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ABSTRACT

This guide explains the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and how it can help students prepare for a career. The ASVAB, sponsored by the Department of Defense, is a vocational aptitude battery consisting of 10 short tests that cover academic and occupational areas. The results of the 10 tests are combined to make composite scores. The academic composites are: (1) verbal; (2) mathematics; and (3) academic ability. The occupational composites are: (1) mechanical and crafts; (2) business and clerical; (3) electronics and electrical; and (4) health, social, and technology. The test is given by an administrator from the Federal Government and is free of charge. Data about testing, test preparation, and test use are presented in question and answer forms. The ASVAB may be used by the Armed Services in recruiting personnel and by schools in counseling students. The "Military Career Guide" is introduced as a tool students can use when choosing a career. Sample items are provided for the ASVAB subtests in the following areas: general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, numerical operations, coding speed, auto and shop information, mathematics knowledge, mechanical comprehension, and electronics information. (SLD)

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A STUDENT'S GUIDE
TO THE ASVAB

ED 337 506

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YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE

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Why Should You Take The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)?

You may already have an idea of your career goals. On the other hand, you may be like millions of other high school students who are seeking some assistance in gathering and sorting the information you need to make an informed decision. If you already have career goals in mind, you probably need information about the different avenues available to you in pursuing those goals. If you haven't determined your career goals yet, you need a starting point for doing your career planning. Wherever you are in the career exploration process, the ASVAB can help you prepare for your next step.

Your decision to enter college, technical or vocational school, military service, or the world of work is an important one. You should know as much as possible about your strengths and weaknesses in order to make a choice which is appropriate for you. ASVAB can help you by providing some of this information. Your ASVAB scores relate to both military and civilian career areas and can help you evaluate your potential for success in training in both areas. These scores can also be used to qualify interested students for enlistment and various military training programs.

Your ASVAB scores reflect your aptitudes; it is also important to remember that interests, achievement scores, grades in subject areas, values, and your level of motivation play a large role in career exploration and planning. The information in this guide is designed to answer questions you may have about the ASVAB and its accompanying materials.

Questions and Answers About ASVAB

What is ASVAB?

The ASVAB, sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD), is a vocational aptitude battery consisting of ten short tests which cover the areas of General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Numerical Operations, Coding Speed, Auto and Shop Information, Mathematics Knowledge, Mechanical Comprehension, and Electronics Information. The results of the ten individual tests are combined to provide you with three "academic" and four "occupational" composite scores. The academic composites are Verbal, Math, and Academic Ability; the occupational composites are Mechanical and Crafts, Business and Clerical, Electronics and Electrical, and Health, Social, and Technology.

Who administers the test?

The test is given at your school by a test administrator from the Federal Government.

What does it cost and are there any obligations?

ASVAB is administered free of charge, and there are no obligations on your part.

How long does it take? Will I miss class?

ASVAB testing takes approximately three hours. You may miss class depending on your school schedule, but it will be with your school's approval.

How can I prepare for the ASVAB?

No studying or special preparation is required to take the ASVAB. Getting a good night's rest and arriving on time to take the test are the two most important steps you can take to prepare.

What can I expect on the day of the test?

When you take the ASVAB, you will be given a booklet with ten short tests. Each consists of practice questions and actual test questions. You will also be given a separate answer sheet on which to mark your answers and scratch paper for doing any calculations. You will be given instructions for taking the tests and told how much time you have to work on each. After you have been given the instructions, you will be allowed to practice by answering some sample questions. Finally, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions before you start so that you will understand exactly what you are supposed to do.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

Sample test questions listed on pages 13-25 represent a few of the types of questions which are on the ASVAB. This booklet includes a blank answer sheet to answer the sample test questions. The answer sheet is the first page of the test section and is perforated so you may separate it from the booklet while taking the sample test. You may practice by marking your answers to the questions on this blank answer sheet and then comparing them with the correct answers. The correct answers to the questions in this booklet are on the last page of the sample test section.

What will the test tell me?

Your ASVAB scores will give you an idea of your abilities compared to those of other young people. The results of the ten subtests you will take will be put together in various combinations to give you seven composite scores. These composites are measures of aptitude. Three of these composite scores measure your aptitude for higher academic learning. The other four, which are called occupational scores, relate to your potential for success in completing training in a number of career areas.

Exactly what is an aptitude?

An aptitude is the potential, or readiness, to become proficient or acquire a skill or ability, if given the opportunity. This may refer to your capacity to learn one type of work or your potential for general training. The ASVAB measures those abilities which you have already learned or acquired.

How will I know if I passed the test?

The ASVAB is not a "pass" or "fail" test. The ASVAB permits you to compare your scores with those of other students in the United States. You will want to consider your ASVAB scores along with other information about yourself when you are making educational or occupational plans.

Who gets to see my results?

Your test results and interpretive information are returned to your school. Your counselor can provide you with answers to any questions about the test results. Before the test, you will be required to sign a statement authorizing DoD to score your test and return your scores to your school. The release of scores to military recruiters is determined by your school. If you are a junior or senior, you may be contacted by a service recruiter sometime before you graduate. You should expect to be contacted whether or not you take the ASVAB. Sophomore test results are provided to the school but not to military recruiters.

How long may my test results be used for military entrance?

ASVAB scores may be used for two years for enlistment into the military.

What use is made of the personal information I furnish at the time of testing?

The military services use this information for recruiting and research. Your school uses it for counseling. The military services delete your personal identifying data from their records after two years. Data which does not contain personal information may be retained longer for research purposes. Once ASVAB scores are returned to your school, the information becomes part of your school records and is treated in accordance with your school's policy for handling student records.

What should I do if a recruiter calls me?

A recruiter is your best source of information about the many opportunities available through the military service. You will probably want to find out as much as possible from any recruiter who calls about these opportunities and how they apply to you. The military services want all young people to know about the many benefits available including a competitive starting salary, rewarding jobs, outstanding technical training, and a variety of educational opportunities. You are, of course, under no obligation to the military as a result of taking the ASVAB.

Is there any relationship between taking the ASVAB and selective service registration?

There is no relationship between taking the ASVAB and Selective Service registration. ASVAB information is not available to the Selective Service System.

If I am going to college, why should I take the ASVAB?

ASVAB results provide you with information regarding your capacity for advanced academic education and your aptitude for selected occupational areas. You can use the ASVAB results with other information to target areas for career exploration.

I wish to become a commissioned officer. Should I take the ASVAB?

Yes. Although ASVAB is not required for entrance into most officer

training programs, taking the ASVAB is a valuable experience for any student who aspires to become a military officer. The aptitude information you receive will assist you in career planning.

I am considering enlisting in the Reserve or National Guard. Should I take the ASVAB?

Yes. These military organizations also use the ASVAB for enlistment purposes.

How do I find out what my scores mean and how to use them?

Your scores will be provided to you on a report called "*Your ASVAB Results*." You will find information on that report and in this guide which will help you to start interpreting your scores. *Your counselor is your best source of information and assistance in understanding how to use your scores.* Your counselor has additional information about you and about using your scores including a copy of the *Military Career Guide: Employment and Training Opportunities in the Military and the Military Career Paths*.

What is the Military Career Guide?

The *Military Career Guide* was designed to be used by students and parents for career exploration purposes. The *Military Career Guide* describes occupations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine

Corps, and Coast Guard. The book also may be useful to explore occupations even if you are not sure you want to enlist in the military. General information is provided on subjects, such as enlistment requirements, military life, and training opportunities. There is a section for each service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) that details enlistment, training, advancement, and educational programs.

What can I learn about different occupations in the military from the Military Career Guide?

There are many different occupations in the military services. The *Military Career Guide* organizes these occupations into 205 clusters. For each of these career clusters, the following information is provided:

- Work performed
- Work environment
- Physical demands
- Restrictions based on sex
- Special qualification requirements
- Representative military occupational titles
- Service branch
- Length of training
- Summary of training content
- Counterpart civilian occupations

How can I use my ASVAB results with the Military Career Guide?

For the 134 enlisted occupations discussed in the *Military Career Guide*, there is a graph that can help you use your ASVAB results to estimate your chances of qualifying for at least one occupation within that occupational cluster in the military. There is an index in the back of the book where you can find out which occupational composite relates to each of the enlisted occupations described in the *Military Career Guide*.

How can I use the Military Career Guide with other career information resources in my school?

The format of the *Military Career Guide* is similar to that of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. One of the important features of the *Military Career Guide* is the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (DOT) code number index. The use of the DOT index will enable you to look up additional occupational information in other resources such as the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, and the *Guide for Occupational Exploration*. In addition, many computer based career information systems use the DOT coding system.

What is the Military Career Paths?

This publication contains unique information on the nature of career development in officer and enlisted occupations. It features the

following: typical 20-year career progression patterns for 38 enlisted and officer occupations; "career profiles" summarizing the actual career progressions of 38 services members; descriptions of the skills, performance levels, and other requirements for advancement in the 38 occupations; and exercises to help students explore the concept of career development.

I want to take the ASVAB, but my school doesn't offer it (or I missed it). What should I do?

See your counselor right away. In some cases, schools offer the ASVAB more than once a year. In other cases, arrangements may be made for you to take it at another high school.

TEST ANSWER SHEET

Sample Items for the ASVAB Subtests.

Tear off the sample answer sheet at the right. Use it when answering the questions on the next few pages. Then check your answers against the answer key on page 26.

GENERAL SCIENCE

1 A B C D

2 A B C D

ARITHMETIC REASONING

3 A B C D

4 A B C D

WORD KNOWLEDGE

5 A B C D

6 A B C D

PARAGRAPH COMPREHENSION

7 A B C D

8 A B C D

NUMERICAL OPERATIONS

9 A B C D

10 A B C D

CODING SPEED

11 A B C D E

12 A B C D E

13 A B C D E

14 A B C D E

15 A B C D E

16 A B C D E

17 A B C D E

18 A B C D E

19 A B C D E

20 A B C D E

21 A B C D E

22 A B C D E

23 A B C D E

24 A B C D E

AUTO & SHOP INFORMATION

25 A B C D

26 A B C D

MATHEMATICS KNOWLEDGE

27 A B C D

28 A B C D

MECHANICAL COMPREHENSION

29 A B C D

30 A B C D

ELECTRONICS INFORMATION

31 A B C D

32 A B C D

GENERAL SCIENCE

This test consists of 25 questions encompassing both physical and biological science. Each question is followed by four alternatives from which you are to select the correct answer and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

The sample below has already been answered for you. Be sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Water is an example of a

- A crystal
- B solid
- C gas
- D liquid

D is the correct answer

Questions

1. An eclipse of the sun throws the shadow of the
 - 1-A. moon on the sun
 - 1-B. moon on the earth
 - 1-C. earth on the sun
 - 1-D. earth on the moon
2. Substances which hasten chemical reaction time without themselves undergoing change are called
 - 2-A. buffers.
 - 2-B. colloids.
 - 2-C. reducers.
 - 2-D. catalysts.

ARITHMETIC REASONING

This test consists of 30 arithmetic reasoning problems. In each case, you are to solve the problem and then select the correct answer from four alternatives.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If 12 people are needed to run four machines, how many people are needed to run 20 machines?

- A 48
- B 20
- C 80
- D 60

D is the correct answer

Questions

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>3. How many 36-passenger buses will it take to carry 144 people?</p> <p>3-A. 3</p> <p>3-B. 4</p> <p>3-C. 5</p> <p>3-D. 6</p> | <p>4. It costs \$0.50 per square yard to waterproof canvas. What will it cost to waterproof a canvas truck cover that is 15' x 24'?</p> <p>4-A. \$ 6.67</p> <p>4-B. \$ 18.00</p> <p>4-C. \$ 20.00</p> <p>4-D. \$180.00</p> |
|---|--|

WORD KNOWLEDGE

This test is designed to measure your understanding of the meaning of words. The test consists of 35 underlined words, each followed by four alternatives. From the four choices, you are to select the word or phrase that means most nearly the same as the underlined word. Blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Small most nearly means

- A sturdy
- B round
- C cheap
- D little

D is the correct answer

Questions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5. The wind is <i>variable</i> today | 6. <i>Rudiments</i> most nearly means |
| 5-A. mild | 6-A. politics. |
| 5-B. steady | 6-B. minute details. |
| 5-C. shifting | 6-C. promotion opportunities. |
| 5-D. chilling | 6-D. basic methods and procedures |

PARAGRAPH COMPREHENSION

This test contains 15 items measuring your ability to obtain information from written passages. In this section you will find one or more paragraphs of reading material followed by incomplete statements or questions. You are to read the paragraph(s) and select one of the lettered choices which best completes the statement or answers the question.

Read the sample below carefully and choose the best answer to complete the paragraph or answer the question. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

From a building designer's standpoint, three things that make a home liveable are the client, the building site, and the amount of money the client has to spend. According to the passage, to make a home liveable

- A. the prospective piece of land makes little difference
- B. it can be built on any piece of land.
- C. the design must fit the owner's income and site
- D. the design must fit the designer's income

The correct answer is C

Questions

7. Twenty-five percent of all household burglaries can be attributed to unlocked windows or doors. Crime is the result of opportunity plus desire. To prevent crime, it is each individual's responsibility to

- 7-A. provide the desire.
- 7-B. provide the opportunity.
- 7-C. prevent the desire.
- 7-D. prevent the opportunity

8 In certain areas water is so scarce that every attempt is made to conserve it. For instance, on one oasis in the Sahara Desert the amount of water necessary for each date palm tree has been carefully determined.

How much water is each tree given?

- 8-A. no water at all
- 8-B. water on alternate days
- 8-C. exactly the amount required
- 8-D. water only if it is healthy

NUMERICAL OPERATIONS

This test contains 50 simple mathematical computations, each followed by four possible answers. You are to rapidly determine which of the four answers is correct and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet. This is a speed test, so work as fast as you can without making mistakes.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

$$3 \cdot 4$$

A 7

B 1

C 14

D 12

D is the correct answer

Questions

9. $3 \cdot 9$

9-A. 3

9-B. 6

9-C. 12

9-D. 13

10. $60 \div 15$

10-A. 3

10-B. 4

10-C. 5

10-D. 6

CODING SPEED

This is a test of 84 items to see how quickly and accurately you can find a number in a table. At the top of each section there is a number table or "Key." The key is a group of words with a code number for each word. Each question in the test is a word taken from the key listed above it. From among the possible answers listed for each question, find the one that is the correct code number for that word.

Look at the sample key and answer the five sample questions below. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the 14 questions following it as quickly as you can, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

KEY

green	2715	man	3451	salt	4586
hat	1413	room	2864	tree	5972

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

	A	B	C	D	E
1 room	1413	2715	2864	3451	4586
2 green	2715	2864	3451	4586	5972
3 tree	1413	2715	3451	4586	5972
4 hat	1413	2715	3451	4586	5972
5 room	1413	2864	3451	4586	5972

The correct answers are 1-C, 2-A, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B

Questions

KEY

bargain .. 8385	game .. 6456	knife . 7150	sunshine .. 7489	point .. 4703
chin .. 8930	house .. 2859	music .. 1117	owner .. 6227	sofa .. 9645

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

	A	B	C	D	E
11. game	6456	7150	8385	8930	9645
12. knife	1117	6456	7150	7489	8385
13. bargain	2859	6227	7489	8385	9645
14. chin	2859	4703	8385	8930	9645
15. house	1117	2859	6227	7150	7489
16. sofa	7150	7489	8385	8930	9645
17. owner	4703	6227	6456	7150	8930

KEY

bargain .. 8385	game .. 6456	knife .. 7150	sunshine .. 7489	point .. 4703
chin .. 8930	house .. 2859	music .. 1117	owner .. 6227	sofa .. 9645

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

	A	B	C	D	E
18. music	1117	2859	7489	8385	9645
19. knife	6227	6456	7150	7489	8385
20. sunshine	4703	6227	6456	7489	8930
21. chin	1117	2859	4703	7150	8930
22. sofa	4703	6227	7150	8385	9645
23. bargain	2859	6456	8385	8930	9645
24. point	1117	4703	6227	6456	7150

AUTO & SHOP INFORMATION

This test has 25 questions about automobiles, shop practices, and the use of tools. Pick the best answer for each question.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Be sure you understand it. Then answer the questions that follow, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

A chisel is used for

- A prying
- B cutting
- C twisting
- D grinding

B is the correct answer

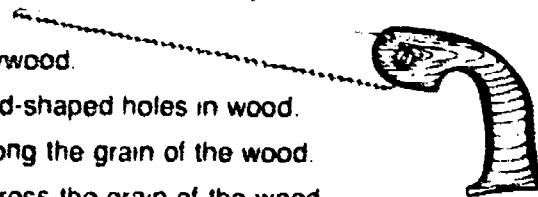
Questions

25. A car uses too much oil when which parts are worn?

- 25-A. pistons
- 25-B. piston rings
- 25-C. main bearings
- 25-D. connecting rods

26. The saw shown is used mainly to cut

- 26-A. plywood.
- 26-B. odd-shaped holes in wood.
- 26-C. along the grain of the wood.
- 26-D. across the grain of the wood.



MATHEMATICS KNOWLEDGE

This test contains 25 questions designed to measure general mathematical knowledge. Included are questions on algebra and geometry. Each question is followed by four possible answers, from which you are to select the correct response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If 50 percent of $X = 66$, then $X =$

- A 33
- B 132
- C 99
- D 66

B is the correct answer

Questions

27. If $x + 6 = 7$, then x is equal to

- 27-A. 0
- 27-B. 1
- 27-C. -1
- 27-D. $7/6$

28. What is the area of this square?

- 28-A. 1 square foot
- 28-B. 5 square feet
- 28-C. 10 square feet
- 28-D. 25 square feet



MECHANICAL COMPREHENSION

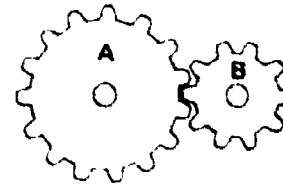
This test contains 25 questions designed to measure your understanding of mechanical principles. Many of the questions use drawings to illustrate specific principles. Each question is followed by four possible answers from which you are to select the correct response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If gear A makes 14 revolutions, gear B will make

- A 21
- B 17
- C 14
- D 9



A is the correct answer

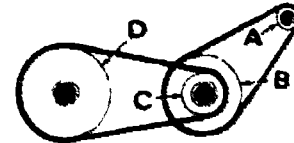
Questions

29. Which post holds up the greater part of the load?



- 29-A. post A
- 29-B. post B
- 29-C. both equal
- 29-D. not clear

30. In this arrangement of pulleys, which pulley turns fastest?



- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

ELECTRONICS INFORMATION

This test consists of 20 questions dealing with electricity, radio principles, and electronics. Each question is followed by four possible answers from which you are to select the best response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

What does the abbreviation A.C. stand for?

- A additional charge
 - B alternating coil
 - C alternating current
 - D ampere current
- C is the correct answer

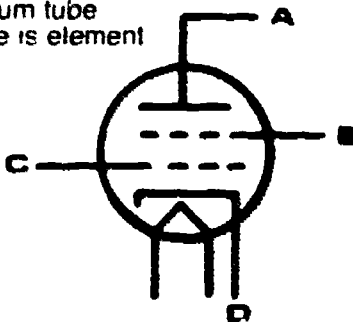
Questions

31. Which of the following has the least resistance?

- 31-A. wood
- 31-B. iron
- 31-C. rubber
- 31-D. silver

32. In the schematic vacuum tube illustrated, the cathode is element

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D



Key to the Sample Test Items

1. B	12. C	23. C
2. D	13. D	24. B
3. B	14. D	25. B
4. C	15. B	26. B
5. C	16. E	27. B
6. D	17. B	28. D
7. D	18. A	29. A
8. C	19. C	30. A
9. C	20. D	31. D
10. B	21. E	32. D
11. A	22. E	

Using Your ASVAB Scores for Career Exploration

You should consider your test scores in connection with other important things you know about yourself, such as your interests, school grades, motivation, and your goals. An aptitude test score is only one very general indicator, along with all of these other factors, to be used in exploring careers you are considering.

Keep in mind the limits of all aptitude tests. They are not absolute measurements of abilities or predictors of success or failure. Just as a high score does not guarantee success, a low score does not necessarily mean failure in any future occupation. If, for example, you have never worked with shop equipment or automobiles, you might be unfamiliar with certain terms and could score low in the Mechanical & Crafts area. This does not mean you lack potential in this area, but rather that you should recognize that you will need further training to do well in these career fields.

In summary, any aptitude test score is merely an estimate of your general level of ability.

After you have taken the ASVAB, your school will provide you with a copy of *Exploring Careers: The ASVAB Workbook*. The *Workbook* contains activities that will help you use your ASVAB scores for career exploration and match your personal preferences with occupations. See your counselor for more information.

Most guidance offices and career centers have copies of the *Military Career Guide: Employment and Training Opportunities in the Military*. The *Military Career Guide* is designed to be used by students and parents for career exploration purposes. The *Guide* describes occupations available in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The book may be useful in exploring occupations even if you are not sure you want to enlist in military. The *Military Career Guide* describes 205 military occupations: work activities, work environment, training provided, helpful attributes, and related civilian occupations. General information is also provided on subjects, such as enlistment requirements, military life, and training opportunities.

There are many different occupational specialties in the military services. The *Military Career Guide* organizes these specialties into 134 enlisted and 71 officer occupations. For each of the enlisted occupations discussed, there is a probability chart that can help you use your "Youth Population Percentile Scores" to estimate your chances of qualifying for at least one military specialty within that occupation in the military. The *Military Career Guide* contains specific instructions on how to use your ASVAB results for this purpose.



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