



The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)



What is the ASVAB?: The **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** is a multiple choice test that is used to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces. It is often offered to American high school students when they are in the 10th, 11th and 12th grade. Although the test is administered by the military, it is not a requirement that a test-taker with a qualifying score enlist in the armed forces. The exam is **FREE** to take.

What is the format of the test?: The ASVAB currently contains 9 sections. The duration of each test varies from as low as ten minutes up to 36 minutes. The entire ASVAB is three hours long. Overall, the exam covers the following content areas: science, reading, writing, math, knowledge of electronics, mechanical comprehension, assembling objects, verbal expression, and knowledge of automotive mechanics.

How is the test scored?: The maximum score that can be earned on the ASVAB is a 99. A score above 31 is considered good. The score, however, does not reflect how one does on the test, but rather, how one does compared to other test takers. It is a percentile score. In other words, a student who earns a score of 47 tested better than 46% of all ASVAB test takers for that testing session and is, therefore, in the 53 percentile of test takers.

How are the scores used?: ASVAB scores are used to determine one's eligibility for enlistment in the United States military as well as specific career path within the military once enlisted. To enlist in each branch, a different ASVAB score is required: Army (31), Marines (32), Air Force (36), Navy (35), and Coast Guard (40). Scores are divided into the following categories: Category I: 93–99; Category II: 65–92; Category III A: 50–64; Category III B: 31–49. The higher the score, the more occupations in the military one would be eligible for.

What are the benefits of taking the test?: Even for students who may not be interested in enlisting in the armed forces, the results of the ASVAB provide valuable information. In particular, the ASVAB measures what careers and vocational fields one may be best suited based on his/her strengths, weaknesses, and personal interests. The various vocational areas that the ASVAB measures include clerical, combat operations, electronics, artillery, general maintenance, food service, surveillance, communications, skilled technical, special forces, engineering, and medical.

Helpful ASVAB Links:

<http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab/>

http://www.official-asvab.com/whattoexpect_app.htm#

<http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces>

<https://www.thebalance.com/minimum-required-asvab-scores-and-education-level-3332646>