

This is a summary of the requirements for the BMFA "A" Test - Check actual BMFA documents for latest details

For non glider models the test consists of :-

- a) Carry out pre-flight safety & legality checks as required by the BMFA Safety Codes etc, starting the engine when appropriate.
- b) Take off and complete a left (or right) hand circuit and overfly the take-off area.
- c) Fly a 'figure of eight' course with the cross-over point in front of the pilot, height to be constant.
- d) Fly a rectangular circuit and approach with appropriate use of the throttle and perform a landing on the designated landing area.
- e) If the engine stops during the landing the model may be retrieved and the engine restarted to enable the remaining parts of the test to be completed.
- f) Take off and complete a left (or right) hand circuit and overfly the take-off area.
- g) Fly a rectangular circuit at a constant height in the opposite direction to the landing circuit flown in (d).
- h) Perform a simulated dead-stick landing with the engine at idle, beginning at a safe height (approx. 200 ft) tracking into wind over the take-off area, the landing to be made in a safe manner on the designated landing area.
- i) Remove model and equipment from take-off/landing area.
- j) Complete post-flight checks required by the BMFA Safety Codes.
- k) Answer correctly five questions from the AS Mandatory questions list, plus a minimum of five questions on safety matters, based on the BMFA Safety Code for General Flying and local flying rules.

All manoeuvres must be carried out in front of the pilot.

For electric powered gliders the test consists of :-

- a) Carry out pre-flight checks as required by the BMFA Safety Codes. Particular attention should be given to airframe, control linkages and surfaces.
- b) After complying with the site frequency control system, prepare the model for launch. The motor start and stop switch/speed controller sequence must be demonstrated to the examiner.
- c) Check that the launch area and landing area are clear both on the ground and in the air. If a helper is used to launch the model they should be fully briefed as to what is required.
- d) Clearly announce, "launching" and launch the model under full control. Any deviation from the expected launch path must be corrected smoothly and quickly. Climb to approximately 100m. Switch off power and transition to glide without stalling. From this point on, power must not be used.
- e) Stall the model into wind and recover smoothly with a minimum loss of height.
- f) Perform 3 consecutive 360 degree thermal turns to the right or left ending on the same tracking as the entry with minimum loss of height. The turns should be under control with no tendency to stall or enter a spiral dive.
- g) Perform 3 consecutive 360 degree thermal turns in the opposite direction to above ending on the same tracking as the entry with minimum loss of height. The turns should be under control with no tendency to stall or enter a spiral dive. From this point on, power should be used as required.
- h) Fly the model up wind to prepare the model for the overshoot/landing phase. The model should be flown with no tendency to stall and with minimum loss of height.
- i) Call "landing" and prepare the model for a landing with a downwind leg, followed by a base leg and final approach.
- j) Overshoot from below 10ft and climb back to circuit height. Note that this manoeuvre is an aborted landing, not a low pass.
- k) Again, call "landing" and prepare the model for a landing with a downwind leg, followed by a base leg and final approach.
- l) Land the model into wind within 20 metres of a predetermined spot.

- m) Retrieve the model from the landing area, informing other pilots that the landing area is clear.
- n) Complete post-flight checks required by the BMFA Safety Codes.
- o) Repeat the above schedule a second time, giving a total of two flights.
- p) Answer correctly five questions from the AS Mandatory questions list, plus a minimum of five questions on safety matters, based on the BMFA Safety Code for General Flying and local flying rules.

All manoeuvres must be carried out in front of the pilot.