

ASE A2 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

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

The numbers to remember

- 55 total questions, only 45 scored — the other 10 are unscored research questions you can't identify, so treat every question as live.
- 75 minutes total time limit for the initial test.
- \$62 test fee plus a separate \$34 registration fee charged per order, not per individual test.
- 90-day window to schedule and sit for your appointment, counted from the date you register.
- Certification is valid for 5 years; recertification uses just 23 questions in 30 minutes — a much shorter refresher check, not a full retest.
- Passing the test alone isn't certification — ASE also requires full-time hands-on work experience, or an accepted combination of formal training and experience, before the credential is awarded.

Blueprint areas and weights

- A. Transmission/Transaxle Diagnosis — 26 questions, 58%. The dominant area, worth more than the other two combined. Symptom-to-cause reasoning, road-test interpretation, and electronic/hydraulic/mechanical crossover all live here.
- B. In-Vehicle Transmission/Transaxle Maintenance and Repair — 12 questions. Fluid and filter service, seal and gasket replacement, linkage/cable adjustment, and diagnosis-driven in-vehicle component replacement.
- C. Transmission/Transaxle Unit Removal, Inspection, and Installation — 7 questions. The smallest area: full removal/installation procedure, bench inspection, torque specs, and alignment once the unit is out of the vehicle.

Diagnostic quick rules

- Always identify the next correct diagnostic step, not just the likely root cause — many diagnosis questions test process as much as the final answer.
- Cross-check electronic control data (codes, sensor readings) against hydraulic and mechanical symptoms before committing to a single cause.
- Don't skip the road-test context in a scenario question — the described driving condition often narrows down which answer is correct.
- For repair and removal/installation questions, favor manufacturer-specific procedure over a generic memorized step, since torque and sequencing vary by application.

Top traps

- Technician A/B format: read both statements fully before answering — one small, easy-to-miss detail can flip "both correct" into "neither correct."
- Assuming a statement that's true on the shop floor is automatically correct on the test; it may be true in general but wrong for the specific scenario described.
- Under-studying Content Area A relative to its 58% weight because it feels like "just one topic" among three.
- Confusing the 45 scored questions with certification itself — the hands-on experience requirement still has to be met separately.

- Losing time on early questions and rushing the final stretch of the 75-minute limit — pace yourself against the clock during practice runs.

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/exams/ase-a2/practice-test