

Examiners should note that the Navigation Skills Test (NST) is a qualifying requirement for the grant of the NPPL SLMG and should be carried out prior to the General Skills Test (GST). The aim of the NST is to provide an independent check of the student pilot ability to apply visual navigation techniques; to continue to navigate safely when forced by weather or other constraints to vary the planned flight profile; to execute an in-flight diversion; and to liaise with Air Traffic Control. To pass the test, the student pilot must have received dual navigation training on a recognised PPL course.

The following are requirements of the NST:

- The student must not have practised the proposed NST route (dual or solo) and the route should not be made available to the student earlier than 2 hours prior to the test.
- The flight is to be non-stop, without intermediate landings.
- The route may penetrate controlled airspace, but radar navigation assistance may not be provided.
- The planned route is to be triangular A-B-C-A.
- Leg A-B is to be at least 30 nm.
- The track change at point B is to be between 60 and 150 degrees. The 'low' section on the leg B-C should commence after 5 minutes and continue for 5-10 minutes. During this 'low' section, the examiner should engineer a situation where the aircraft is 5 nm off track and check the candidates ability to re-establish position by map reading. The candidate should then be tested on ability to regain track or to steer to destination and to revise the ETA.
- Leg B-C should be planned to be at least 40 nm.
- The diversion track is not to parallel or nearly parallel to any of the pre-planned legs and need not be back to A.
- The NPPL SLMG NST form is to be signed & dated immediately following completion of the test.
- The entry in the student logbook is to indicate that the flight was the NST and the planned route should be entered in the remarks column, together with details of the diversion point and destination.
- The student navigation plan and in-flight log is to be retained at the conclusion of the test and forwarded with the licence application.