

ASE A4 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

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

The numbers to remember

- 60 minutes total time limit for the whole test.
- 50 total questions, but only 40 are scored toward your result.
- 10 unscored research questions are mixed in for future test development — you can't identify which ones they are, so answer every question fully and with equal care.
- \$62 general test fee, plus a separate \$34 registration fee per order (the registration fee is per order, not per individual test).
- Certification is valid for 5 years before recertification testing is required to keep it current.

Blueprint areas and weights

- Steering Systems Diagnosis and Repair — 12 questions (columns, pumps, racks, gears, linkage).
- Suspension Systems Diagnosis and Repair — 12 questions (springs, struts, shocks, control arms, ball joints, bushings).
- Wheel Alignment Diagnosis, Adjustment, and Repair — 11 questions (camber, caster, toe, and alignment-related diagnosis).
- Wheel and Tire Diagnosis and Service — 5 questions (wear patterns, wheel balance, tire/wheel assembly service).
- Steering and suspension together make up over half the scored test (24 of 40 questions) — study those two areas first if your time is short.

Diagnostic quick rules

- Verify the complaint and the conditions under which it occurs before diagnosing anything.
- Inspect visually first — many suspension and steering faults (worn bushings, leaking struts, uneven tire wear) are visible before any tool is used.
- Isolate the system: steering, suspension, and alignment symptoms frequently mimic one another on a road test, so rule systems in or out methodically.
- Confirm the fix afterward — re-check alignment angles and steering feel, don't assume a repair is complete just because a part was replaced.

Top traps

- Technician A/B questions: read both statements fully before judging either one; 'both correct' and 'both incorrect' are legitimate answers, not just fallback choices for when you're unsure.
- Absolute words like 'always' or 'never' in a technician statement are frequently the signal of the wrong choice.
- Certification requires the test and documented work experience (formal vocational training can count toward it) — passing the test alone does not equal being certified.
- Don't confuse the 5-year certification validity period with the test's 60-minute time limit — they're separate numbers candidates often mix up under pressure.
- Study time spent evenly across all four content areas wastes effort; weight your review to match the 12/12/11/5 question

split instead.

Official sources

- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — The Official ASE Study Guide - ASE Automobile Tests:
https://www.ase.com/wp-content/uploads/ASE_Automobile_Study_Guide.pdf
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — Register Now - ASE Certification Tests:
<https://ase.com/tests/register-now/>
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — FAQs - ASE Certifications and Testing:
<https://ase.com/faqs/>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/automotive/ase-a4