



TECH News

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Tips for Getting the Most Testing Choices

The early bird gets the worm, they say, but now he may also get the best test appointment. We're coming up on the end of the first full year of computer-based testing, with very positive feedback about the new system. We've also learned a few things from our technicians that we wanted to pass along to help you get the most out of the ASE certification process.

The new online process has you register and then schedule your own test time. You reserve your own test time and can choose the time that best suits your schedule. But times fill up, so register and schedule your tests as early as possible within each testing session.

You'll get the most choices for testing dates, times and locations at the beginning of each eight-week test window. This is especially true if you are trying to schedule multiple tests. If you don't see the time you want, look a little deeper into the schedule. Remember, the sooner the better when it comes to getting the best choices!

Registration is Quick and Easy

The process involves three simple steps.

-  **Ready!** Log into your personal myASE account at www.myASE.com. If your account is not set up, click the *Create myASE Account* link (you can check the closest test center at www.ase.com/testcenters).
-  **Set!** Once you are logged in, click the *Register Now* button on the left. Select and register for the tests you want to take.
-  **GO!** Schedule appointments to take your tests.

You can both register and schedule via telephone by calling our testing partner Prometric at 1-877-346-9327, Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm Eastern. They can also answer any questions.

www.myASE.com

ASE Testing Schedule

Registration

December 1, 2012 thru
February 21, 2013

Testing

January 2, 2013 thru
February 28, 2013

Registration

March 1, 2013 thru
May 21, 2013

Testing

April 1, 2013 thru
May 31, 2013

Registration

June 1, 2013 thru
August 21, 2013

Testing

July 1, 2013 thru
August 31, 2013

Registration

September 1, 2013 thru
November 21, 2013

Testing

October 1, 2013 thru
November 30, 2013

What to expect with the new ASE testing program:

- No more waiting—instant test results
- Longer test windows—Up to 230 days of testing available in most centers!
- More thorough check-in and security safeguards test integrity, ensures the highest professional standards and increases the value of your certification

For more information on test locations and availability, go to www.ase.com/testcenters

For more information on the new testing program procedures, visit www.ase.com/whattoexpect



ASE Test Taking Tips

How do those questions work?

Many technicians look for “the magic bullet” to help improve their performance on an ASE test. While thorough test preparation certainly helps your cause, it also helps to understand the different types of questions ASE uses so that you can evaluate them properly. ASE uses three different types of multiple-choice questions on its tests:

- Direct or Completion Questions
- Technician A / Technician B Questions
- Except or Least Likely Questions

Evaluating Direct or Completion Questions

With this question type, you’re asked a question or asked to complete a statement. Remember, all questions are based upon industry-accepted practices, and there are technical reasons why the choices are right or wrong.

Read the *entire* question carefully. Then consider each of the four answer choices and rule out the ones that you think are obviously wrong. If you’re left with two or more choices that seem plausible to you, you may be lacking a piece of knowledge that would let you rule out a wrong answer. Choose the answer that seems most likely to you, based on your knowledge and experience. If you still cannot choose an answer, take your best guess and go on. There may be an answer that you feel is more likely than any of the choices given, but you should select the most likely of the four choices shown.

Evaluating Technician A/Technician B Questions

The Technician A/ Technician B question is the most misunderstood ASE question format, but it can be simple to answer when approached the right way. Under this question scenario, two technicians are making independent statements which you must judge to be true or false. The most common mistake with this type of question is allowing one technician’s statement to influence your thinking about the other’s. Always keep in mind that the two technicians are not arguing with one another, they’re simply making independent statements.

Use this approach: Read Technician A’s statement by itself and ask yourself: Is this true or false? Then set aside Technician A’s statement, and consider Technician B’s statement by itself. If only one of the statements is true, then your answer is either A or B. If both statements are true, your answer is C. If both statements are false (and there are times when this is the case), your answer is D.



Evaluating Except or Least Likely Questions

This type of question usually begins with a statement of a problem or malfunction of some kind. You must choose the one thing that is LEAST likely to cause the problem. In simple terms, this means there will be three answers that WILL cause the problem and one answer that WON’T cause the problem. You are looking for the single answer that WON’T cause the problem.

Often, the best way to find the answer to this type of question is by process of elimination. Look at each possible answer in turn and decide if it is or isn’t likely to cause the problem.

Time Management During Test Taking

To help manage your time when taking a computer-based test, allocate your time carefully as you evaluate each question. You can also use the CBT user interface as your ally as you proceed through the test. For example, if you get stuck on a question and are simply burning up time trying to figure it out, you can “flag” the question using the button on the navigation bar and come back to that question later when you get to the review screen. The CBT interface also helps you out if you accidentally skip a question, because the review screen will show that you did not answer a particular question. Remember these are features designed to help you when you take an ASE test and you’ll be taking a big step towards managing your time better at the test center by learning how to use them. Want to see for yourself? Check out the Demo Exam at: <http://www.ase.com/cbt-testdrive/index.html> and then register and schedule your test at www.myASE.com.



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The ASE Industry Education Alliance

One of the greatest challenges facing the automotive service industry is finding the qualified individuals we'll need today to fill the jobs of tomorrow. The ASE Industry Education Alliance applies the unique value and expertise of several organizations to provide a framework within which industry and education can work cooperatively to meet the challenge of finding and training the qualified workforce we need by providing the standards and employer connections to ensure that pools of qualified technicians are available locally across the nation.

In short, the Industry Education Alliance ensures that automotive students and working professionals are trained in alignment with industry needs, while helping employers identify entry-level talent to recruit at the local level.

Combining the expertise of the members of the Industry Education Alliance serves many needs. Entry-level training at the high school and post-secondary levels benefits from accreditation developed by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). NATEF provides the educational community with a comprehensive set of knowledge standards to ensure that the curriculum dovetails with industry needs at any given time. Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES) provides the school-to-work programs and factory training for those students who qualify.

Once in the field, ongoing training is available through various training providers, many of which are members of the Automotive Training Managers Council (ATMC). The need for continuous, career-long training is part and parcel of any career in the automotive service industry to keep abreast of changing vehicle technology. ATMC serves as the forum for sharing ideas and the latest developments in training delivery methods to ensure that the instruction fits the audience, regardless of the skill level or time in trade.

To keep the instructors current, the North American Council of Automotive



Teachers (NACAT) provides the forum to ensure that those entrusted with preparing technicians at all levels have access to the latest information on changing technology and evolving industry educational standards.

The capstone of this system is the ASE Certification program, which provides professional credentials and ongoing assessments to verify that an individual possesses the technical knowledge necessary to do the job right the first time.

All of this helps ensure that we continue to provide the instruction necessary to meet the needs of those who choose to pursue a career within the automotive industry.

The Industry Education Alliance leverages the focuses of ASE, NATEF, AYES, ATMC and NACAT to provide a career path of school-to-work programs and ongoing education to serve the needs of individual technicians at all stages of their career. These organizations create a pipeline that ensure an individual has access to the right training at the right time to provide the skill set necessary at each level for an individual to advance.

The Alliance has a field network who interacts with all groups to provide regional pools of available entry-level talent for both OEM and Aftermarket, along with access to the ongoing training necessary to develop and pursue advancement opportunities as they arise. The Alliance creates the connections necessary for lifelong career support of individual technicians.

We thank the following donors supporting the ASE Industry Education Alliance

- Advanstar Communications
- American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
- Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA)
- BMW of North America
- Cengage Learning
- Gates Corporation
- General Motors
- Hendrick Automotive Group
- Mazda North America
- Mercedes Benz USA, LLC
- Midas International
- Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
- National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA AUTO PARTS)
- National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA)
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
- Navistar, Inc.
- Nissan North America, Inc.
- Pep Boys-Manny, Moe & Jack
- Subaru of America, Inc.
- Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
- Valvoline

The Alliance also helps identify the best training providers to keep technicians current with changing technology. For individuals, the benefits of professional certification through ASE are the most obvious, with ongoing support and career advice available through myASE. But perhaps the most valuable asset to everyone is the network created to help meet both personal and business goals.

Having access to motivated and properly-prepared entry-level employees is the key to any business success. Being able to provide the kind of one-on-one interaction which is necessary to identify talent and develop it within their specific business model ensures that you'll have the right people with the right skills at the right time when you need them.

Together, we can ensure our ongoing success while providing rewarding careers for those who choose to be part of the automotive service industry.

If you'd like to find out more about how the alliance can benefit you, please contact Trish Serratore at tserratore@ase.com.



PROFILE

Computer-Based Testing: The Right Tool for the Task



With more than three decades in the service industry, Bill Tradewell, an ASE-certified Master/L1 and Master Machinist, says the flexibility computer-based testing gives him is the reason he'll be back.

Certification a constant over the years

I took my first certification tests in the mid-70s. I started with Chrysler in '73. Shortly after I joined, the automaker began encouraging us to get ASE certified. There were a lot of states talking about doing their own certification; at the time, there were lots of complaints about the auto industry in general.

It seemed to me like a good way for technicians to show their real skills and abilities to the public. Throughout my career, I've recertified because, first and foremost, it's an accomplishment I can be proud of, no matter how long I've been in the business.

First testing experience gets high marks

Last spring was my first opportunity to use the new system. It was really convenient to set an appointment, and to go there and knock it out. Some of the paper tests were really large groups—60, 70 or more people. By the time you get

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Bill Tradewell, program manager
Technician Recruitment & Development, MOPAR CAP
Technical Training Inc. (TTI) Global, Rochester Hills, Mich.

everyone in and settled down, and then listened to the instructions, it took a lot of time. At the test center, it was great. They checked my ID, and very quickly I was sitting down to do the tests.

I found the test session much less distracting. With some of the sessions I've been in, there's been 50 or more people. There's a lot going on in a room that big with that many people. I found it a lot easier to concentrate. I think somebody who's stressed out about the test anyway will find the test center is a quieter, more focused environment than the typical high school setting.

A great testing experience

I don't think I'd go back to paper-and-pencil tests after testing on the computer. My work over the last 20 years has required me to travel extensively. I can't tell you how many times I've scheduled ASE tests and then had to cancel because I couldn't fit it in. Now, it's way more convenient to be able to pick my dates and times.

Being a tech at heart, I always believe in using the right tool to do the job. And sometimes CBT is the right tool. I think, in this case, computer-based testing has some tremendous advantages.

Two Easy Ways to Register and Schedule Your Tests:

Online at www.myASE.com

Or call 1-877-346-9327

ASE Test Dates

WINTER 2012-13

Registration Opens December 1, 2012

Registration Deadline: February 21, 2013

www.myASE.com

