

ASVAB Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Questions	— Time limit	No pass/fail — AFQT per... Passing score
— Exam fee	US Department of Defen... Governing body	

Exact subtest lengths for both delivery modes, how the AFQT percentile is built, the branch cutoffs, and the formulas you must carry in your head — no calculator is permitted. Print it, mark what you miss, drill that.

Delivery modes: CAT vs. paper

Attribute	CAT-ASVAB (computer)	P&P-ASVAB (paper)
Length	135 items / 197 min	225 items / 149 min
Subtests	10 (AI and SI split)	9 (AI + SI = AS)
Adaptive	Yes — difficulty tracks ability	No — fixed form
Revisit an answer	No	Yes, within the section
Guessing	Penalty for end-of-test guessing	No penalty — bubble everything

Subtest table: questions and time

In administration order; only the four marked AFQT decide whether you can enlist.

Subtest	Code	CAT items / time	Paper items / time	AFQT
General Science	GS	15 / 12 min	25 / 11 min	—
Arithmetic Reasoning	AR	15 / 55 min	30 / 36 min	AFQT
Word Knowledge	WK	15 / 9 min	35 / 11 min	AFQT
Paragraph Comprehension	PC	10 / 27 min	15 / 13 min	AFQT
Mathematics Knowledge	MK	15 / 31 min	25 / 24 min	AFQT
Electronics Information	EI	15 / 10 min	20 / 9 min	—
Auto Information	AI	10 / 7 min	combined AS: 25 / 11 min	—
Shop Information	SI	10 / 6 min	—	
Mechanical Comprehension	MC	15 / 22 min	25 / 19 min	—
Assembling Objects	AO	15 / 18 min	25 / 15 min	—
Total		135 / 197 min	225 / 149 min	

Note the asymmetry: 55 min for 15 AR items, 9 min for 15 WK. Vocabulary is a speed test; arithmetic reasoning is not.

How the AFQT is built

No pass or fail. Each subtest reports a standard score; four roll into the AFQT, reported as a percentile from 1 to 99.

Score type	Definition
Standard score	Per subtest, mean = 50, standard deviation = 10
Verbal Expression	VE = the WK and PC standard scores combined
AFQT raw	AFQT = 2(VE) + AR + MK — verbal counts double
AFQT percentile	Scaled 1 – 99 against a 1997 sample of 18–23 year-olds; AFQT 62 = at or above 62% of it
Line / composite	Branch-specific mixes of all subtests; these gate jobs

Minimum AFQT by branch

Branch	Minimum	Notes
Army	31	21 + may enter the Future Soldier Preparatory Course academic track
Marine Corps	31	50 + with a GED or non-traditional diploma
Air Force	31	50 for GED holders
Coast Guard	32	Highest published entry floor
Navy	Not published as one figure	Recruiting Command works to 31; the Future Sailor Prep Course – Academic serves AFQT 10 – 30
Space Force	Not published	"A qualifying ASVAB score"; career fields set composites

The AFQT opens the door; line scores get you the job. The Army converts subtest scores into ten composites (GT, CL, EL, MM, SC, CO, FA, GM, OF, ST) that gate every MOS; GT comes from WK, PC and AR. A 90 AFQT with weak EI / MC still locks you out of technical fields. Confirm cutoffs with a recruiter — floors move.

Math formula sheet (AR + MK)

Percent, ratio, average, interest

Concept	Formula
Percent	part = percent $\times$ whole; percent = (part $\div$ whole) $\times$ 100
Percent change	$((\text{new} - \text{old}) \div \text{old}) \times 100$; discount = original $\times (1 - r)$
Proportion	$a/b = c/d \rightarrow ad = bc$
Average	mean = sum $\div$ count; sum = mean $\times$ count
Simple interest	$I = Prt$
Compound interest	$A = P(1 + r/n)^{(nt)}$
Order of operations	PEMDAS

Rate, work, mixture

Type	Formula
Distance	$d = rt$; $r = d/t$; $t = d/r$
Two movers	Toward each other $r = r_1 + r_2$; same direction $r = r_1 - r_2$
Combined work	$1/t = 1/a + 1/b \rightarrow t = ab \div (a + b)$
Mixture	$C_1V_1 + C_2V_2 = C_f(V_1 + V_2)$

Area, perimeter, volume

Shape	Area / surface	Perimeter / volume
Rectangle	$A = lw$	$P = 2(l + w)$
Square	$A = s^2$	$P = 4s$
Triangle	$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$	$P = a + b + c$
Parallelogram / trapezoid	$A = bh$ / $A = \frac{1}{2}(b_1 + b_2)h$	—
Circle	$A = r^2$	$C = 2r = d$
Rectangular solid	$SA = 2(lw + lh + wh)$	$V = lwh$
Cube	$SA = 6s^2$	$V = s^3$
Cylinder	$SA = 2r^2 + 2rh$	$V = r^2h$
Cone	—	$V = r^2h$
Sphere	$SA = 4r^2$	$V = 4/3r^3$
Pyramid	—	$V = \times \text{base area} \times h$

Angle sums: triangle 180° , quadrilateral 360° , n -gon $(n - 2) \times 180^\circ$.

Right triangles, exponents, radicals

Rule	Statement
Pythagorean theorem	$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
Triples to memorize	3-4-5, 5-12-13, 8-15-17, 7-24-25 and multiples
Special triangles	45-45-90 $\rightarrow$ 1: 1: 2; 30-60-90 $\rightarrow$ 1: 3: 2
Radicals	$a \times b = (ab)$; $(a/b) = a \div b$; $1/a = a \div a$
Exponents	$x \cdot x = x^+$; $x \div x = x^-$; $(x) = x$; $(xy) = xy$
Zero, negative, fractional	$x^0 = 1$; $x^- = 1 \div x$; $x^{(1/n)} = x$

Lines, quadratics, factoring

Rule	Form
Slope	$m = (y_2 - y_1) \div (x_2 - x_1)$
Line equations	$y = mx + b$; $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$
Parallel / perpendicular	$m_1 = m_2$ / $m_1 \cdot m_2 = -1$
Distance / midpoint	$d = ((x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2)^{1/2}$; $M = ((x_1 + x_2)/2, (y_1 + y_2)/2)$
Quadratic formula	$x = (-b \pm (b^2 - 4ac)^{1/2}) \div 2a$
Difference of squares	$a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$
Perfect squares	$a^2 \pm 2ab + b^2 = (a \pm b)^2$
Trinomial	$x^2 + (p + q)x + pq = (x + p)(x + q)$

Word Knowledge: decode the word

Split the word, translate the parts, pick the closest meaning.

Prefix	Meaning	Prefix	Meaning
a-, an-	without	inter-	between
ante-, pre-	before	intra-	within
anti-, contra-	against	mal-	bad
bene-	good	mis-	wrong
circum-	around	re-	again, back
de-	down, away	post-	after
dis-, un-, non-	not	sub-	under
ex-	out	super-	above
hyper-	excess	trans-	across

Root	Meaning	Root	Meaning
aud	hear	path	feeling
bio	life	port	carry
chron	time	scrib, script	write
cred	believe	spec, spect	look
dict	say	tang, tact	touch
duc, duct	lead	ten	hold
ject	throw	ver	truth