

NAME: _____

ACSAS 2026 Fly in Quiz

Aviation in Hollywood or: How I Learned to Start Worrying and Hate ACSAS Quizzes

1. All 4 of these celebrities served in the military and saw combat. Which one flew on a B-52 in combat over North Vietnam.

- a. Dennis Franz
- b. Wes Studi
- c. Oliver Stone
- d. Jimmy Stewart

Stewart served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during WWII and later the Air Force Reserve. During the Vietnam era, he flew as an observer on a B-52 bombing mission over North Vietnam while serving as a brigadier general.

2. This airplane disaster movie starred Leslie Nielsen and Peter Graves.

- a. Airplane!
- b. Airplane?
- c. Airplane!!
- d. Airplane

Surely, you can't be serious. The parody disaster comedy starred Leslie Nielsen as Dr. Rumack and Peter Graves as Captain Clarence Oveur. The exclamation mark is officially part of the title.

3. The famous *Hollywood* hill sign in Hollywood is in/under this airspace class...

- a. Class E
- b. Hollywood Burbank Class C
- c. LAX Class B
- d. Santa Monica Class D

The Hollywood Sign sits beneath the Class C airspace associated with Hollywood Burbank Airport (formerly Bob Hope Airport).

4. This movie, starring Dana Andrews, was the inspiration for the movie *Airplane*.

- a. Zero Hour!
- b. The Crowded Sky
- c. From Here to Eternity
- d. Five Came Back

Airplane! directly spoofed 1957's Zero Hour!, even reusing plot points and some dialogue nearly word-for-word.

5. This actress's first screen appearance (uncredited) was in the airplane disaster film *From Here to Eternity*.

- a. Barbara Eden
- b. Anita Ekberg
- c. Natalie Wood
- d. Kim Novak

Barbara Eden had an uncredited appearance in From Here to Eternity before becoming famous from I Dream of Jeannie.

6. Which famous Hollywood couple starred together in the airplane disaster movie *Phone Call From a Stranger*?

- a. Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball
- b. Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh
- c. Betty Davis and Gary Merrill
- d. Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher

Betty Davis and Gary Merrill appeared together in Phone Call from a Stranger; the story of an accident survivor who contacts the relatives of passengers he had come to know during the fateful flight.

7. True or False. Jimmy Stewart was a Lieutenant General in the Air National Guard.

- a. true
- b. false

Jimmy Stewart served in the Army Air Forces, US Air Force, and the Air Force Reserve. He retired in 1968 as a Brigadier General. He was not in the Air National Guard.

8. What type of bomber was showcased in the movie *The Dam Busters* (1955)?

- a. Boeing Flying Fortress
- b. Consolidated Liberator
- c. Avro Lancaster
- d. Handley Page Halifax

Dam Busters dramatized the May 1943 Operation Chastise, where RAF Avro Lancaster bombers used "bouncing bombs" against German dams. Two of the three targeted dams were breached. British forces lost 8 of 19 Lancasters that flew this mission.

9. The first CFI certificate in the US was issued to an actor. Who was it?

- a. Jimmy Stewart
- b. Robert Cummings
- c. George Gobel
- d. Cliff Robertson

The Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA), the predecessor to the modern FAA, began officially issuing certified flight instructor (CFI) certificates in 1939. Bob Cummings reportedly held the first U.S. flight instructor certificate issued. Prior to that, anyone who knew how to fly could teach anyone else. The CAA didn't even start issuing pilots licenses until 1927.

10. These photos are of an RKO Studio prop used in as many as a dozen movies including *Five Came Back* and *Flying Tigers*. Easily recognizable for its ridiculous biplane, triple rudder tail. Was this a real airplane?

a. Yes

b. No

The Capelis XC-12 was a real one-off failed prototype airliner. It was built in 1933, grounded in 1938, then acquired by RKO as a movie prop. It was finally scrapped in 1950.



(Scene from *Flying Tigers*)



11. In the movie *Sully*, Sully Sullenberger was played by Tom Hanks. Who played the role of his copilot Jeff Skiles?

- a. Jamey Sheridan
- b. Mike O'Malley
- c. Holt McCallany
- d. Aaron Eckhart

Referring to the mustache he grew for the role, Aaron Eckhart joked "yeah, it was keeping me warm. It was like a little blanky."

12. In the movie *Aviator*, who played the role of Howard Hughes?

- a. Leonardo DiCaprio
- b. Matt Damon
- c. Mark Wahlberg
- d. Christian Bale

The eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes served as the inspiration for Iron Man's Tony Stark character.

13. What was Sky King's first name?

- a. Mitch (Mitchell)
- b. Brock
- c. Schuyler
- d. Steve

Sky King, America's "Favorite Flying Cowboy" was a 1946 radio show before becoming the 1951-1962 TV series. Arizona rancher Schuyler "Sky" King and his niece Penny would assist law enforcement in solving cases.

14. Speaking of *Sky King*, which one of the following aircraft was flown by Sky King in the TV show?

- a. Beech Baron
- b. Cessna 210
- c. Cessna T-50
- d. Piper Apache

Songbird was the name of Sky King's Cessna T-50 Bobcat. That model is often referred to as a Bamboo Bomber due to its fabric and wood construction. In later seasons of the show, there was a Songbird II and III, a Cessna 310B and 310D respectively.

15. Remember Con Air, the movie where a group of violent prisoners take control of a prisoner transport plane? What model was the Con Air plane?

- a. Fairchild C-123 Provider
- b. Lockheed C-130 Hercules
- c. de Havilland Canada DHC-4 Caribou
- d. Fairchild C-119 Boxcar

Nicknamed "Jailbird" in the film, a Fairchild C-123 Provider was the prisoner transport plane used in Con Air. You can see this movie prop in person weathering away at the Wendover UT airport.

16. Who played the leading role of President James Marshall in the movie *Air Force One*?

- a. Matt Damon
- b. Brad Pitt
- c. Harrison Ford
- d. Danny DeVito

Harrison Ford plays the very resourceful President in this 1997 action movie.

17. In the original 1986 *Top Gun*, in which plane did Tom Cruise's character fly?

- a. SPAD S.XIII
- b. F-14 Tomcat
- c. F-18 Super Hornet
- d. F-17 Wildcat

Tom Cruise's played the fictional character Lieutenant Pete "Maverick" Mitchell and flew a Grumman F-14 Tomcat.

18. The very first Oscar for Best Picture (at the time called Best Production) was given to an aviation themed movie. Which movie was it?

- a. Wings
- b. Lilac Time
- c. The Air Circus
- d. Conquest
- e. Hell's Angels

The first Academy Awards were held in 1929 and lasted just 15 minutes long. The 1927 aviation epic WWI Wings received the top honor.

19. All 5 movies in question 18 have aviation themes. Which one was the first full length aviation movie that was a "talkie?"

- a. Wings
- b. Lilac Time
- c. The Air Circus
- d. Conquest
- e. Hell's Angels

Chronological Order of Movie Releases

- *Wings* – August 12, 1927 - silent
- *The Air Circus* – September 30, 1928 - Part talkie
- *Lilac Time* – October 18, 1928 - Synchronized Sound (Music/Effects)
- *Conquest* – December 22, 1928 - Full talkie (Vitaphone)
- *Hell's Angels* – May 27, 1930 - Sound/Talkie (Reshot for Audio)

Conquest was the first full "talkie" in this group. The technology used was Vitaphone, which employed a film projector synchronized with record turntable.

20. In the movie *Apollo 13*, who played the role of Jim Lovell, the mission commander?

- a. Kevin Bacon
- b. Ed Harris
- c. Tom Hanks
- d. Matt Damon

Lovell himself had a cameo as Captain of the recovery ship USS Iwo Jima.

21. This actor played the role of General Savage in the 1949 movie *Twelve O'clock High*.

- a. Jimmy Stewart
- b. John Wayne
- c. Gregory Peck
- d. William Holden

Gregory Peck was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of Frank Savage, a General whose leadership rebuilds a demoralized WWII B-17 bomber group.

22. What model was the airplane in the movie *Soul Plane* (2004)?

- a. Boeing 707
- b. Boeing 747
- c. DC-8
- d. Boeing 737

*Soul Plane featured a comically modified metallic purple Boeing 747SP.
The film's stereotypes have not aged well*

23. Which airplane showcased in the movie *Fail Safe* (1964)

- a. B-52 Stratofortress
- b. B-36 Peacekeeper
- c. B-47 Stratojet
- d. B-58 Hustler

The delta-wing Convair B-58 Hustler was the world's first supersonic bomber.

24. In the 2022 movie *Devotion*, Ensign Jesse Brown (played by Jonathan Majors) was flying what model airplane when he was shot down over Korea.

- a. F8F Bearcat
- b. F4U Corsair
- c. F14 Tomcat
- d. A-1 Skyraider

Based on a true story, Devotion was about Jesse L. Brown, the Navy's first black aviator whose F4U Corsair was shot down in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

25. The following line was uttered in which movie?

"There will be some important promotions and citations when we come through this. That goes for every last one of you, regardless of your race, your color, or your creed!"

- a. Twelve O'clock High
- b. The Bridges at Toko-Ri
- c. The Damn Busters
- d. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

Major T. J. "King" Kong (played by Slim Pickens) said these words of encouragement to his B-52 crew right before he dropped a nuclear bomb - rodeo-style.