

Initial En Route Qualification Training

Lesson 13
Altimeter Setting and
Altitude Assignment

Course 50148001

LESSON PLAN DATA SHEET

COURSE NAME: INITIAL EN ROUTE QUALIFICATION TRAINING

COURSE NUMBER: 50148001

LESSON TITLE: ALTIMETER SETTING AND ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT

DURATION: 3+00 HOURS

DATE REVISED: 2022-02 **VERSION:** V.2022-02

REFERENCE(S): FAA ORDER JO 7110.65, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL;

FAR, PART 91.159, VFR CRUISING ALTITUDE OR FLIGHT LEVEL;

FAA-H-8038-15A, INSTRUMENT FLYING HANDBOOK

HANDOUT(S): ALTIMETER SETTING AND ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS

EXERCISE(S)/ EXERCISE 1: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS

ACTIVITY(S): EXERCISE 2: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT PHRASEOLOGY AND

STRIPMARKING

END-OF-LESSON

TEST:

YES

PERFORMANCE

TEST:

NONE

NONE

MATERIALS: NONE

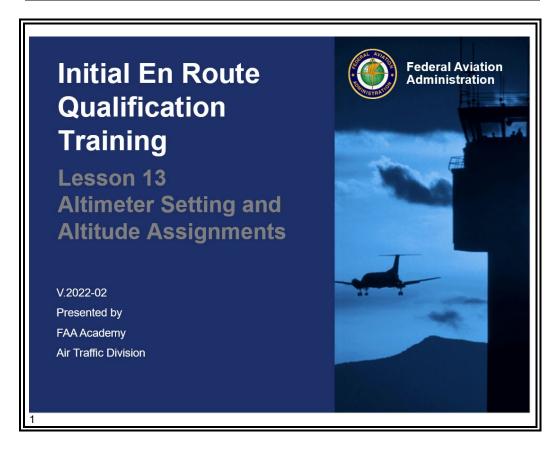
OTHER PERTINENT

INFORMATION:

DISCLAIMER

Air Traffic training materials are provided by the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Technical Training. The training materials are subject to revision, amendment and/or corrections. The materials are to be used for the intended purpose only and are not intended for distribution beyond the purpose of training. Updates (if required) shall be provided through a formal distribution process. Unsolicited updates will not be processed.

INTRODUCTION

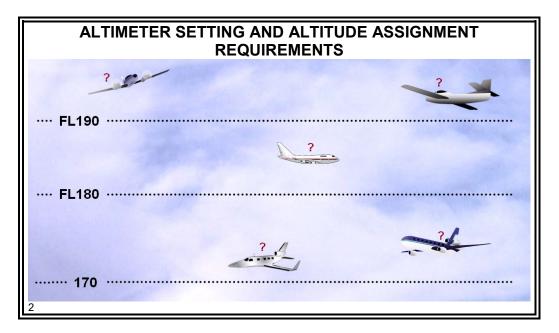


In the Departure Procedures lesson, you learned how to transition an IFR aircraft from the ground into the en route environment. Once an aircraft has departed the airport, controllers **must** continue to issue altitude assignments. Altitude assignments **must** ensure that the aircraft maintains a safe distance, **not only** from other aircraft, but also from terrain, obstructions, or other airspace. You will also learn procedures to issue current and accurate altimeter settings.

Continued on next page

50148001-LP13 / V.2022-02

INTRODUCTION (Continued)



How do air traffic controllers determine proper altitudes to assign aircraft in order to provide separation from other aircraft? What factors affect these altitudes?

Purpose

This lesson will help you understand proper altitude assignment, restrictions, verification, and phraseology. In addition, you will learn the procedures for issuing current altimeter settings.

Lesson Objectives

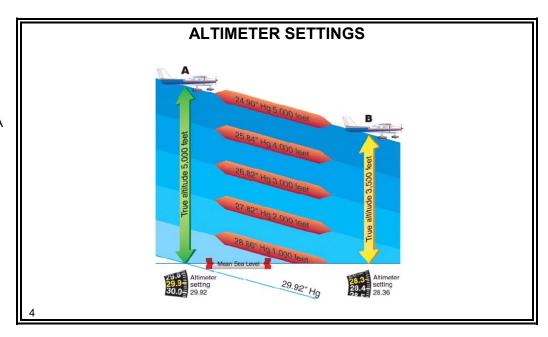
LESSON OBJECTIVES

- On an End-of-Lesson Test, and in accordance with FAA Order JO 7110.65, you will identify procedures and phraseology for:
 - Issuing altimeter settings
 - Assigning altitudes
 - Confirming altitudes

3

ALTIMETER SETTINGS

Altimeter Setting Definition JO 7110.65, Pilot/Controller Glossary, FAA-H-8038-15A



An **altimeter setting** is the barometric pressure reading used to adjust a pressure altimeter for variations in existing atmospheric pressure or to the standard altimeter setting (29.92).

Current SettingsJO 7110.65, par. 2-7-1, FAA-H-8038-15A

- Current altimeter settings must be obtained from weather reporting stations.
- Maintaining a current altimeter setting is critical because atmospheric pressure is **not** constant.
 - In one location the pressure might be higher than the pressure just a short distance away

NOTE: In areas where altimeters are fluctuating, the controller should be aware that altitudes for aircraft will also fluctuate; therefore, the controller may want to issue the altimeter more frequently than required by the JO 7110.65.

ALTIMETER SETTINGS (Continued)

Altimeter Setting Issuance JO 7110.65. pars. 2-7-2, 4-5-4

- Issue the current altimeter setting to:
 - All en route aircraft operating below FL180 at least one time while operating within your area of jurisdiction
 - Aircraft cleared to descend below the lowest usable flight level
 - Issue an altimeter setting obtained from the weather reporting station nearest the point the aircraft will descend through the lowest usable flight level
 - Arriving aircraft approximately 50 miles from the destination if that airport is **not** served by an approach control facility
 - Issue destination altimeter setting
- Use the following table to determine the lowest usable flight level to clear aircraft at or above 18,000 feet MSL.

ALTIMETER SETTING	LOWEST USABLE FL
29.92 or higher	180
29.91 to 28.92	190
28.91 to 27.92	200

- Identify the source of the report.
- State if the report is **more than** one hour old.



"THE (facility name) ALTIMETER (setting) MORE THAN ONE HOUR OLD."

Phraseology



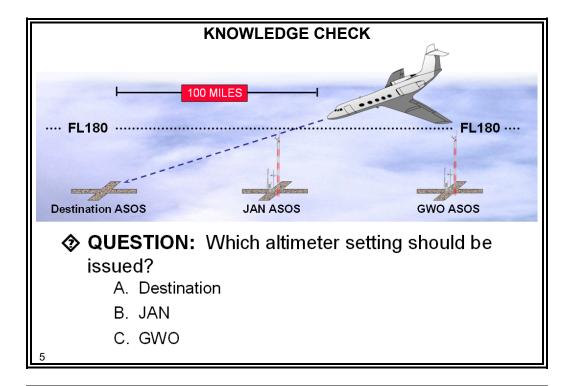
"The Jackson altimeter, two niner niner four."

Phraseology Examples

"The Vicksburg altimeter two niner eight niner more than one hour old."

ALTIMETER SETTINGS (Continued)

Knowledge Check



KNOWLEDGE CHECK

♦ QUESTION: The current time is 1351Z. What is the phraseology for issuing the 1300Z Jackson altimeter setting of 29.92?

ALTIMETER SETTINGS (Continued)

Knowledge Check (Cont'd)

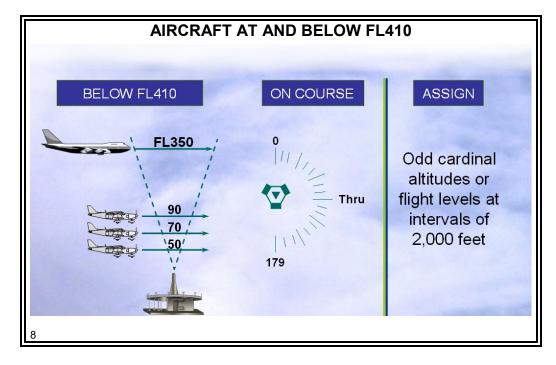
KNOWLEDGE CHECK

♦ QUESTION: The current time is 1730Z. What is the phraseology for issuing the 1600Z Vicksburg altimeter setting of 29.92?

50148001-LP13 / V.2022-02

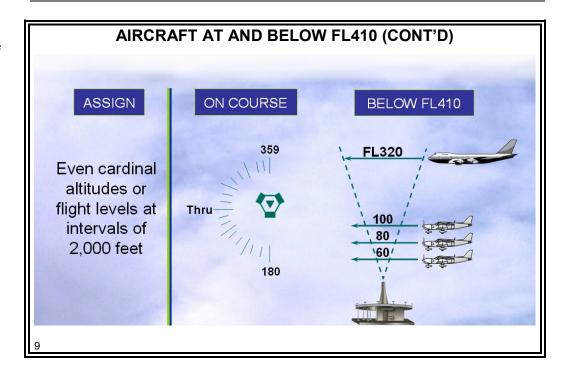
ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Altitude for Direction of Flight JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-2, table 4-5-1



- For aircraft operating at and below FL410:
 - On course degrees magnetic 0 through 179, assign:
 - Odd cardinal altitudes or flight levels at intervals of 2,000 feet

Altitude for Direction of Flight (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-2, table 4-5-1



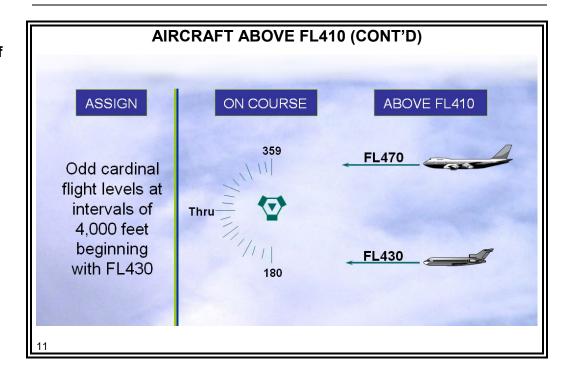
- On course degrees magnetic 180 through 359, assign:
 - Even cardinal altitudes or flight levels at intervals of 2,000 feet

Altitude for Direction of Flight (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-2, table 4-5-1



- For aircraft operating above FL410:
 - Course degrees magnetic 0 through 179, assign:
 - Odd cardinal flight levels at intervals of 4,000 feet beginning with FL410

Altitude for Direction of Flight (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-2, table 4-5-1



- On course degrees magnetic 180 through 359, assign:
 - Odd cardinal flight levels at intervals of 4,000 feet beginning with FL430

Knowledge Check

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

♦ QUESTION: An IFR aircraft flying a magnetic course of 330 degrees has requested a climb to 8,000. Is that an appropriate altitude for direction of flight? Explain.

12

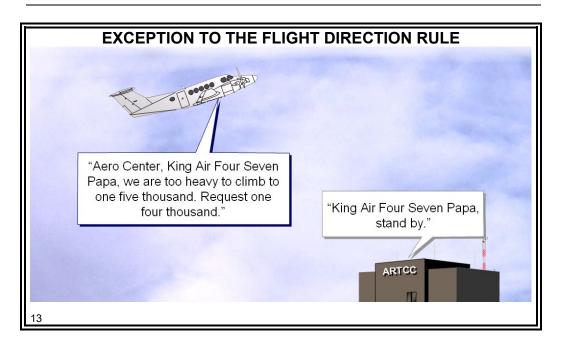
Exceptions JO 7110.65, pars. 4-5-3, 2-1-2

- With prior approval from the affected sector or facility concerned, you may assign an altitude regardless of direction of flight as follows:
 - Traffic conditions prevent the assignment of an appropriate altitude
 - Specific procedures are covered in facility directives and/or interfacility LOAs
 - The aircraft is experiencing meteorological conditions (e.g., icing, turbulence, weather activity)

NOTE: Because meteorological conditions can deteriorate into an emergency situation, they warrant priority consideration. (Reference FAA Order JO 7110.65 par. 2-1-2)

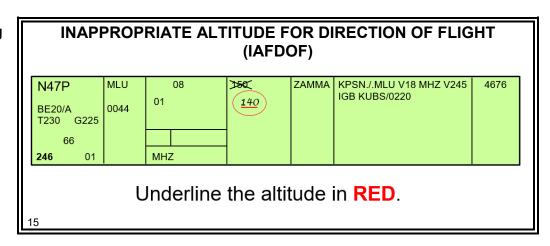
- A military aircraft is operating on a random route
- The pilot informs you the available appropriate altitude exceeds the aircraft's operational limitations

Exceptions Example JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-3





Stripmarking JO 7110.65, par. 2-3-10, fig. 2-3-7



EXERCISE 1: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS

Exercise 1

ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS EXERCISE



Purpose: to identify the appropriate altitude assignments for aircraft

Directions: review the given flight progress strips and answer the questions

16

Directions

Items 1 through 7 are short answer. Write your answers in the spaces provided. You may refer to your Aero Center Airspace Map and the Altitude Assignment Table in the appendix of this document, if needed.

Questions

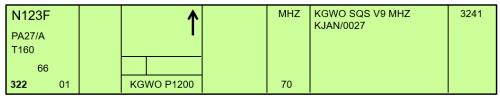
QUESTION 1: Has United Twenty been assigned an appropriate altitude for direction of flight?

UAL20	MEI 1810	19	100	GLH	KMEI V18 MHZ V74 KGLH	4465
B738/I T410 G425	1010	18				
66						
477 02		MHZ				

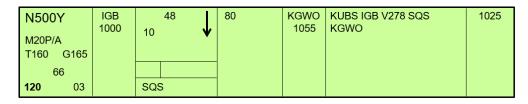
EXERCISE 1: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS (Continued)

Questions (Cont'd)

QUESTION 2: Would the requested altitude for November One Two Three Foxtrot be appropriate?



QUESTION 3: Has November Five Zero Zero Yankee been assigned an appropriate altitude for direction of flight?



QUESTION 4: Has Air Force One Six Two Three Four been assigned an appropriate altitude for direction of flight?



EXERCISE 1: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENTS (Continued)

Questions (Cont'd)

QUESTION 5: What appropriate altitudes between 110 and FL180 can be assigned to Turk One One?

TURK11	Λ.	HEZ	KJAN MHZ V245 AEX KEFD	4327
F16/P				
T510				
66				
228 01	KJAN P1705	???		ZCH

QUESTION 6: Has American Forty-Four been assigned an appropriate altitude for direction of flight?

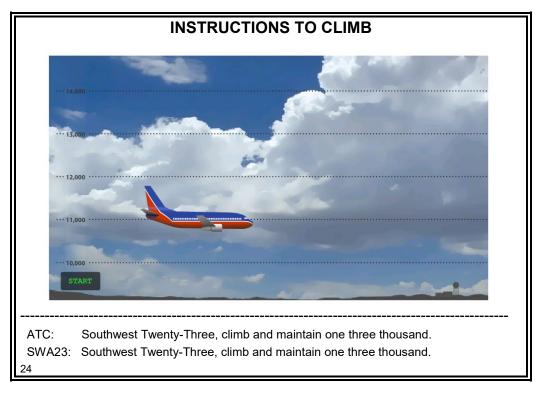
AAL44	DORTS	30	170	ZAMMA	KDAL MLU V417 MHZ V245	1037
MD88/L	1622	16			IGB KUBS	
T430 G41)					
66						
201 02		MHZ				

QUESTION 7: What altitudes below 10,000 can be assigned to November One Two One Romeo Bravo?

N121RB	1	HATER	KJAN V427 MLU V18 EIC KSHV/0101	0331
BE65/B	I I		K3117/0101	
T165				
66				
514 01	KJAN P0600	???		

ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT PHRASEOLOGY

Instructions to Climb or Descend JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



- Issue instructions to climb or descend, including restrictions if required, as follows:
 - Specify time restriction reference the UTC clock and issue a time check
 - If you are in direct, two-way, VHF/UHF voice communication with the
 pilot and the aircraft is in radar contact, you may specify an elapsed
 time interval restriction, in full minute increments only, without any
 reference to the UTC clock.

→ Phraseology

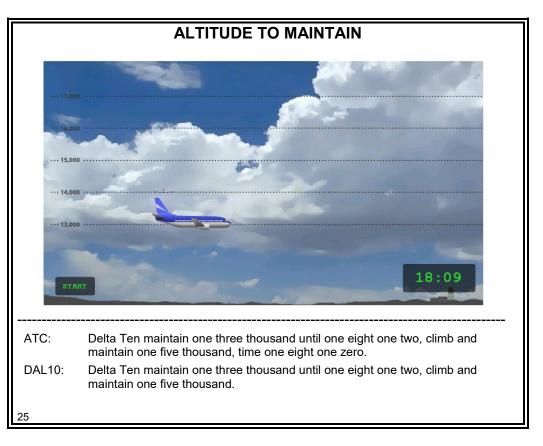
"CLIMB/DESCEND AND MAINTAIN (altitude). if required,

AFTER PASSING (fix, waypoint), or AT (time) (time in hours, minutes, and nearest quarter minute)."

"CLIMB/DESCEND TO REACH (altitude) AT (time [issue time check] or fix, waypoint)."

"CLIMB/DESCEND TO REACH (altitude) within two minutes".

Altitude to Maintain or Cruise Instructions JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



• Issue altitude to maintain or cruise instructions as follows:

→ Phraseology

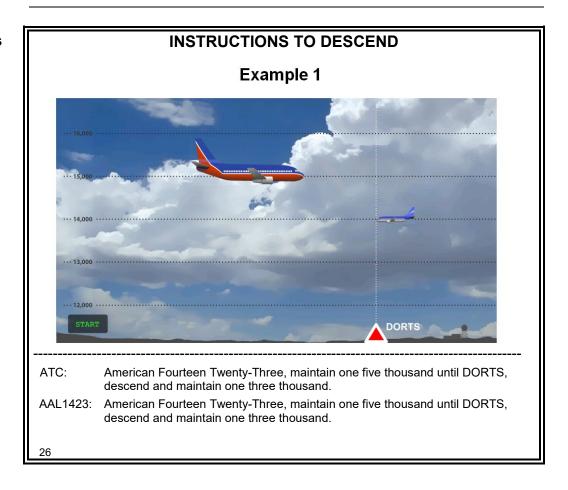
"MAINTAIN/CRUISE (altitude)."

"MAINTAIN (altitude) UNTIL (time [issue time check], fix, waypoint)."

"CROSS (fix, point, waypoint) AT or ABOVE/BELOW (altitude), CRUISE (altitude)."

"INTERCEPT (route) AT OR ABOVE/BELOW (altitude), CRUISE (altitude)."

Instructions to Climb or Descend JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



Instructions to Climb or Descend (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7

INSTRUCTIONS TO DESCEND

ATC: November Two Five Papa, descend to reach six thousand at or before zero eight

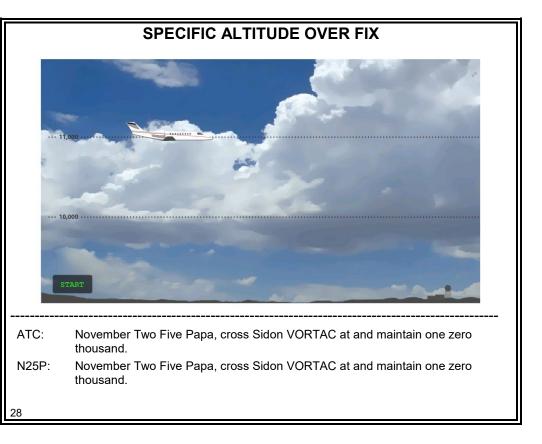
one four, time zero eight one one.

N25P: November Two Five Papa, descend to reach six thousand at or before zero eight

one four.

27

Assignment of Specified Altitude Over Fix or Waypoint JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



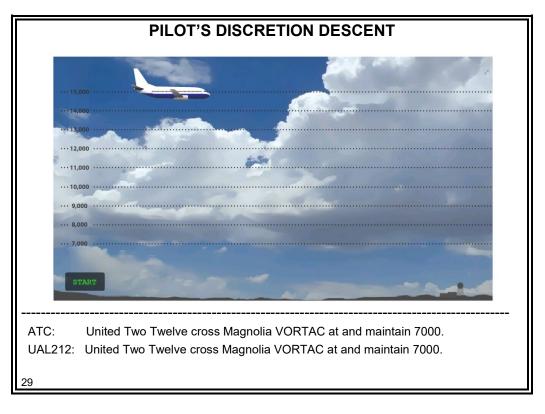
 $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{O}}$ Assign a specified altitude over a specified fix or waypoint as follows:



"CROSS (fix, waypoint) AT (altitude)"

"CROSS (fix, waypoint) AT OR ABOVE/BELOW (altitude)"

Pilot's Discretion JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



• Assign a clearance to climb/descend at pilot's discretion as follows:



"CLIMB/DESCEND AT PILOT'S DISCRETION"

NOTE: Crossing restrictions, approach clearances, and cruise clearances allow for descent at pilot's discretion.

Pilot's Discretion (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7

- Portion of climb/descent may be authorized at pilot's discretion.
 - Specify altitude to which aircraft must climb/descend, followed by altitude to maintain at pilot's discretion

→ Phraseology

"CLIMB/DESCEND NOW TO (altitude), THEN CLIMB/DESCEND AT PILOT'S DISCRETION, MAINTAIN (altitude)."

NOTE: Pilot's discretion, when used in conjunction with altitude assignments, means that ATC has offered the pilot the option of starting climb or descent whenever he/she wishes and conducting the climb or descent at any rate he/she wishes. He/she may temporarily level off at any intermediate altitude. However, once he/she has vacated an altitude, he/she may **not** return to that altitude. When you issue a pilot's discretion clearance, you **must** protect more altitudes for a longer period of time.

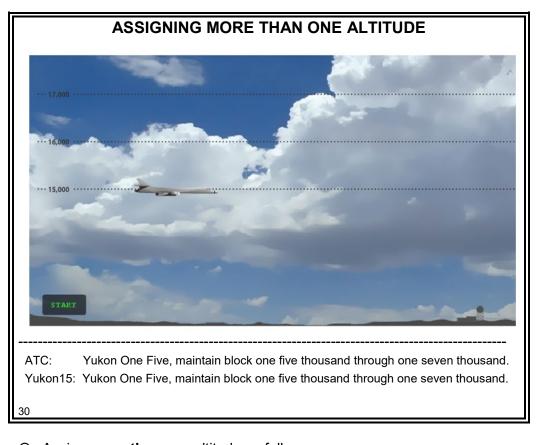
Canceling Pilot's Discretion JO 7110.65, par. 4-2-5

- When canceling pilot's discretion portion of a climb/descent clearance:
 - Assign a new altitude and inform the pilot that the new altitude is an amended altitude

Route Or Altitude Amendments JO 7110.65, par. 4-2-5

When a route or altitude in a previously issued clearance is amended, restate all applicable restrictions.

Assigning More Than One Altitude JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7



• Assign more than one altitude as follows:

→ Phraseology

"MAINTAIN BLOCK (altitude) THROUGH (altitude)"

Instructions When Pilot Cannot Accept Clearance JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-7

- When a pilot is unable to accept a clearance:
 - <u>Issue revised instruction to ensure positive control and approved</u> <u>separation</u>

NOTE:

- 1. 14 CFR Section 91.123 states that a pilot is **not** allowed to deviate from an ATC clearance "that has been obtained...unless an amended clearance is obtained" (except when an emergency exists).
- A pilot is therefore expected to advise the controller if a clearance cannot be accepted when the clearance is issued. "We will try" and other such acknowledgements do not constitute pilot acceptance of an ATC clearance.
- 3. Controllers are expected to issue ATC clearances which conform with normal aircraft operational capabilities and do **not** require "last minute" amendments to ensure standard separation.
- 4. "Expedite" is **not** to be used in lieu of appropriate restrictions to ensure separation.

Anticipated **Altitude** Change JO 7110.65,

par. 4-5-8

- O Inform aircraft when to:
 - Expect climb/descent clearance, or
 - Request altitude change from another facility



Phraseology

"EXPECT HIGHER/LOWER IN (number of miles or minutes) MILES/MINUTES,

or

AT (fix)."

"REQUEST ALTITUDE/FLIGHT LEVEL CHANGE FROM (name of facility).

if required,

AT (time, fix, or altitude)."

Knowledge Check

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

QUESTION: N46P is westbound on V278 at six thousand requesting one zero thousand. In order to protect traffic southbound on V9 at seven thousand, you determine that a 6-mile crossing restriction northeast of Sidon is necessary. What is the proper phraseology to issue this clearance?

Exercise 2

ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT PHRASEOLOGY AND STRIPMARKING EXERCISE



Purpose: to practice issuing altitude clearances and using altitude assignment phraseology

Directions: review the given flight progress strips, mark the strips with the appropriate altitude clearance, then write the correct phraseology

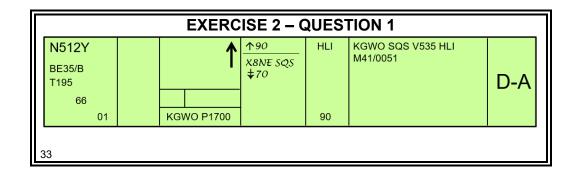
20

Directions

For items 1 through 4, write the altitude assignment phraseology indicated by the flight progress strip shown. For items 5 through 8, mark the strips accordingly based on the altitude clearances provided.

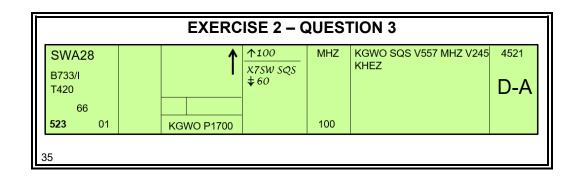
NOTE: For the purpose of this exercise, **no** coordination is shown on the flight progress strips.

Questions



EXERCISE 2 – QUESTION 2						
UAL27 A319/L T420 G410	GLH 1803	14	170√↓150 170/26 SE GLH	MEI	KPBF./.GLH V74 MHZ V18 KMEI	4010
126 01 MHZ 34						

Questions (Cont'd)

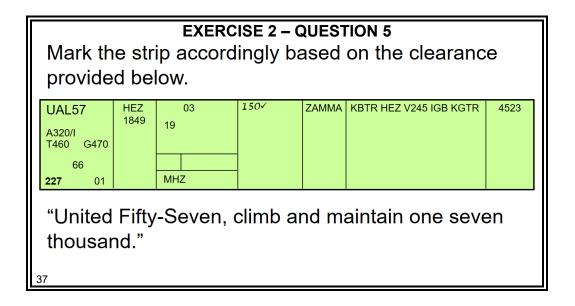


EXERCISE 2 – QUESTION 4						
JOKER06 C130/A T310 G300	IGB 1957	22 20	80√↑100 80/14 NE	GLH	KCBM IGB V278 GLH KLRF	4522
701 03		SQS				

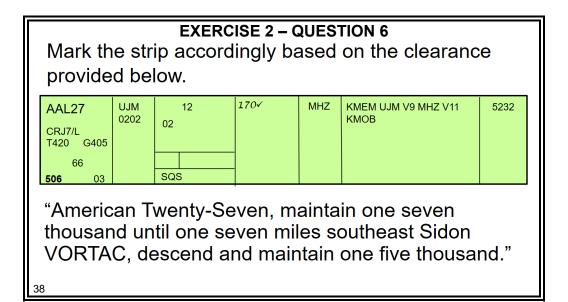
Continued on next page

50148001-LP13 / V.2022-02

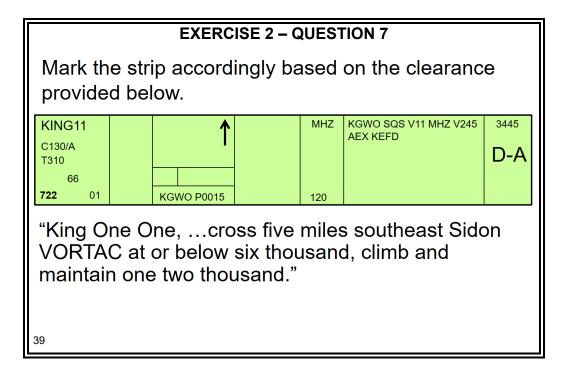
Questions (Cont'd)



Questions (Cont'd)

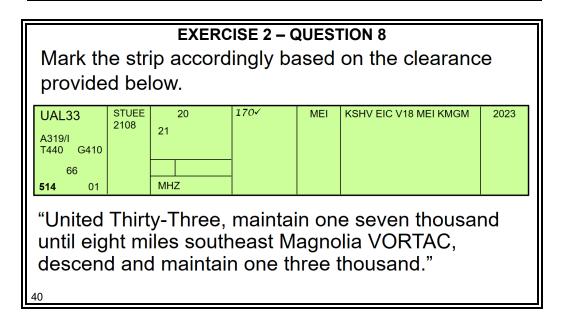


Questions (Cont'd)



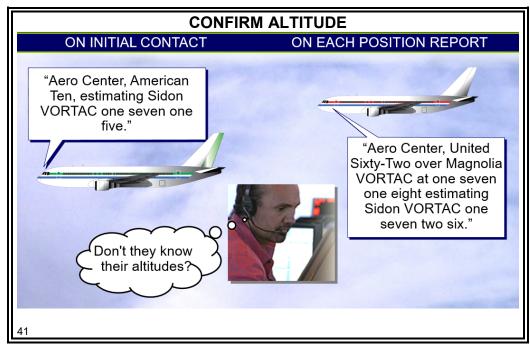
NOTE: The departure clearance has been issued with the destination airport as the clearance limit.

Questions (Cont'd)



ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT CONFIRMATION

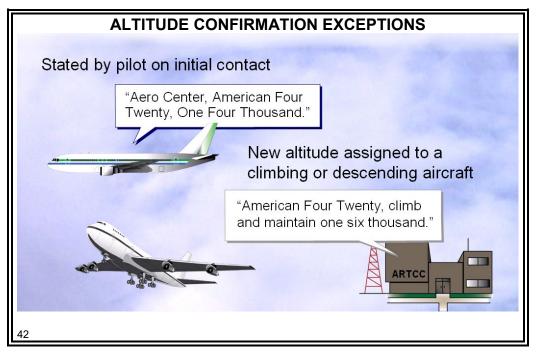
Altitude Confirmation Requirements (Nonradar) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-9



- On initial contact, or when position reports are received, request a pilot to confirm his/her assigned altitude unless:
 - The pilot states the assigned altitude on initial contact
 - You assign a new altitude to a climbing or descending aircraft

ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT CONFIRMATION (Continued)

Altitude Confirmation Requirements (Nonradar) (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-9



Altitude Confirmation Phraseology (Nonradar)

JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-9

→ Phraseology

 $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{O}}$ Ask for altitude assignment verification in the following situations:

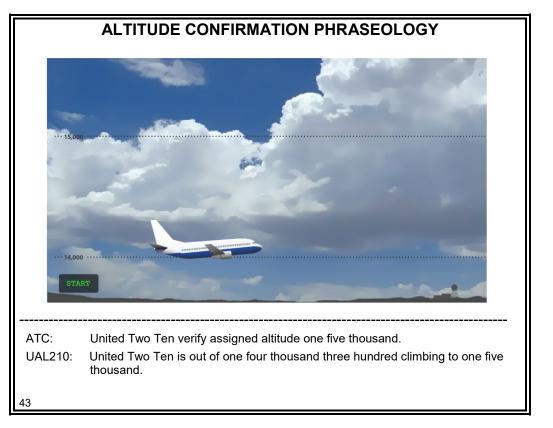
• In level flight situations:

"VERIFY AT (altitude/flight level)"

ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT CONFIRMATION (Continued)

Altitude Confirmation Phraseology (Nonradar) (Cont'd) JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-9

→ Phraseology Example



• In climbing or descending situations if aircraft has been assigned an altitude below the lowest usable flight level:

Phraseology

"VERIFY ASSIGNED ALTITUDE (altitude)."

 If aircraft has been assigned a flight level at or above the lowest usable flight level

 \rightarrow

"VERIFY ASSIGNED FLIGHT LEVEL (flight level)."

Phraseology

IN CONCLUSION

Lesson Review

LESSON REVIEW

The following topics were covered in this lesson:

- Altimeter settings
- Altitude assignment requirements
- Altitude assignment phraseology
- Altitude assignment confirmation



44

End-of-Lesson Test

END OF LESSON TEST

Altimeter Setting and Altitude Assignments



45

APPENDIX: ALTITUDE ASSIGNMENT TABLE

Altitude Assignment Table JO 7110.65, par. 4-5-2, table 4-5-1

AIRCRAFT OPERATING	ON COURSE DEGREES MAGNETIC	ASSIGN	EXAMPLES
Below 3,000 feet above surface (AGL)	Any course	Any altitude	** Not used in Aero Center Airspace
At and below FL410	0 through 179	Odd cardinal altitude or flight levels at intervals of 2,000 feet	3,000 feet, 5,000 feet, FL310, FL330
At and below FL410	180 through 359	Even cardinal altitudes or flight levels at intervals of 2,000 feet	4,000 feet, 6,000 feet, FL320, FL340
Above FL410	0 through 179	Odd cardinal flight levels at intervals of 4,000 feet beginning with FL410	FL450, FL490, FL530
Above I L410	180 through 359	Odd cardinal flight levels at intervals of 4,000 feet beginning with FL430	FL430, FL470, FL510
One-way routes (except in composite systems)	Any course	Any cardinal altitude or flight level below FL410 or any odd cardinal flight level above FL410	FL270, FL280, FL290, FL300, FL310, FL410, FL430, FL450
Within an ALTRV	Any course	Any altitude or flight level	
In transition to/from or within Oceanic airspace where composite separation is authorized	Any course	Any odd or even cardinal flight level including those above FL290	FL280, FL290, FL300, FL310, FL320, FL330, FL340
In aerial refueling tracks and anchors	Any course	Altitude blocks as requested. Any altitude or flight level	050B080, FL180B220, FL280B310
Aircraft within RVSM or RVSM transition airspace	Any course	Any designated cardinal altitude	FL330, FL340, FL350, FL360