

9.7 Descent Performance & Energy Management

Descent Characteristics

- Typically flown at idle thrust
 - Vertical path controlled manually (VA SOP)
 - Speed managed automatically
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Energy State Awareness

Pilots must continuously assess:

- Altitude vs distance
 - Speed vs configuration
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High Energy Situation

- Too fast / too high

Correction methods:

- Increase descent rate
 - Use speed brakes
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Low Energy Situation

- Too slow / too low

Correction methods:

- Reduce descent rate
- Increase thrust

Core Rule

“Energy must be managed early - not corrected late.”

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