

ASE A7 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

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

The numbers to remember

- 60 questions total, 50 scored — 10 are unscored research questions mixed in that you cannot identify, so answer all 60 with full effort instead of trying to guess which ones don't count toward your score.
- 75-minute time limit on the initial certification test — pace yourself for 60 questions, not just the 50 that are scored.
- \$62 test fee plus a separate \$34 registration fee per order — the two are billed separately, so budget for both when you register.
- Certification is valid for 5 years from the date you pass, after which it lapses unless renewed.
- Recertification uses a much shorter 25-question test with a 30-minute time limit — far lighter than the initial 60-question exam.
- Alternative to a full recert sitting: earn 8 renewal credits to extend a certification area by 1 additional year.
- Work-experience requirement to hold the credential (separate from passing the written test): 1, 2, or 3 years, depending on training combined with job time.

Blueprint areas and weights

- A. HVAC + Engine Cooling System Service, Diagnosis, and Repair — 21 questions (42%). Heater cores, blower systems, ventilation controls, and the engine cooling components that support the HVAC system. The single biggest area — study here first.
- C. Operating Systems and Related Controls Diagnosis and Repair — 19 questions (38%). Electrical and mechanical controls, temperature regulation, and automatic climate-control logic.
- B. Refrigeration System Component Diagnosis and Repair — 10 questions (20%). Compressors, condensers, evaporators, and other refrigerant-cycle hardware. Smallest weight of the three areas, but still one in every five questions.

Diagnostic quick rules

- Verify the customer's complaint actually reproduces before you start diagnosing anything.
- Inspect visually first — belts, hoses, connectors, and refrigerant lines — before reaching for a gauge set.
- Match the tool to the question being asked: manifold gauges for pressure, a scan tool for electrical fault codes, a thermometer for vent-output temperature.
- Pick the answer that explains all the reported symptoms together, not just one of them — that is usually the true root cause.
- Eliminate the cheap, common causes before condemning an expensive component.
- Among plausible answer choices, favor the most direct next diagnostic step rather than jumping straight to the eventual repair.

Top traps

- Technician A/B questions: both statements are written to sound reasonable. Evaluate each one independently before combining — both can be right, both can be wrong, or only one.
- Watch for absolute wording like "always" or "never" inside a technician's statement — that is a common way test-writers

build in a flaw.

- Don't assume the unscored research questions will stand out — pace and effort should stay consistent across all 60 questions, not just 50.
- Passing the written test and holding the full ASE credential are not the same milestone; the work-experience requirement still has to be verified separately.
- Don't neglect the 20%-weighted refrigeration section just because it's the smallest area — a few careless misses there still add up fast inside a 50-question score.

Official sources

- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — ASE Automobile Study Guide (A1-A9 Test Specifications): https://ase.com/wp-content/uploads/ASE_Automobile_Study_Guide.pdf
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — ASE Test Registration: <https://www.ase.com/tests/register>
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — ASE Recertifications & Renewals: <https://www.ase.com/tests/renewals>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/automotive/ase-a7