

ASE A8 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 total questions, 50 scored — 10 unscored pretest items are mixed in with no way to tell which, so answer every question as if it counts.
- 75 minutes for the full certification test — pace yourself accordingly.
- Recertification: 25 questions in 45 minutes.
- Certification stays valid for 5 years before you need to take a recert test to keep it current.
- \$62 test fee plus a \$34 registration fee per order — plan for both when budgeting for test day.
- Recert orders are cost-capped at \$186 no matter how many recert tests you buy in the same order.
- Certification also needs 2 years of full-time (or part-time equivalent) work experience — passing the test alone isn't certification.
- An ASE-Accredited Program in Auto, M/H Truck, or Collision-Refinish counts for 1 year of credit toward that 2-year requirement.

Blueprint areas and weights

- Computerized Engine Controls Diagnosis and Repair — 13 questions / 26% (largest area).
- General Diagnosis — 12 questions / 24%.
- Fuel, Air Induction and Exhaust Systems Diagnosis — 9 questions / 18%.
- Emissions Control Systems Diagnosis and Repair — 8 questions / 16%.
- Ignition System Diagnosis and Repair — 8 questions / 16%.

Diagnostic quick rules

- Verify the complaint first — reproduce it before touching anything.
- A trouble code points to a circuit or system, not automatically the failed part; confirm with live data or component tests.
- Work in order: verify complaint -> gather info -> narrow the system -> test -> verify the repair.
- In Technician A/B questions, read both statements fully before judging either; they're independent claims.

Top traps

- Absolute words like always or never in a technician statement are usually the wrong answer — most faults have more than one cause.
- Skipping questions that feel unfamiliar: you can't tell which 10 of the 60 are unscored, so treat all 60 seriously and answer every one.
- Assuming a passing score equals certification — the work-experience documentation is a separate, required step.
- Under-studying smaller blueprint areas because Computerized Engine Controls and General Diagnosis get more attention — Ignition, Fuel/Air/Exhaust, and Emissions still combine for half the scored test.
- Running out of time: with up to 60 questions in 75 minutes, practice pacing on a full-length timed set so you don't rush through the last content area you reach.

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) — ASE Certification Test Fees - Dates, Fees & Test Times: <https://www.ase.com/dates-fees-test-times>
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) — ASE Work Experience Form - Important Information and Instructions: <https://workexp.ase.com/FormInstr.aspx>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/automotive/ase-a8