

Short-Field Takeoff and Maximum Performance Climb

OBJECTIVE: To develop proficiency in conducting short-field takeoffs and climbs.
STANDARDS: Sport/Recreational/Private - Airspeed: $V_x + 10/-5$ knots until obstacle is cleared or until at least 50' above the surface, then $V_y + 10/-5$ knots
CONDITIONS: Awareness of obstacles during all takeoffs.

DESCRIPTION:

- 1 • Ensure that the Before Takeoff Checklist has been completed.
- 2 • Set flaps as appropriate – ensure that flaps come down equally.
- 3 • Ensure that the items on the Line-up Checklist have been completed and/or reviewed.
- 4 • Visually check for traffic on Downwind, Base, and Final in the active and other traffic patterns.
- 5 • Communicate, as appropriate – non-towered airport make traffic advisory call, towered airport read back takeoff clearance.
 - Taxi onto the runway, as appropriate. Complete the items from the Line-up Checklist while taxiing. Use the phrase “lights, camera, action” to help remember the items deferred (lights = lights as appropriate, camera = transponder on/altitude, action = mixture rich as required).
 - Taxi the aircraft into position, centered on the runway with the nosewheel straight, as close to the approach end as possible.
 - Hold the brakes, preventing any movement of the aircraft.
- 6 • Smoothly and positively apply full power. Keep a hand on the throttle in the event an abort becomes necessary.
 - Check engine instruments (engine rpm and all other “engine instruments in the green”).
 - Immediately drop heels onto floor, release the brakes, and apply slight forward pressure on the yoke, allowing the aircraft to accelerate as quickly as possible.
 - Check airspeed indicator (“airspeed alive”).
- 7 • Rotate at V_{LOF} , then establish V_x pitch attitude.
 - Once the aircraft lifts off, establish a Wind Correction Angle (WCA) to maintain the runway centerline with level wings.
- 8 • Maintain V_x or manufacturer’s recommended airspeed until clear of obstacles and at least 50 feet above the surface.
- 9 • After clearing obstacles, establish V_y pitch attitude. Maintain a ground track along the runway and extended centerline with coordinated use of rudder and aileron.

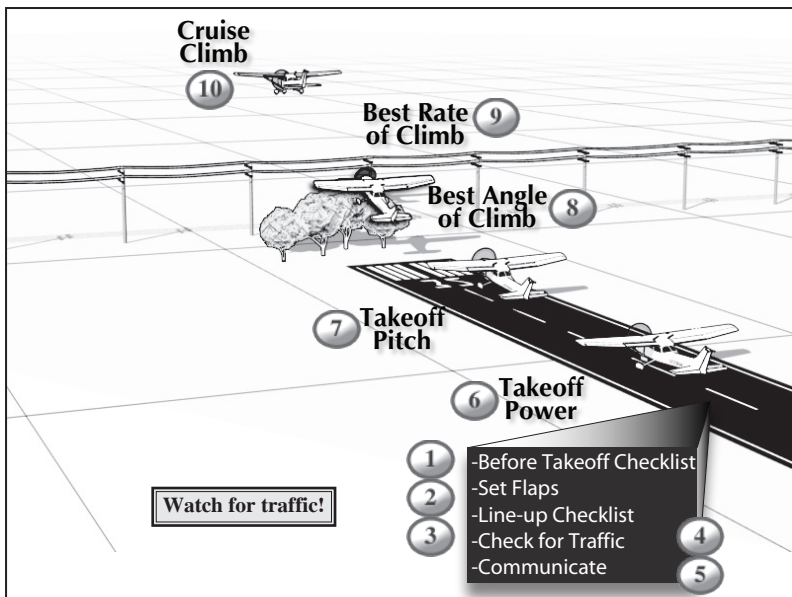
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- Retract flaps after clearing all obstacles and establishing the recommended airspeed, climb out at V_Y

NOTE: In an airplane with retractable landing gear, ensure a positive rate of climb, tap the brakes, and retract the gear when insufficient runway remains to land the airplane.

- 10** • Establish cruise climb above a minimum safe altitude (500-1000' AGL).

NOTE: You should compute takeoff and landing performance data prior to all flights. Special emphasis should be placed on determining that adequate runway exists.



COMMON ERRORS:

- Failure to adequately clear the area prior to taxiing onto the active runway.
- Failure to utilize all available runway/ takeoff area.
- Failure to have the airplane properly trimmed prior to takeoff.
- Premature lift-off resulting in high drag.
- Holding the airplane on the ground unnecessarily with excessive forward-elevator pressure.
- Inadequate rotation resulting in excessive speed after lift-off.
- Inability to attain/maintain best angle-of-climb airspeed.

NOTES: