
Cross Country Flight Planning Steps

Ryan Roberts CFI/CFII/MEI Ó 2004 – www.Halozone.com

1. Obtain Enroute Weather:
 - Metars
 - TAFs
 - Notams
 - Airmets
 - Sigmet
 - Convective Sigments
 - Upper Winds
2. Plot course on VFR sectional map
3. Draw distance markings every 10nm
4. Determine True Course (TC) and Record on flight plan.
5. Choose cruise altitude based on:
 - Cloud heights
 - Upper winds
 - Obstacles
 - Restricted areas
 - Notams
 - Airspace
6. Determine using performance charts (or rate of descent calculations):
 - Top Of Climb (TOC)
 - Top Of Descent (TOD)
7. VFR Sectional; determine and record on Flight Plan:
 - Checkpoints
 - Measure leg lengths
8. Use performance charts and record each on Flight Plan:
 - TAS
 - Power Percentage
 - Fuel Flow
 - RPM/MP settings.
9. Record upper winds on Flight Plan.
10. Determine using CR3 flight computer and record on Flight Plan:
 - Compass Heading (CH)
 - Groundspeed (GS)
11. Determine and Record on Flight Plan
 - Estimated Time Enroute (ETE)
12. Write down departure and destination frequencies
13. Complete Fuel Flow Calculations
14. Complete and File Flight Plan

During Flight

Ryan Roberts CFI/CFII/MEI Ó 2004 – www.Halozone.com

Takeoff

1. Note Time Off
2. Open flight plan and report time off

Enroute

Repeat for each checkpoint

1. Over waypoint – record ATA (Actual Time of Arrival)
2. Calculate ATE (Actual Time Enroute)
3. Determine ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) for next Waypoint
4. Determine Groundspeed (using ATE and leg length)

Diversion Procedure

Ryan Roberts CFI/CFII/MEI Ó 2004 – www.Halozone.com

Diversion

1. Note TIME (ATA)
2. Determine HEADING and TURN
3. Determine DISTANCE
4. Determine ETE and ETA
5. Determine Groundspeed
6. Fuel Burn
7. Refine Heading and ETA (time permitting)