

French Women *Pilots*



Correction booklet: each answer is illuminated by a historical anecdote and a reference to extend the discovery.

A pedagogical companion to explore a century of daring.

CORRECTION BOOKLET

20

QUESTIONS

1910 – 2022

From Raymonde de Laroche to Sophie Adenot

01

QUESTION

Which French aviator was the first woman in the world to obtain a pilot's license, in 1910?

A Caroline Aigle

B Isabelle Patissier

C Raymonde de Laroche

✓ Correct answer

D Virginie Guyot



LAROCHE

ANSWER · RAYMONDE DE LAROCHE

Raymonde de Laroche received pilot's license No. 36 from the Aéro-Club de France on 8 March 1910, officially becoming the first licensed female pilot in the world. This formal recognition was a foundational moment in the history of women's aviation, in a field then dominated by a male, military culture.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Raymonde de Laroche](#)

02

QUESTION

Which French aviation pioneer crossed the Andes in 1921, becoming the first woman to achieve this feat?

A Adrienne Bolland

✓ Correct answer

B Dorine Bourneton

C Caroline Aigle

D Sophie Adenot



BOLLAND

ANSWER · ADRIENNE BOLLAND

On 1 April 1921, Adrienne Bolland accomplished the feat of crossing the Andes aboard a Caudron G.3 monoplane, flying from Mendoza, Argentina, to Santiago, Chile. The crossing was a remarkable technical achievement, at a time when aircraft like this 80-hp plane were neither pressurised nor heated. It also marked a symbolic step in the recognition of women's aeronautical skills.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Adrienne Bolland](#)

03

QUESTION

Which French aviator set the women's speed record at 445 km/h in 1934?

☐ A Sophie Adenot☐ B Catherine Maunoury☒ C **Hélène Boucher** ✓ Correct answer☐ D Anne-Laure Michel**ANSWER · HÉLÈNE BOUCHER**

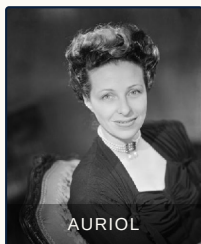
On 11 August 1934, Hélène Boucher reached 445 km/h aboard a Caudron-Rafale aircraft. This remarkable performance came in a context of international competition, as women pilots were beginning to gain access to high-performance aircraft. Boucher became a national icon but tragically died during a training flight that same year.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Hélène Boucher](#)

04

QUESTION

Which French aviator was the first woman test pilot in France and broke the sound barrier in 1953?

☒ A **Jacqueline Auriol** ✓ Correct answer☐ B Élise Deroche☐ C Claire Roman☐ D Marion Fesneau**ANSWER · JACQUELINE AURIOL**

In the 1950s, Jacqueline Auriol became the first woman military test pilot in France, in a field that was then exclusively male. On 15 August 1953, aboard a Dassault Mystère IV, she broke the sound barrier, becoming the second woman in the world to achieve this feat after the American Jacqueline Cochran.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Jacqueline Auriol](#)

05

QUESTION

Which French aviator, nicknamed 'the fiancée of danger', was a pioneer of air ambulance services, designed a prototype ambulance aircraft, and attempted in 1909 to cross the Channel by balloon?

(A) Valérie André

(B) Dorine Bourneton

(C) Marie Marvingt ✓ **Correct answer**

(D) Caroline Aigle



ANSWER · MARIE MARVINGT

Marie Marvingt, an accomplished athlete, nurse and aviation pioneer, attempted in 1909 to cross the English Channel by balloon. The night-time arrival proving difficult, the balloon ended up suspended in a tree with one passenger still aboard, while she fell from the rigging. The record was not validated by the British, due to the abandonment of her passenger. From 1910 onwards she championed the concept of medical air evacuation and contributed to the design of the first air ambulances. Nicknamed 'the fiancée of danger', she is considered one of the founders of medicalised air transport.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Marie Marvingt](#)

06

QUESTION

Which French aviator was at once a Resistance fighter, a military dentist and a pilot in Indochina with more than 80 combat missions?

(A) Jacqueline Domergue

(B) Suzanne Jannin ✓ **Correct answer**

(C) Maryse Bastié

(D) Valérie André



ANSWER · SUZANNE JANNIN

Suzanne Jannin (1912–1982) was a dentist, a Resistance fighter during World War II, and later a military pilot in Indochina. She logged 290 flights, including 86 combat missions aboard the Morane-Saulnier Criquet. A Knight of the Légion d'honneur, she stands as a rare example of a woman combining medical, military and aviation engagements in 20th-century conflicts.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Suzanne Jannin](#)

07

QUESTION

Which French aviator set the South Atlantic crossing record in 12 hours in 1936?

A Maryse Bastié ✓ **Correct answer****B** Anne-Marie Saget**C** Sandra Bourdon**D** Isabelle Fabre**ANSWER · MARYSE BASTIÉ**

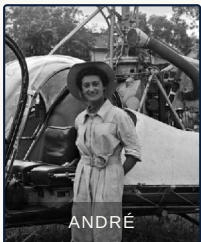
In 1936, Maryse Bastié flew from Dakar (Senegal) to Natal (Brazil) in 12 hours and 5 minutes, setting a new women's record for the South Atlantic crossing. The achievement came amid a context of technological rivalry between nations, where French women pilots were supported by the State to showcase the national aeronautical industry.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Maryse Bastié](#)

08

QUESTION

Which French aviator was the first woman to fly a helicopter in a war zone and carried out medical evacuations in Indochina?

A Valérie André ✓ **Correct answer****B** Sophie Adenot**C** Clotilde Pautrat**D** Anne Chantal Pauwels**ANSWER · VALÉRIE ANDRÉ**

Valérie André, a neurosurgeon and military pilot, was one of the first women to combine medical expertise with operational flying. From 1950 in Indochina, she carried out numerous helicopter medical evacuation missions, a major tactical innovation in modern combat medicine.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Valérie André](#)

09

QUESTION

Which French aviator, a qualified head mechanic and intrepid pilot, won the Hélène Boucher Cup in 1935 and took part in major air raids such as Paris–Saigon and Paris–Tokyo?

A Maryse Hilsz ✓ Correct answer

B Sophie Adenot

C Dorine Bourneton

D Catherine Maunoury



ANSWER · MARYSE HILSZ

Maryse Hilsz, a qualified head mechanic and bold pilot, established herself in the 1930s as one of the leading figures of French aviation. Winner of the Hélène Boucher Cup in 1935, she took part in several long-distance air raids, notably Paris–Saigon and Paris–Tokyo. Her career embodies the daring, endurance and professionalism of French women aviators of the interwar period.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Maryse Hilsz](#)

10

QUESTION

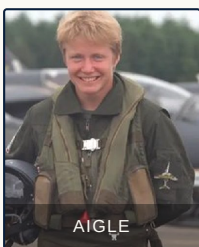
Which French pilot became, in 1999, the first woman fighter pilot in the French Air Force?

A Sophie Adenot

B Caroline Aigle ✓ Correct answer

C Claire Roman

D Virginie Guyot



ANSWER · CAROLINE AIGLE

Caroline Aigle made history in 1999 by becoming the first woman fighter pilot in the French Air Force. A graduate of the École de l'air, she marked a turning point in women's access to combat roles in military aviation. She was assigned to the 2/2 'Côte d'Or' fighter squadron flying Mirage 2000-5 in Dijon. She was being considered for a transition to the Rafale at the time of her illness (diagnosed in 2007), but sadly passed away before completing this operational conversion. She therefore never had the opportunity to fly the Rafale operationally or to undergo the required training.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Caroline Aigle](#)

11

QUESTION

Which female aviator was the first woman to lead the Patrouille de France?

☐ A Dorine Bourneton☐ B Catherine Maunoury☒ C **Virginie Guyot** ✓ **Correct answer**☐ D Élisabeth Boselli**ANSWER · VIRGINIE GUYOT**

Virginie Guyot, a fighter pilot, became in 2009 the first woman to join and then lead the prestigious Patrouille de France aerobatic display team. Her integration marked a symbolic advance in a historically male-dominated environment.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Virginie Guyot](#)

12

QUESTION

Which French woman pilot, with a disability, became a pioneer of adapted aerobatic flying?

☒ A **Dorine Bourneton** ✓ **Correct answer**☐ B Caroline Aigle☐ C Sophie Adenot☐ D Valérie André**ANSWER · DORINE BOURNETON**

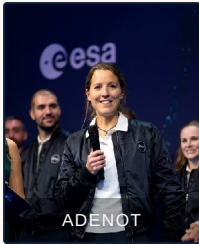
Dorine Bourneton became the first paraplegic woman aerobatic pilot. A survivor of a crash at age 16, she campaigns for the accessibility of aviation to people with disabilities and inspires a new generation.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Dorine Bourneton \(in French\)](#)

13

QUESTION

Which French pilot was selected by ESA in 2022 to become an astronaut?

☐ A Catherine Maunoury☐ B Julie Mahe☒ C **Sophie Adenot** ✓ **Correct answer**☐ D Caroline Aigle**ANSWER · SOPHIE ADENOT**

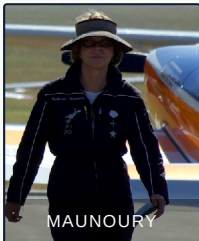
Sophie Adenot, an engineer and test pilot, was selected in 2022 to join the European astronaut corps. She is the first French national since Claudie Haigneré to reach this level in spaceflight.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Sophie Adenot](#)

14

QUESTION

Which French pilot won two world champion titles in aerobatic flying?

☒ A **Catherine Maunoury** ✓ **Correct answer**☐ B Claire Pérot☐ C Julie Mahe☐ D Caroline Aigle**ANSWER · CATHERINE MAUNOURY**

Catherine Maunoury won world titles in aerobatic flying in 1988 and 2000. Renowned for her fluid, artistic style, she became an emblematic figure of precision flying.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Catherine Maunoury](#)

15

QUESTION

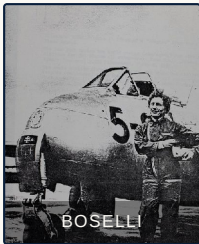
Which French aviator, a former Resistance fighter, was the first woman qualified on a fighter aircraft in 1946 and officially obtained her military pilot's licence in 1952?

(A) Claire Roman

(B) Jacqueline Auriol

(C) Maryse Hilsz

(D) **Élisabeth Boselli** ✓ Correct answer



ANSWER · ÉLISABETH BOSELLI

Élisabeth Boselli, a former Resistance fighter, joined the French Air Force after the Liberation. In 1946 she became the first French woman qualified on a fighter aircraft, and in 1952 the first to officially obtain a military pilot's licence. She thus marked a milestone in the gradual integration of women into operational roles of the Air Force.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Élisabeth Boselli](#)

16

QUESTION

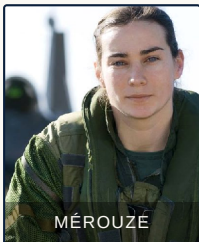
Which French aviator was the first woman to fly a Rafale aircraft in the French Air Force?

(A) Julie Mahe

(B) **Claire Mérouze** ✓ Correct answer

(C) Claire Pérot

(D) Virginie Guyot



ANSWER · CLAIRE MÉROUZE

Claire Mérouze became the first woman pilot operationally qualified on the Rafale in 2012, in the French Air Force.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Claire Mérouze \(in French\)](#)

17

QUESTION

Which French aviator was a pioneering figure of medical aviation in the 1950s and served on several theatres of operation?

(A) Anne-Marie Saget

(B) Maryse Hilsz

(C) Jacqueline Auriol

(D) **Jacqueline Domergue**

✓ Correct answer



ANSWER · JACQUELINE DOMERGUE

French women's parachuting champion in 1955, instructor's certificate in 1956. Jacqueline 'Jaïc' Domergue embodies an example of devotion, courage and commitment. A nurse trained as a pilot and a high-level parachutist, she served on several theatres of war (Indochina, Suez, Algeria) carrying out perilous medical evacuation missions. Her tragic death in 1957 in the line of duty, and her many honours, bear witness to that ultimate sacrifice. She is now remembered as a pioneering figure among the women rescue pilots of the French Air Force.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Jacqueline Domergue \(in French\)](#)

18

QUESTION

Which French aviator was the first woman to fly an airliner for Air France, in 1975?

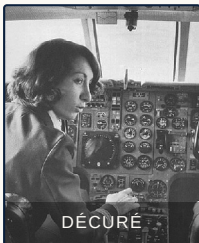
(A) Maryse Hilsz

(B) **Danielle Décuré**

✓ Correct answer

(C) Valérie André

(D) Isabelle Patissier



ANSWER · DANIELLE DÉCURÉ

Danielle Décuré became in 1975 the first woman first officer on an Air France airliner, then captain in the 1980s. A former flight attendant who retrained as a pilot, she opened the way for women in French commercial aviation, long reserved for men.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Danielle Décuré \(in French\)](#)

19

QUESTION

Which French aviator, a former war nurse, took part in the Spanish Civil War as a volunteer pilot and died on a mission in 1941?

(A) Hélène Boucher

(B) Claire Roman

✓ Correct answer

(C) Maryse Hilsz

(D) Andrée Dupeyron



ANSWER · CLAIRE ROMAN

Claire Roman (1906–1941), a war nurse turned pilot, became involved in the 1930s in both civil and military aviation. She took part as a volunteer in the Spanish Civil War on the Republican side, before becoming a pilot in the French Air Force. Captured by the Germans in 1940, she managed to escape but died tragically in an air crash in 1941. She remains one of the most courageous figures of French pre-war aviation.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Claire Roman](#)

20

QUESTION

Which French aviator, with more than 24,000 flying hours, was an aerobatic pilot, instructor, and then captain in commercial aviation with TAT?

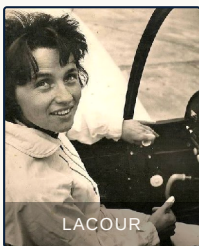
(A) Colette Cattey

(B) Reine Lacour

✓ Correct answer

(C) Jacqueline Auriol

(D) Claire Mérouze



ANSWER · REINE LACOUR

Reine Lacour, known as 'Pompom', began her career in light aviation in Burgundy before becoming an aerobatic pilot and instructor. She then moved into commercial aviation, notably with TAT, where she flew aircraft such as the Nord 262. With more than 24,000 flying hours, she ranks among the most experienced women pilots of her generation in France.

Read more · [Wikipedia — Reine Lacour](#)