

Here are some options for getting ready for the FAA Knowledge Exam (written test).

- In person or Zoom based instruction by 2-Fly1. The cost for teaching a single student would be \$800 (@ \$20 per hour but billed as one fee). Two students taking class together would be \$1000 (\$500 each). Three or more student classes are \$350 per student. This class is between 40 and 50 hours of instruction and the presentation times are flexible to meet student needs.
- Study using the FAA source materials. This is the dirt-cheap approach for the misers in the crowd. The Airplane Flying Handbook, Federal Aviation Regulations, Airman's Information Manual, and more texts used as the basis for the test questions are available online at the FAA web site as .pdf downloads for free! You can use free online testing available at Sporty's pilot shop to take practice tests or purchase another online provider's test prep software. Many of the questions have been put into Quizlet by other students, so that might be a source of free question banks. You will still be well served by purchasing the paper copy of the past test bank questions from ASA or other publisher, and you will need a plotter and flight calculator. The problem with this approach is that you need to provide the discipline to make sure you study everything needed for the test. The other approaches listed below have a course of study built into their presentation of the material to make sure your preparation is comprehensive.
- Use a Gleim prep course. This is the cheapest training option costing about \$225. The student orders the whole package of study materials and gets the online ground school and online test prep with access for a year. It is self-study. Here is the link, <https://www.gleimaviation.com/shop/ppkitsol/>. You may be able to put in Deluxe Gleim Private Pilot Kit online and find it for less money from a big aviation retailer. Just be careful that you are looking at the kit that has the online ground school and online test preparation capability. Gleim will give the student a completion certificate after he or she gets all there preparation questions correctly answered.
- Use the Sporty's video course. Here is the link: <https://www.sportys.com/learn-to-fly-course-private-pilot-test-prep-online-app-and-tv.html>. It costs \$249 and the student can use a computer, iPad, tablet, or phone as the platform for presentation of the information. I've used these Sporty's materials in the past. I do see some critiques that the information is a bit dated and some people have difficulty navigating to the practice tests, etc. but it is a quality product. The current offering from Sporty's was recently updated to a 2021 version so some of the old comments may be mute. Completing the course will generate the certificate needed to take the FAA written exam. The course has the option of allowing a Certificated Flight Instructor to monitor lesson progress and see practice test scores.
- Use Rod Machado's training materials. This course can be found at <https://rodmachado.com/products/rod-machados-40-hour-private-pilot-elearning-ground-school>. The cost is \$279. Frankly, this is probably my favorite. Why? Because Rod Machado is probably the best-known flight instructor in the country. He has a reputation for being fun and entertaining in his presentations at Sun 'n Fun and Oshkosh. He has an odd sense of humor and cracks more than an occasional bad joke. I have taken a number of his other courses and have found every one of them most informative and entertaining. I have some of his books and audio lessons. He will let the student download the electronic copies of many of his books if they purchase this program. These added materials would cost about \$100 if purchased separately. If the student is dedicated this material should be entertaining enough to get him or her through it.

- I am a Rod Machado CFI affiliated instructor. I established this association with his company because I like his training materials so much. If you purchase the course through this link, <http://rodmachado.com?aff=288>, I would get a referral fee of 25% of the program cost. That is about \$69 and for that I'd be more than willing to answer any questions that the student can't figure out using Rod's lessons. This ability to ask questions of a local instructor might add value to this purchase.

I think each of the above have a sample available to preview online.

I have attached a paper that I wrote that gives a more high-level view of the problem. In addition, I highly encourage you/her to follow this link, <http://inspire.eaa.org/2019/01/10/how-i-aced-the-faa-private-pilot-written-exam-before-i-soloed/>. This is an article written by a young lady about her study for private pilot.

Taking the FAA written exam will cost about \$150. The student will need a course completion certificate or a CFI endorsement in his/her logbook to be allowed to test. These exam costs are not included in the course costs above. They are additive.