



May 2025

Flight Testing

CAA Chief Flight Instructors Seminar

2025

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beyond
question

ASK THE
EXPERT



Everyone involved was accustomed to mission-completion pressure as a factor in decisions.

The fact that 24 previous launches had been successful with known leaks in seals.

Challenger accident on Jan. 28, 1986



Everyone involved was accustomed to ~~mission-~~^{student} completion pressure as a factor in decisions.

The fact that 24 previous ~~launches~~^{flight tests} had been successful with known ~~leaks in seals.~~

gaps in students knowledge.

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Normalisation of deviance

— the gradual process by which the unacceptable becomes acceptable in the absence of adverse consequences.

Continuing to land off an unstable approach

Is there a normalisation of deviance in flight test failures?

Maybe – Fail rates

Multiple attempts

System pressure



What does the data say ?

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Flight Test Result Data...

Aspeq project is underway to analyse flight test data on behalf of CAA.

Intention – To maintain NZ international reputation

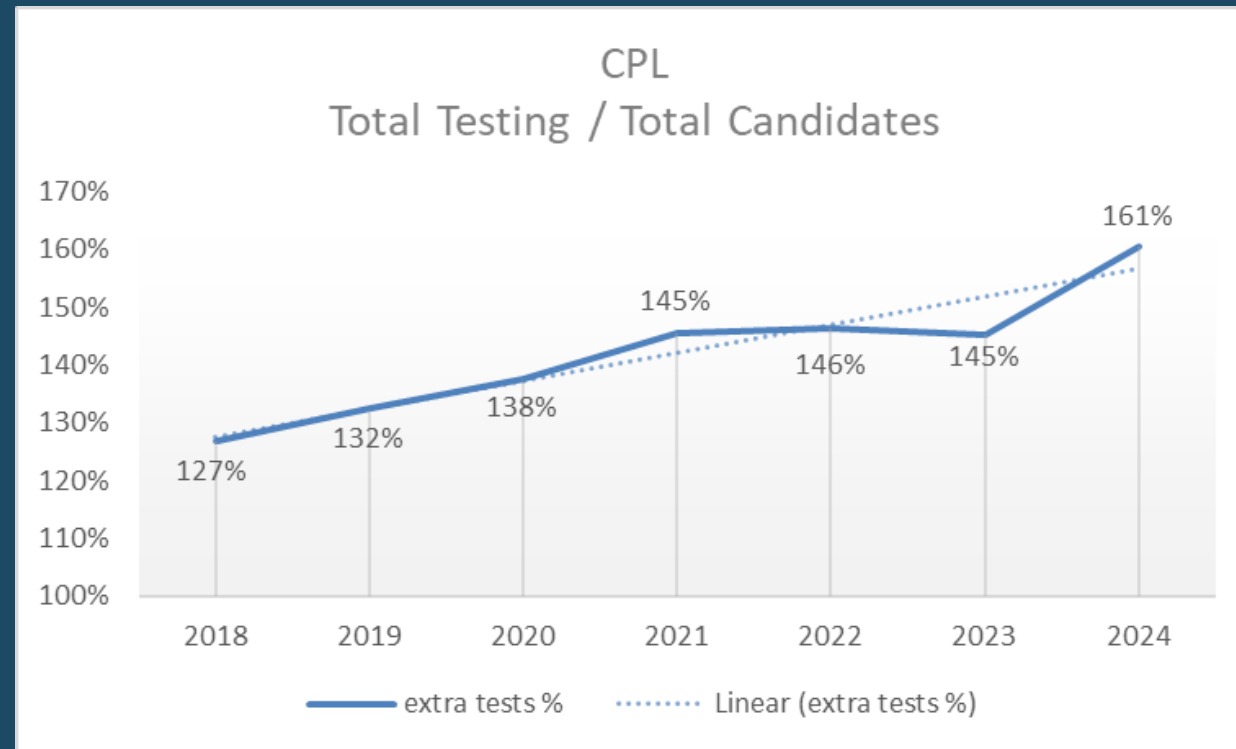
To maintain the standard including safety

Intervene, help and improve results

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Overall decline in the pass rate of both candidates and FTO's across New Zealand. Some FTO's pass rates are well below others.



Written Examinations...

| Exam, Example of a single candidate results. | Booked Numbers | Sitting Numbers | DNS Numbers | Fail Numbers | Pass Numbers |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| ██████████ Flight Navigation General | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| ██████████ CPL Air Law (Aeroplane) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| ██████████ CPL General Aircraft Technical Knowledge (A) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| ██████████: CPL Meteorology | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| ██████████ CPL Principles of Flight & Aircraft Performance (A) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

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| Exam Example of a single candidate | Booked Numbers | Sitting Numbers | DNS Numbers | Fail Numbers | Pass Numbers |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| ██████████ PPL Meteorology | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ██████████ PPL Air Navigation and Flight Planning | 7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| ██████████ PPL Air Law (Aeroplane) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| ██████████ FRTO Flight Radiotelephony | 7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| ██████████ PPL Human Factors | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| ██████████ PPL Aircraft Technical Knowledge (Aeroplane) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

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System Pressure

We're all after the same result.

Aspeq flight examiners want to pass candidates.



What can you do?

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Better
NEVER STOPS

Dr Paul Wood
paulwood.com

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Circle of Control

**Focus Effort Here,
you have control!**

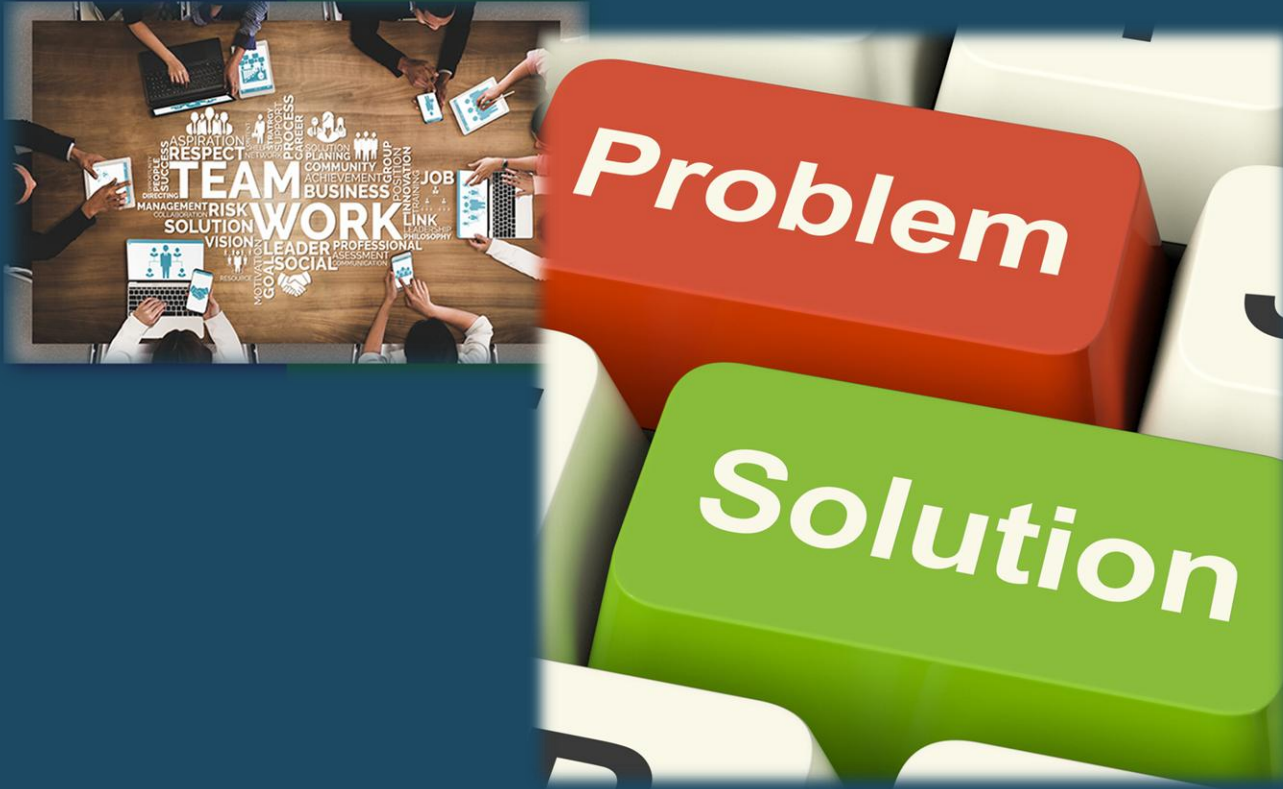
Circle of Influence

Expand this circle!

Circle of Concern

**Avoid focusing here,
you don't influence it**

Group Exercise.



What can you control and influence to ensure great flight test pass rates at your FTO?

1. Problems
2. Solutions

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Control

Standards / SOP's

Syllabus

Instructor Training

Instructor Standardisation

Influence

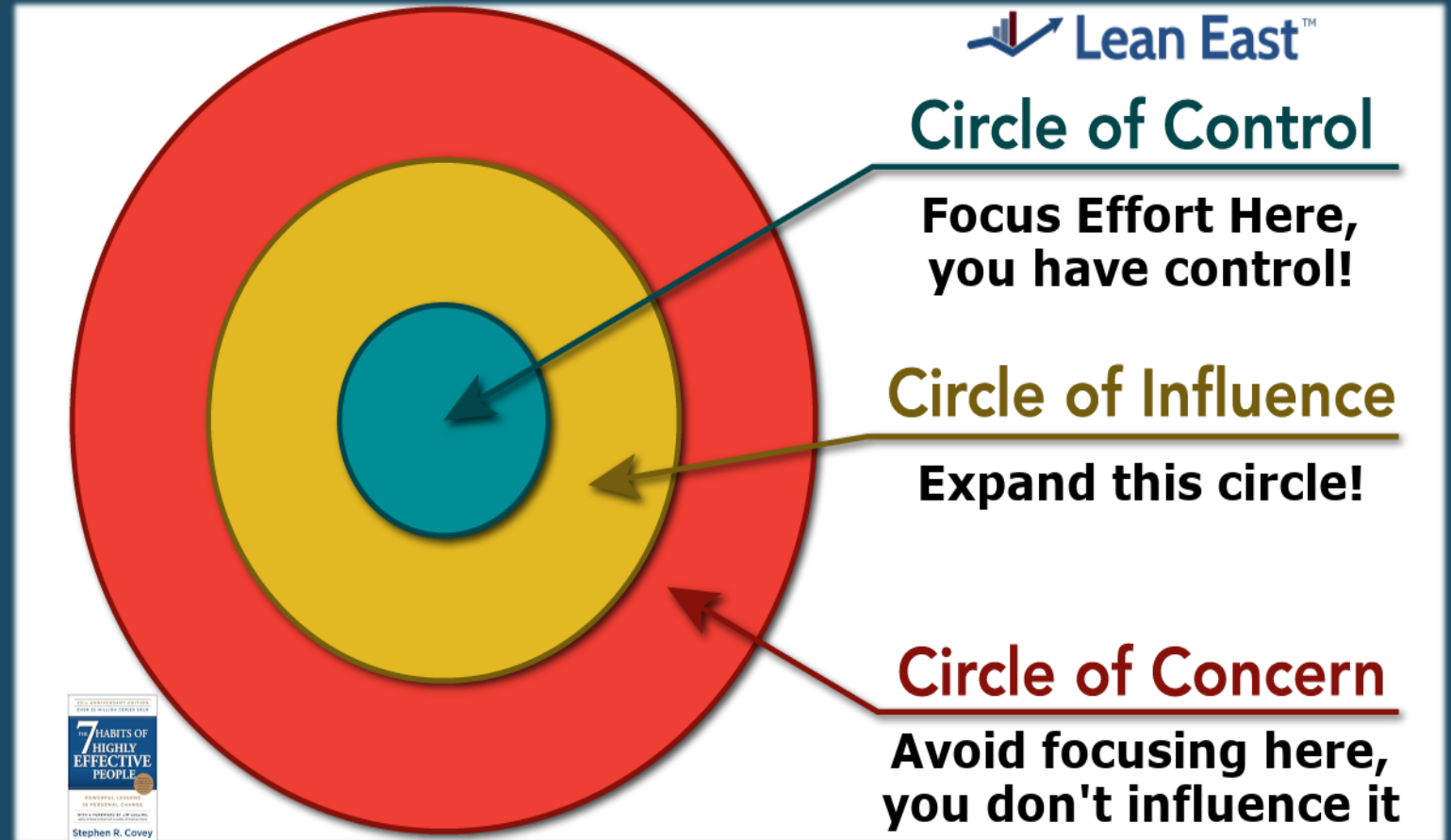
Leadership

Relationships

Ask

Give feedback

Engage with industry



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Ask Us...

You have an incredible resource of knowledge and experience available to you.

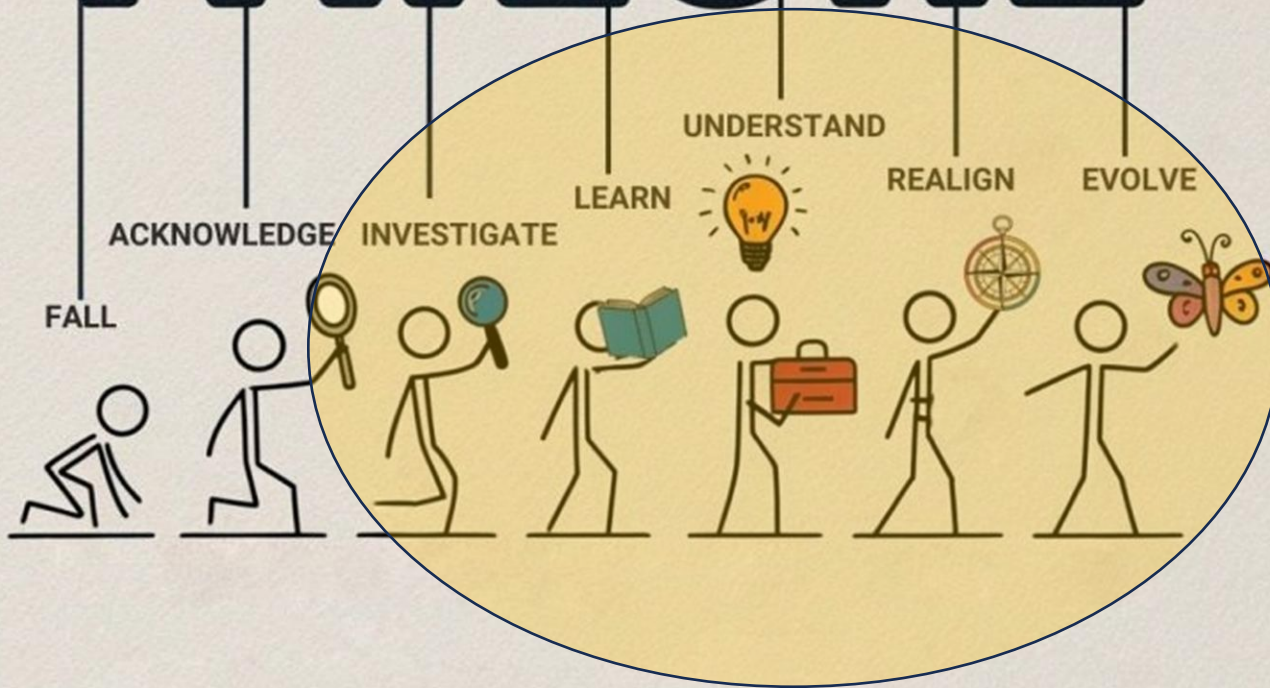
Practice Flight Test... In its entirety and conducted by you.

Flight Test De-Brief... Make the time to attend them yourself, the investment will pay off.

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FAILURE



Costas K. Gian

Thanks

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Pilot Logbooks,

- CAA Rule Part 61.29 (a) requires the holder of a pilot logbook to maintain an accurate and up-to-date logbook.
- CAA Rule Part 61.29 (3) requires a record of each¹ flight test, including the name, client number and signature of the person conducting the test.

¹A distributive adjective pronoun, which denotes or refers to every one of the persons or things mentioned;

aspeq COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE attempt
beyond question

I hereby certify that
has satisfactorily completed ground and flight examinations for the issue of a
COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE (Aeroplane) in accordance with CAA NZ CAR
Part 61 for:

Privileges: Student Pilot by night
 Private Pilot by night
 Commercial Pilot by night

Examiner Name:

Date of Test: Expiry Date:

Signed:

Sub-Delegation Number: ASL 301 Revision 5