

ASE A1 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

45 Scored questions	1h 15m Time limit	— Passing score
\$62 Exam fee	National Institute for Aut... Governing body	— Pass rate

The numbers to remember

- 45 scored questions make up the official A1 test
- Up to 10 additional unscored research questions may be mixed in — you can't tell which ones don't count, so answer everything carefully
- 75 minutes total time limit — about 90 seconds per question if you want review time left over at the end
- \$62 per-test fee, plus a separate \$34 registration fee per order — the registration fee applies once per order, not once per test
- Certification must be renewed by retesting every 5 years — a passed test does not stay valid forever

Blueprint areas and weights

The 45 scored questions are not spread evenly — they're weighted toward the topics technicians encounter most in real diagnostic work. Use this to decide where your last study hours go.

- General Engine Diagnosis — 18 questions (the single largest area, roughly 40% of the whole test)
- Fuel, Electrical, Ignition, Air Induction & Exhaust Systems Diagnosis and Service — 9 questions
- Lubrication and Cooling Systems Diagnosis and Repair — 8 questions
- Cylinder Head and Valve Train Diagnosis and Repair — 6 questions
- Engine Block Diagnosis and Repair — 4 questions (smallest area, but still worth reviewing)

Diagnostic quick rules

- Follow the sequence: verify the complaint -> check for obvious causes -> test to narrow down the fault -> repair. Don't jump straight to parts replacement.
- Match the tool to the fault: a compression gauge for cylinder-sealing questions, a vacuum gauge for intake or timing symptoms, a scan tool for electronic control questions.
- When a question gives you a specific gauge or scan-tool reading, translate it into a mechanical condition first — the number is a clue pointing to a cause, not the final answer itself.
- Read the full scenario before looking at answer choices; ASE questions are written so an early skim can bias you toward a plausible-sounding but wrong option.

Top traps

- Technician A / Technician B questions: judge each technician's statement independently — true or false — before looking at the answer choices. Don't let the options anchor your read.
- Absolute language like "always" or "never" inside a technician's statement is frequently the tell that it's false, since engine diagnosis rarely allows zero exceptions.
- Passing!= full certification: the written test measures knowledge only; full ASE certification also requires verified hands-on work experience, tracked separately from your test score.
- Don't confuse the two fees: the \$62 charge is per test, the \$34 charge is per order — ordering multiple certification tests

at once still only adds one registration fee, not one per test.

- Time pressure on the biggest section: since General Engine Diagnosis alone is 18 of your 45 questions, don't let it eat disproportionate time you'll need for the smaller sections later.

Official sources

- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — The Official ASE Study Guide - ASE Automobile Tests: http://www.ase.com/wp-content/uploads/ASE_Automobile_Study_Guide.pdf
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — Automobile & Light Truck Certification Tests, A Series: A1-A9 | ASE: <https://ase.com/tests/a1-a9/>
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — Dates, Fees & Test Times - Automotive Service Excellence: <https://www.ase.com/dates-fees-test-times>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyxamprep.com/practice/exams/automotive/ase-a1