The ADX Test

Introduction – What is the ADX test?

The ADX test is the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher ("AD") Knowledge exam ('X'). It is an 80-question, standardized multiple-choice test that has a 3 ½ hour time limit. The questions and answer choices, along with the figures, diagrams, and images that are utilized as references for the test are widely known, and published in a variety of industry test-prep books, software, and mobile device applications.

Why must the ADX test be taken and passed?

Passing (at or above 70%) is one prerequisite towards the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher certification. To be clear: it is not the only prerequisite for certification. In reality, it is the most minimal prerequisite, in our opinion, towards AD certification.

Sheffield's Method of Operation

We do not believe in spending 3 to 5 weeks of a full-time Aircraft Dispatcher course preparing our students for a standardized test. Standardized tests serve a purpose, but the purpose IS NOT to instruct an individual concerning practical application of real-world dispatcher skills. We also do not believe you should pay a high amount of your tuition fee for this type of preparation, whether it is $2,000, or nearly $7,000. You can purchase mobile device apps, web courses, or books and compact discs these days for under $80 to help you get started if you'd like. Or you may prefer to use our materials for printing, follow our instructional web links, and then take our online practice tests if you're planning to attend Sheffield School. We will help you fine-tune your FAA test prep skills electronically before your arrival and for a very limited time when you are in our class, but the tuition you pay to attend Sheffield School of Aeronautics is DEVOTED to maximizing your exposure to real-world dispatch instruction, application, and preparation. This is the reason that airlines prefer our graduates.

Does Sheffield's course prepare the student to pass the ADX?

Yes, but using a variety of timesaving methods. During the class, we cover pieces of information found on the ADX, and incorporate notes into our lectures regarding these "facts-to-know." But we do not open standardized test prep books and rehearse, ad nauseum, such as: the colors of airport lights, pilot holding pattern techniques, and other partially or completely useless information. This would be a rip-off. This is not what your money should be spent on. Incorporating certain ADX material, as needed, within the framework of a true Airline Dispatcher course is the proper way to prepare the student for not only the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher certificate, but also job interviews, and airline initial training. An airline interviewer is more likely to ask you how to select an alternate airport using advanced Operations Specifications procedures, and then how to amend the dispatch release with a new alternate. They are not going to ask you how to interpret tricky pilot instrument questions, to name the colors of different runway and taxiway lighting, or to recite four Weight & Balance formulas that you will never utilize.

So how does Sheffield School maximize ADX Test Study Efficiency?
Once you have applied for our course, and have attained a user ID and password, we offer the future Sheffield student a head start for their ADX studies. Students can print our PDF study files: we have many handouts that are used by students to help them prepare for the FAA ADX Knowledge examination. The actual 80-question ADX test usually taps into a 1500+ question bank that we provide. If you are using Sheffield's 16-Section PDF files (our book), then simply focus on any questions provided.

What happens if I don't understand all of this material – this is foreign to me?
That means that you are normal. This is an introduction of material for the student. Some information will stick and make perfect sense with limited or no explanation. Other information will make sense once you are here in class. Some material may never make complete sense since it has nothing to do with reality. Just be patient with the material, absorb whatever you can, and the puzzle pieces shall fill in once you are in class. This approach is better than doing nothing.

How early does Sheffield recommend that a prospective student enroll in order to maximize their ADX prestudies?
3-4 weeks is plenty of time to at least review all of the material presented online. Just easing into this material, even without a complete understanding of it, will help the student assimilate the material later on. 1-2 weeks is still enough time to review the material a few hours each day to get a head start. If a prospective student glances over the ADX material for only a few hours over a matter of weeks, they can still pass the Sheffield course, but their chances are reduced if they have historically, in their previous schooling, required extra time to understand subject matter in school.

Is ADX prestudying mandatory before entering the Sheffield 5-week AD course?
No, but it is highly recommended – VERY highly recommended. We have had students who never even knew what an "ADX" was, pass not only the ADX, but also the Sheffield course tests easily. We have also had students who really needed that extra time before their arrival here to accomplish the same success. Every student is different, but why not hand you a useful tool to increase your chance for success?

What else does Sheffield provide that helps the student pass the ADX test?

We offer password-protected web access that includes PDF files, practice quizzes, instructional modules that show step-by-step procedures to calculate answers for numerical answers, answer explanations via text and graphics, 40+ page flight log PDF files showing every single step to solving the FAA's mini flight plans. During the course, we currently set aside 2-3 hours in class, over a 2-day period, to instruct the flight logs directly.
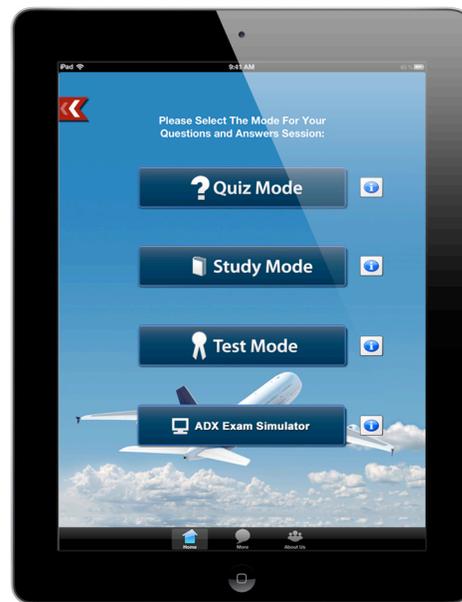
What else can STILL be offered to the student who needs more help with the ADX studies?

Sheffield typically offers a full-day workshop on the first Saturday of every 5-week course. It is optional and not free, but we spend usually 8-10 hours covering many of the numerical-based questions, and add other useful instruction that helps students later in the course.

We have also produced our own ADX Test Prep App for iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch as well as an Android version. It is a clean 3mb app connected to a 10TB server, with 4 different Modes for test preparation…and no banners, logos, or ads!! It is updated via a behind-the scenes database requiring no long-loading traditional app updates you commonly encounter. If a question changes, it can be uploaded immediately even though the app version number remains the same, typically.

Log-in Screen

**4 Modes:
Quiz, Study, Test, and
ADX Exam Simulator**

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Summary

Sheffield wants all of their students to graduate with the advanced more-than-minimal foundational knowledge to not only pass their FAA AD practical exam, but to also succeed during the airline interview process. Getting a job, and keeping it through the airline probation period is actually important to not only the Sheffield student, but also to us as a school. The aforementioned is impossible if we spent 3-5 weeks rehearsing for what amounts to a pseudo-"test" or part memory exercise.

We wouldn't have over 1-2,000 testimonials online and in print by taking your money, and telling you to "just pick 'B' on that one – it works…"

We've conducted Aircraft operations and dispatcher training for approximately 70 years. You can trust us to know what works.

Best Regards,

Eric Morris
President
Sheffield School of Aeronautics (est. 1948)