

ASE A9 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

- 75 minutes total time limit for the standard A9 test — pace yourself at roughly a minute and a quarter per question.
- 60 total questions, but only 50 are scored — 10 are unscored research questions used to gather statistics for future forms, and you can't tell them apart from the ones that count, so answer every question as if it does.
- Test fee: \$62 per test, plus a separate \$34 registration fee charged per order (not per individual test).
- 90-day window from the date of purchase to schedule and actually sit for the test — don't let a registration lapse unused.
- Certification, once earned, is valid for 5 years before recertification is required.
- Recertification version is shorter: 25 questions in just 30 minutes.

Blueprint areas and weights

- Fuel System Diagnosis and Repair — 13 questions / 26% of the scored test, the single largest named content area.
- Air Induction and Exhaust Systems Diagnosis and Repair — 12 questions / 24%, covering turbochargers, intake, and exhaust-side diagnosis.
- General Diagnosis — 9 questions / 18%, spanning overall diesel-engine diagnostic reasoning rather than one single system.
- These three areas alone add up to roughly two-thirds of the scored test — weight your last-night review toward them rather than spreading attention evenly across the full outline.

Diagnostic quick rules

- Verify before diagnosing. Don't jump to a probable cause until the reported complaint is confirmed to actually reproduce.
- Isolate before replacing. The test consistently favors narrowing a fault to a specific circuit or component over recommending a part swap as a first move.
- Match the tool to the symptom. Scan-tool data, pressure/flow testing, and visual or mechanical inspection each answer different diagnostic questions — picking the right one is often the actual test point.
- Confirm the repair. A fix isn't finished until the original symptom is verified resolved with no new codes or symptoms appearing.

Top traps

- Assuming a Technician A/B question must have exactly one correct technician — on plenty of questions both are right, and on others both are wrong.
- Treating a passing score as full certification on its own — ASE also requires full-time, hands-on work experience, or an approved combination of formal training and experience, before the credential is actually issued.
- Ignoring pacing — 75 minutes for 60 questions leaves little room to stall on any single item, so flag a tough one and keep moving rather than getting stuck.
- Forgetting the registration fee is separate from the test fee and applies per order rather than per individual test taken.

Official sources

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

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/automotive/ase-a9