from the instructor, have the student tell the tower when you are ready for takeoff and acknowledge the clearance.

S The student will takeoff and climb to the practice area with the guidance of the instructor.

Basic Flight

I Demonstrate Straight and Level, Climb, and Descent. Perform climb and descent using trim, attitude and power with little emphasis on airspeed. Demonstrate turns in both directions. Casually reference the altimeter.

S Repeat each function as demonstrated.

Setup for Landing (at altitude)

I Demonstrate power reduction. Reduce to 2,000 RPM slow to 80 knots; two turns of the trim, wait until the airplane slows, 1 notch flaps, wait, 2 notches. Now the airplane descent can be controlled entirely by power.

Do not let the airspeed to get below 70 knots

S Repeat each function as demonstrated.

I Demonstrate go-around. Full power; reduce 1 notch of flaps. Do not change the trim. Add 1 notch when ready to land again.

S Repeat each function as demonstrated.

Landing and go-around

I demonstrate the traffic pattern and repeat the steps to setup for the landing. Show how, if the student just keeps the airplane a foot off the runway, it will land itself. Emphasize runway alignment and braking. Maintain at least 80 knots

S Repeat each function as demonstrated.