

Getting the 'A' Certificate award, 2025

Print out the list of required manoeuvres and practise them, a lot.

Make an arrangement with your club examiner, if your club has one. If not seek guidance from the AAC, Area Achievement Co-ordinator who will suggest a nearby ACE, Area Chief Examiner, or a Test day event at a nearby club.

Show your RCC to your examiner. If you don't have one already, log on the bmfa.org website, find the RCC, <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc> and pass the test before the flying part.

For the flying element you need a model aeroplane of more than 1 kg mass, with wheels capable of taking off from the ground, and no artificial electronic stabilisation or autopilot.

If possible take a friend to call the manoeuvres and handle the model, under your direction.

With proof of your RCC award shown to the examiner (paper copy, or phone if you have signal), you demonstrate your safe flying with the assistance of your obedient helper.

Result: Practical Check List Item:

Test taken: 'A' ☐ 'BPC' ☐

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Carry out pre-flight checks. (Demonstrating knowledge of 'SWEETS' and the 'BMFA Member's Handbook') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Successfully demonstrate the aircraft's failsafe. (A non-working, or incorrectly set failsafe is an instant test failure) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Take off, climb to circuit height and complete a circuit.
(The exercise is complete when the aircraft overflies the take-off area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Figure of Eight.
(The candidate must start 'into wind' and the crossover point must be flown in front of, and away from, the candidate)
(The exercise is complete when the aircraft overflies the take-off area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Rectangular circuit and land.
(The candidate must land in a designated area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Take off, climb to circuit height and complete a circuit.
(The exercise is complete when the aircraft overflies the take-off area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Rectangular circuit in the opposite direction to that flown for 6.
(The exercise is complete when the aircraft overflies the take-off area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Simulated 'dead stick' landing.
(The candidate must land in a designated area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Carry out post-flight checks. (The candidate must show knowledge of the BMFA Member's Handbook) |

In (8) the throttle is to be closed (set to idle) at the command of the examiner and remains closed.

Having successfully completed the flying element the examiner will ask a minimum of five additional questions on safety matters based on the BMFA Safety Codes for General Flying, and local flying rules. Get those right too and the examiner will fill in the paperwork to register your A pass. The paperwork and is done by head office who will check their records.

AASC Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (or just AAC, missing the word 'scheme')

ACE Area Chief Examiner

RCC Registration Competency Certificate <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc>

SWEETS preflight risk assessment. Sun, Wind, Environment, Emergencies, Transmitter, Site.

BPC Basic Proficiency Certificate, the award for passing using a model non-compliant with A-cert

ASRC Achievement Scheme Review Committee

SMART (Pre-start Transmitter check) Switch on, correct Model, Aerial, Rates, Transmitter

A pilot must perform a preflight check, engine/motor on, including Controls (full, free, correct), and Transmitter (all), but I have not yet found that in any of the BMFA manuals.

Getting the 'B' Certificate award

You must already have the A, including the RCC. You will need two suitable club examiners (check with the AAC if in doubt) or one ACE.

- ☐ 1. **Carry out pre-flight checks.** (Demonstrating knowledge of 'SWEETS' and the 'BMFA Member's Handbook')
- ☐ 2. **Successfully demonstrate the aircraft's failsafe.** (A non-working, or incorrectly set failsafe is an instant test failure)
- ☐ 3. **Take off, climb to circuit height and complete a circuit.**
- ☐ 4. **Figure of Eight.** (The crossover point must be in front of, and, be flying away from the candidate)
- ☐ 5. **Inside loop.** (The centre of the loop should be exactly in front of the candidate)
- ☐ 6. **Outside loop from the top (i.e. a bunt).** (The centre of the outside loop should be exactly in front of the candidate)
- ☐ 7. **Two consecutive rolls into wind.**
- ☐ 8. **Two consecutive rolls down wind.** (The candidate must roll in the opposite direction to that flown for 6.)
- ☐ 9. **Stall turn** (The candidate may do this either 100m upwind, or downwind, but must stall turn away from the flight line)
- ☐ 10. **Three-turn spin.** (The candidate must start and recover 'into wind', and must not 'flick' into the spin)
- ☐ 11. **Rectangular landing approach with a hazard avoidance go-around from below 10ft.**
(The examiner will call the point to abort, if they do not call abort, the candidate is expected to land)
- ☐ 12. **Reverse 'down wind' circuit at a height of not more than 40ft.**
- ☐ 13. **Rectangular circuit and land.**
(The candidate must land in a 30m designated area)
- ☐ 14. **Carry out post-flight checks.** (The candidate must show knowledge of the BMFA Member's Handbook)

Result: Theory Check List Item: (To be completed at the end of the test)

- ☐ 1. **Successfully answer a minimum of eight (8) safety matter questions.**
- ☐ 2. **Option 1) - Proof of a current BMFA RCC and date passed:** (If not go to 'Option 2')
- Option 2) - Successfully answer a minimum of five (5) mandatory questions instead of 'Option 1'.**
- Mandatory questions asked if applicable (.....) (.....) (.....) (.....) (.....)

How to become a Club Examiner

You must have had a B for more than six months and be able to fly a confident B schedule and be aged over 18. You must have a valid RCC pass, and be chosen by a club* as their candidate for Club Examiner. Then the club* has to open the BMFA website, go to "members area", click the "achievement scheme-standards and guidelines" tab, click on "The tests" in the header bar and go down to "request a club examiners assessment". A club officer fills in the form online with club details, their chosen candidate's details and clicks "submit" to send it off to head office where Duncan McClure will check it over and send it to the AAC (Area Co-ordinator) who will appoint an ACE to contact you, arrange a date and venue. You must fly a good B test (not perfect) and conduct a mock A and B test with the ACE. During the test, you must demonstrate to the ACE a good knowledge of BMFA Safety Codes, the Article 16 Authorisation and local club rules. Based on that you will be appointed or rejected as a Club Examiner

* the club need not be BMFA affiliated, but the candidate must be a BMFA member.

Examiners must be ratified by a club every year, and are encouraged to record all their activities in a log book (sent free on request).

An examiner may be registered to more than one club.

An examiner may conduct tests in another club only at the request of that club.

The above is intended as a very brief guide to the common certificate requests, fixed wing A and B. For anything else, for full details, consult the source documents downloadable from the BMFA web

- BMFA Members' Handbook 2023
- RC Achievement Scheme Handbook 2025 issue
- BMFA The R/C Achievement Scheme Test Standards
- For Chief and Club Examiners Guidance (FW BPC, A and B)