

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR  
AMENDED EXAMINATION SYSTEM OF PILOT LICENCES  
PPL (A), CPL (A), IR (A), CPL/ (IR) (A), ATPL (A)**

**1. Introduction**

Knowledge examinations conducted by the Director General of Civil Aviation of Sri Lanka (DGCA) for the issuance of flying crew licenses have been developed from time to time satisfying various requirements as & when they are communicated either by ICAO or by the Industry. As a result, the existing system requires a proper study & analysis followed by a proper recommendation to establish a complete system integrating all discrete modules to one solid model catering to all segments of the Industry possibly assuring its validity for a considerable period of time in to the future. In order to address the above task, keeping abreast with developments, especially within EASA, the following proposal is formulated changing the structure of the whole examinations procedures.

**2. Amended Personnel Licensing Examination Procedure**

**2.1 Private Pilot Licence (Aeroplane) (PPL (A)) Examination**

The applicant for a PPL (A) Examination shall have demonstrated to the DGCA a level of theoretical knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a Private Pilot Licence (Aeroplane). PPL (A) examination will be conducted six times annually.

**2.1.1 Proposed subjects for PPL (A) examination with duration**

This examination consists of six subjects.

	<b>Theory Subject</b>	<b>Duration (6 hrs)</b>	<b>No. of Questions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Air Law, ATC Procedures &amp; Operational Procedures</b>	<b>1hour &amp; 15 min.</b>	<b>45 (30 +15)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aircraft General Knowledge &amp; Principles of Flight</b>	<b>1hour &amp; 15 min.</b>	<b>40 (15 + 25)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Flight Performance and Planning</b>	<b>01 hour</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Performance and Limitations</b>	<b>30 min.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meteorology</b>	<b>30 min.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Navigation &amp; Communication Theory</b>	<b>01 hour &amp; 30 min</b>	<b>45 (30 + 15)</b>

### **2.1.2 Examination format of PPL (A) Examination:**

All questions are multiple-choice. In addition to the theory question paper, Communication practical classroom testing will be conducted separately.

Pass mark will be 75% and no minus marks will be given for incorrect answers.

In addition English Language Proficiency Check (ELPC) will be conducted and level will be determined.

### **2.1.3 Examination procedure of PPL (A) Examination:**

- a. Applicant for PPL (A) shall forward an application through the flying school with recommendation from the Chief Instructor.
- b. Applicant should sit all the theory subjects in one and the same sitting initially and pass at least four subjects. Inability to achieve this would require the applicant to repeat the entire examination.
- c. Applicant will be deemed to have successfully completed the PPL (A) theoretical knowledge examination when awarded a pass in all six subjects within a period of 12 months counted from the end of the calendar month when the applicant first attempted the examination.
- d. If an applicant couldn't complete his/her examination during the period mentioned in paragraph "c" above he/she shall re-sit all theory subjects. Before re-sit the examinations the applicant shall undertake further training as determined by the school and approved by the DGCA.
- e. A pass in the theoretical knowledge examination will be accepted for the grant of the PPL (A) during the period of 2 years from the date the applicant has successfully completed the theoretical knowledge examination.

### **2.1.4 Eligibility for PPL (A) Examination:**

An applicant will be eligible to sit for the examination by fulfilling below.

- a. Applicant shall not be less than 16 years old.  
( *Note : minimum age requirement for issue of a PPL(A) is 17 years*)
- b. Applicant shall hold valid Student Pilot Licence issued by DGCA of Sri Lanka.
- c. Applicant shall have 05 hours flying experience to appear for Radio Telephone communication practical Test.
- d. Applicant shall have completed approved theoretical ground school course with no less than 80% attendance.

Or

Applicant has held a PPL or higher licence.

Or

Applicant has successfully completed an approved flying training integrated course up to equivalent level of PPL.

Or

Applicant who has been disqualified to obtain a PPL due to the reason mentioned in item “e” of paragraph 2.1.3. above.

Or

Applicant has followed a formal flying training course in Sri Lanka Air Force.

## 2.2 Commercial Pilot Licence (Aero plane) - (CPL (A)) Examination.

The applicant for a CPL (A) Examination shall have demonstrated to the DGCA a level of theoretical knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a Commercial Pilot Licence (Aeroplane). CPL(A) Examination will be conducted 4 times annually.

### 2.2.1 Proposed subjects for CPL(A) Examination

The examination consists of seven subjects.

	<b>Theory Subject</b>	<b>Duration (12hrs &amp; 15min)</b>	<b>No. of questions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Air law &amp; Operational Procedures</b>	<b>1 hr &amp; 30 min.</b> <i>(45 + 45 min)</i>	<b>63</b> <i>(33 + 30)</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aircraft General Knowledge, Principle of Flight</b> <i>Part 01 - Airframe/Systems/Power plant</i> <i>Part 02 - Instrument/electronics</i> <i>Part 03 - Principles of Flight</i>	<b>3 hrs 15 min.</b> <i>( 1 hr. 30 min.)</i> <i>( 1 hr. )</i> <i>(45 min)</i>	<b>133</b> <i>60</i> <i>40</i> <i>33</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>Flight Performance &amp; Planning</b> <i>Part 01 - Mass and balance</i> <i>Part 02 - Performance</i> <i>Part 03 - Flight planning and monitoring</i>	<b>3 hrs. 15 min.</b> <i>(1 hr.)</i> <i>(45 min.)</i> <i>(1 hr. 30 min.)</i>	<b>83</b> <i>25</i> <i>25</i> <i>33</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Performance &amp; Limitations</b>	<b>45 min.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meteorology</b>	<b>1 hr. 30 min.</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Navigation</b> <i>Part 01 - General Navigation</i> <i>Part 02 - Radio Navigation</i>	<b>1 hr. 30 min</b> <i>( 1 hr.30 min.)</i> <i>( 30 min.)</i>	<b>67</b> <i>(45)</i> <i>(22)</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Communications (VFR)</b>	<b>30 min</b>	<b>24</b>

### **2.2.2 Examination format of CPL (A) Examination:**

All questions are multiple-choice. In addition to the theory question paper, Communication practical classroom testing will be conducted separately.

Pass mark will be 75% and no minus marks will be given for incorrect answers.

In addition English Language Proficiency Check (ELPC) will be conducted and level will be determined, if the ELPC has not been conducted already and/or the candidate has a level below the ELPC level of six.

### **2.2.3 Examination procedure of CPL (A) Examination:**

- a. Applicant for CPL (A) shall forward their applications through the flying school with recommendation from the Chief Instructor.
- b. Applicant shall sit all the theory subjects in one and the same sitting initially and pass atleast four subjects. Inability to achieve this would require the applicant to repeat the entire examination.
- c. For subjects 2 & 3, at least 02 parts are required to be successful for consideration of partial pass  
( If applicant has failed 2 parts in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to sit all parts. If applicant has failed one part in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to re-sit only the failed part.)
- d. Applicant will be deemed to have successfully completed the CPL(A) theoretical knowledge examination when awarded a pass in all of the required subjects in six attempts within a period of 18 months counted from the end of the calendar month when the applicant first attempted the examination.
- e. If an applicant couldn't complete his/her examination during the period mentioned at paragraph "d" he/she shall re-sit all theory subjects. Before re-sit the examinations the applicant shall undertake further training as determined by the school and approved by the DGCA.
- f. A pass in the theoretical knowledge examination will be accepted for the grant of the CPL(A) during the period of 3 years from the date applicant has successfully completed the theoretical knowledge examination.

### **2.2.4 Eligibility for CPL (A) Examination:**

An applicant will be eligible to sit for the examination by fulfilling below.

- a. Applicant shall not be less than 17 years old.  
( Note : *minimum age requirement for issue of a CPL(A) is 18 years*)
- c. Applicant shall hold valid Student Pilot Licence issued by DGCA of Sri Lanka or Private Pilot Licence.
- d. Applicant shall have completed approved theoretical ground school course for CPL with no less than 80% attendance.

Or

Applicant has held a CPL or higher licence.

Or

Applicant has successfully completed an approved flying training integrated course up to equivalent level of CPL.

Or

Applicant who has been disqualified to obtain a CPL due to the reason mentioned in item “f” of paragraph 2.2.3 above.

Or

Applicant has followed a formal flying training course in Sri Lanka Air Force.

## **2.3 Instrument Rating (Aeroplane) (IR (A)) Examination**

The applicant for an IR (A) Examination shall have demonstrated to the DGCA a level of theoretical knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of an Instrument Rating (Aeroplane). IR(A) Examination will be conducted 4 times annually.

### **2.3.1 Proposed subjects for IR (A) examination with duration**

This examination consists of seven subjects

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Duration (6hrs &amp; 30 min.)</b>	<b>No. of questions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Air law</b>	<b>45 min.</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aircraft General Knowledge</b> <i>Instrument/electronics</i>	<b>30 min.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Flight Performance &amp; Planning</b> <i>Flight planning and Monitoring</i>	<b>1 hr. 30 min.</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Performance &amp; Limitations *</b>	<b>45 min.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meteorology*</b>	<b>1 hr. 30 min.</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Navigation</b> <i>Radio Navigation</i>	<b>1hr</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Communications – IFR</b>	<b>30 min.</b>	<b>24</b>

“\*” Applicable only for the PPL (A) holders

### **2.3.2 Examination format of IR (A) Examination:**

All questions are multiple-choice. In addition to the theory question paper, Communication practical classroom testing will be conducted separately.

Pass mark will be 75% and no minus marks will be given for incorrect answers.

### **2.3.3 Examination procedure of IR (A) Examination:**

- a. Applicant for IR (A) shall forward their applications through the flying school with recommendation from the Chief Instructor.
- b. Applicant holding PPL(A) shall sit all the theory subjects in one and the same sitting initially and pass at least four subjects. Other applicants shall sit five subjects one and the same sitting initially and pass at least three subjects. Inability to achieve this would require the applicant to repeat the entire examination.
- c. Applicant will be deemed to have successfully completed the IR(A) theoretical knowledge examination when awarded a pass in all of the required subjects in six attempts within a period of 18 months counted from the end of the calendar month when the applicant first attempted the examination.
- e. If an applicant couldn't complete his/her examination during the period mentioned at paragraph "c" above he/she shall re-sit all theory subjects. Before re-sit the examinations the applicant shall undertake further training as determined by the school and approved by the DGCA.
- f. A pass in the theoretical knowledge examination will be accepted for the grant of the IR(A) during the period of 3 years from the date applicant has successfully completed the theoretical knowledge examination.

### **2.3.4 Eligibility for IR (A) Examination:**

An applicant will be eligible to sit for the examination by fulfilling below.

- a. Applicant shall hold valid PPL (A) or CPL (A) issued by DGCA of Sri Lanka.
- b. Applicant shall have completed approved theoretical ground school course with no less than 80% attendance.

Or

Applicant has held an IR before.

Or

Applicant has successfully completed an approved flying training integrated course up to equivalent level of IR.

Or

Applicant who has been disqualified to obtain an IR due to the reason mentioned in item "e" of paragraph 2.3.3 above.

Or

Applicant has followed a formal Instrument Rating training course in Sri Lanka Air Force.

## 2.4 Commercial Pilot Licence (Aeroplane)/Instrument Rating Integrated (CPL/IR) Examination

The applicant for a CPL (A)/IR Integrated Examination shall have demonstrated to the DGCA a level of theoretical knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a Commercial Pilot Licence (Aeroplane)/Instrument Rating.

### 2.4.1 Proposed subjects for CPL(A) Examination

The examination consists of seven subjects

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Duration (11hrs &amp; 45min)</b>	<b>No. Of questions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Air law &amp; Operational Procedures</b>	<b>1hr &amp; 40 min.</b> (55 min + 45 min)	<b>70</b> (40 +30)
<b>2</b>	<b>Aircraft General Knowledge, Principle of Flight</b> <i>Part 01 -Airframe/Systems/Power plant</i> <i>Part 02 – Instrument/electronics</i> <i>Part 03 – Principle of Flight</i>	<b>3 hrs 15 min.</b> ( 1 hr. 30 min.) ( 1 hr. ) (45 min)	<b>133</b> 60 40 33
<b>3</b>	<b>Flight Performance &amp; Planning</b> <i>Part 01 – Mass and balance</i> <i>Part 02 – Performance</i> <i>Part 03 – Flight planning and Monitoring</i>	<b>3 hrs. &amp; 30 min.</b> (1hr.) (45 min.) (2 hrs. )	<b>93</b> 25 25 43
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Performance &amp; Limitations</b>	<b>45 min.</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meteorology</b>	<b>1 hr. 30 min.</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Navigation</b> <i>Part 01 – General Navigation</i> <i>Part 02 – Radio Navigation</i>	<b>2 hrs. 30 min</b> ( 1 hr.30min.) ( 1hr )	<b>91</b> (45) (46)
<b>7</b>	<b>Communications</b> <i>Part 01- (VFR)</i> <i>Part 02 – (IFR)</i>	<b>1 hr.</b> (30 min) (30 min)	<b>48</b> (24) (24)

### 2.4.2 Examination format of CPL (A)/IR Examination:

All questions are multiple-choice. In addition to the theory question paper, Communication practical classroom testing will be conducted separately.

Pass mark will be 75% and no minus marks will be given for incorrect answers.

In addition English Language Proficiency Check (ELPC) will be conducted and level will be determined, if the ELPC has not been conducted already and/or the candidate has a level below the ELPC level of six.

### **2.4.3 Examination procedure of CPL (A)/IR Integrated Examination:**

- a. Applicant for CPL (A)/IR shall forward their applications through the flying school with recommendation from the Chief Instructor.
- b. Applicant shall sit all the theory subjects in one and the same sitting initially and pass at least four subjects. Inability to achieve this would require the applicant to repeat the entire examination.
- c. For subjects 2 & 3, at least 02 parts are required to be successful for consideration of partial pass  
(If applicant has failed 2 parts in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to sit all parts. If applicant has failed one part in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to re-sit only failed part.)
- d. Applicant will be deemed to have successfully completed the CPL (A)/IR theoretical knowledge examination when awarded a pass in all of the required subjects in six attempts within a period of 18 months counted from the end of the calendar month when the applicant first attempted the examination.
- e. If an applicant couldn't complete his/her examination during the period mentioned at paragraph "c" above he/she shall re-sit all theory subjects. Before re-sit the examinations, the applicant shall undertake further training as determined by the school and approved by the DGCA.
- f. A pass in the theoretical knowledge examination will be accepted for the grant of the CPL(A)/IR during the period of 3 years from the date the applicant has successfully completed the theoretical knowledge examination.

### **2.4.4 Eligibility for CPL (A)/IR Integrated Examination:**

An applicant will be eligible to sit for the examination by fulfilling below.

- a. Applicant shall not be less than 17 years old.  
( *Note: minimum age requirement for issue of a CPL/IR(A) is 18 years.*)
- b. Applicant shall hold valid Student Pilot Licence issued by DGCA of Sri Lanka or Private Pilot Licence.
- c. Applicant shall complete approved theoretical ground school course for CPL/IR with 80% attendance

Or

Applicant has held a CPL/IR or higher licence.

Or

Applicant has successfully completed an approved flying training integrated course up to equivalent level of CPL/IR.

Or

Applicant who has been disqualified to obtain a CPL/IR due to the reason mentioned in item “F” of paragraph 2.4.3. above.

Or

Applicant has followed a formal flying training course in Sri Lanka Air Force.

## 2.5 Airline Transport Pilot Licence (Aeroplane) (ATPL (A)) Examination

The applicant for an ATPL (A) shall have demonstrated to the DGCA a level of theoretical knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of an ATPL (A).

### 2.5.1 Proposed subjects for ATPL (A) Examination

This examination consists of 07 subjects.

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Duration (18hrs &amp; 15min)</b>	<b>No. of questions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Air law &amp; Operational Procedures</b> <i>Part 01- Air law</i> <i>Part 02- Operational Procedures</i>	<b>2 hrs. 15 min.</b> <i>1hr</i> <i>1 hr. 15 min.</i>	<b>89</b> <i>(44)</i> <i>(45)</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aircraft General Knowledge, Principle of Flight</b> <i>Part 01-Airframe/Systems/Power plant</i> <i>Part 02- Instruments/ Electronics</i> <i>Part 03- Principles of Flight</i>	<b>4 hrs. &amp; 30 min</b> <i>(2 hrs)</i> <i>(1hr &amp; 30 min)</i> <i>1hr</i>	<b>184</b> <i>(80)</i> <i>(60)</i> <i>(44)</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>Flight Performance &amp; Planning</b> <i>Part 01- Performance,</i> <i>Part 02- Mass &amp; Balance</i> <i>Part 03 – Flight Planning and Monitoring</i>	<b>4hrs</b> <i>(1hr)</i> <i>(1hr)</i> <i>(2 hrs)</i>	<b>103</b> <i>(35)</i> <i>(25)</i> <i>(43)</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Performance &amp; Limitations</b>	<b>1 hr.</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meteorology</b>	<b>2 hrs</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Navigation</b> <i>Part 01 - General Navigation</i> <i>Part 02 – Radio Navigation</i>	<b>3 hrs. &amp; 30 min</b> <i>(2hrs)</i> <i>(1hr &amp; 30 min)</i>	<b>126</b> <i>(60)</i> <i>(66)</i>
<b>07</b>	<b>Communications</b> <i>Part 01- (VFR)</i> <i>Part 02 – (IFR)</i>	<b>1hr.</b> <i>(30 min)</i> <i>(30 min)</i>	<b>48</b> <i>(24)</i> <i>(24)</i>

### **2.5.2 Examination format of ATPL (A) Examination:**

All questions are multiple-choice. In addition to the theory question paper, Communication practical classroom testing will be conducted separately.

Pass mark will be 75% and no minus marks will be given for incorrect answers.

In addition English Language Proficiency Check (ELPC) will be conducted and level will be determined, if the ELPC has not been conducted already and/or the candidate has a level below the ELPC level of six.

### **2.5.3 Examination procedure of ATPL (A) Examination:**

- a. Applicant for ATPL shall forward their applications through the flying school with recommendation from the Chief Instructor.
- b. Applicant shall sit all the theory subjects in one and the same sitting initially and pass at least four subjects. Inability to achieve this would require the applicant to repeat the entire examination
- c. For subjects 2 & 3, at least 02 parts are required to be successful for consideration of partial pass.  
(If applicant has failed, 2 parts in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to sit all parts. If applicant has failed one part in each subject 2 or subject 3, then applicant has to re-sit only the failed part.)
- d. Applicant will be deemed to have successfully completed the ATPL (A) theoretical knowledge examination when awarded a pass in all of the required subjects in six attempts within a period of 18 months counted from the end of the calendar month when the applicant first attempted the examination.
- e. If an applicant couldn't complete his/her examination during the period mentioned at paragraph "c" above he/she shall re-sit all theory subjects. Before re-sit the examinations the applicant shall undertake further training as determined by the school and approved by the DGCA.
- f. A pass in the theoretical knowledge examination will be accepted for the grant of the ATPL (A) during the period of 7 years from the last validity date of the Instrument Rating entered in the Commercial Pilot Licence for the issuance of an ATPL.

### **2.5.4 Eligibility for ATPL (A) Examination:**

An applicant will be eligible to sit for the examination by fulfilling below.

- a. Applicant shall not less than 20 years old.  
*(Note: minimum age requirement for issue of an ATPL is 21 years)*
- b. Applicant shall hold PPL (A) or CPL (A) issued by DGCA of Sri Lanka.
- c. Applicant shall have completed an approved theoretical ground school course for ATPL with no less than 80% attendance

Or

Applicant has held an ATPL.

Or

Applicant has successfully completed an approved flying training integrated course up to equivalent level of ATPL.

Or

Applicant who has been disqualified to obtain a ATPL due to the reason mentioned in item “f” of paragraph 2.5.3. above.

**Examination Panel:**

1. Mr. Susantha De Silva (DD-PL) - Chairman of the Panel
2. Capt. H C Fernando - Member of the Panel
3. Capt. W K S Fernando - Member of the Panel
4. Capt. B C H Perera - Member of the Panel
5. Capt. Ameen Azeez - Member of the Panel
6. Capt. Shehan Wattewewa - Member of the Panel

Susantha De Silva

Chairman of the panel / Deputy Director Personnel Licensing