ASE B2 Auto Paint Exam Prep

Free Practice Test — 30 Real Exam-Style Questions

with full answer key & explanations

Practice Questions

Try all 30 first, then check the answer key at the back.

1. Technician A says that an HVLP spray gun operates with air cap pressure of 10 PSI or less. Technician B says that HVLP spray guns have higher transfer efficiency than conventional spray guns. Who is right?

A. A only
B. B only
C. Neither A nor B
D. Both A and B

2. When spraying metallic basecoat, what happens if the air pressure is set too high?

A. Excessive material usage will occur
B. Improved metallic orientation will occur
C. Mottling will occur
D. Orange peel will occur

3. What is the primary purpose of the air cap on a spray gun?

A. To maintain consistent paint viscosity
B. To direct compressed air into the fluid stream to atomize the paint
C. To control the amount of paint flowing through the gun
D. To filter contaminants from the paint

4. Which of the following is NOT a typical adjustment on a spray gun?

A. Viscosity adjustment
B. Pattern control adjustment
C. Air pressure adjustment
D. Fluid control adjustment

5. Technician A says that the fluid needle should be removed before cleaning the spray gun. Technician B says that the air cap should be removed before cleaning the spray gun. Who is right?

A. A only
B. B only
C. Neither A nor B
D. Both A and B

6. What can happen if a spray gun's fluid tip and needle are mismatched?

A. Improved transfer efficiency
B. Extended gun life
C. Improper atomization
D. Better control of metallic orientation

7. When using infrared lamps to force-dry paint, which statement is TRUE?

A. They work by creating a vacuum that extracts solvents
B. They heat the substrate, which then transfers heat to the paint film
C. They should be placed as close as possible to the surface
D. They should only be used for clearcoat, not basecoat

8. What spray gun malfunction is indicated when paint is leaking around the fluid needle packing?

A. The packing nut is too loose
B. The fluid tip is too large
C. The air pressure is too high
D. The trigger adjustment is incorrect

9. What should be done to the spray pattern when painting a narrow area such as a door pillar?

A. Keep it wide/horizontal for better coverage
B. Turn the air pressure to maximum
C. Use a larger fluid tip
D. Adjust it to be narrow/vertical

10. Technician A says that UV lamps can be used to cure certain automotive coatings. Technician B says that UV curing typically takes longer than conventional curing methods. Who is right?

A. Both A and B
B. Neither A nor B
C. A only
D. B only

11. What is the proper procedure for adjusting the spray pattern on an HVLP gun?

A. All adjustments should be made simultaneously
B. Adjust pattern control first, then fluid control, then air pressure
C. Adjust air pressure first, then fluid control, then pattern control
D. Adjust fluid control first, then pattern control, then air pressure

12. Which component of a spray gun controls the amount of paint that flows through the gun?

A. Fluid needle
B. Air cap
C. Fan pattern control
D. Air valve

13. What could cause a spray gun to produce a heavy concentration of material on the right side of the pattern?

A. Damaged or dirty air cap hole on the right side
B. Air pressure set too high
C. Fluid control opened too wide
D. Damaged or dirty air cap hole on the left side

14. When maintaining spray guns, which of these practices is MOST important?

A. Lubricating the trigger mechanism daily
B. Storing the gun with solvent in the cup
C. Using the correct cleaning solvent for the type of coating
D. Replacing all O-rings after each use

15. What is the main advantage of a gravity-feed spray gun compared to a siphon-feed gun?

A. Lower initial cost
B. Better transfer efficiency
C. Larger fluid capacity
D. Ability to spray upside down

16. What would likely happen if the fluid needle spring in a spray gun is worn or damaged?

A. The gun may continue to spray when the trigger is released
B. The gun will not spray at all
C. The spray pattern will be horizontal only
D. The gun will require higher air pressure

17. What is the recommended distance to hold an HVLP spray gun from the surface being painted?

A. 2-4 inches
B. 10-12 inches
C. 14-16 inches
D. 6-8 inches

18. Technician A says that the air compressor should have adequate CFM (cubic feet per minute) capacity for the spray gun being used. Technician B says that water traps should be used in the air line to prevent moisture contamination. Who is right?

A. B only
B. Neither A nor B
C. Both A and B
D. A only

19. Painter A says that delamination is often caused by improper surface cleaning before paint application. Painter B says that delamination can result from applying clearcoat too soon after basecoat application. Who is right?

A. Neither A nor B
B. Both A and B
C. A only
D. B only

20. Which of these is the most likely cause of paint blistering appearing several weeks after the refinish job?

A. Trapped moisture or solvents under the paint surface
B. Using the wrong reducer in the clearcoat
C. Excessive film thickness in a single application
D. Incorrect spray gun air pressure

21. Paint cracking that resembles the pattern of alligator skin is most likely caused by:

A. Excessive film thickness
B. Insufficient drying time between coats
C. Using incompatible hardeners
D. Applying a hard drying material over a softer undercoat

22. Painter A says that chalking on a vehicle's finish is primarily caused by UV exposure. Painter B says that chalking can be corrected by buffing and applying a protective wax. Who is right?

A. B only
B. Neither A nor B
C. Both A and B
D. A only

23. The proper procedure to repair a finish damaged by bird droppings includes:

A. Sanding with 320 grit and applying fresh basecoat
B. Cleaning with mild soap, wet sanding, compounding, and polishing
C. Applying solvent to dissolve the droppings, then clearcoating
D. Applying rubbing alcohol and buffing with a wool pad

24. Water spots that have etched into a clearcoat can best be repaired by:

A. Wet sanding with 1500-2000 grit followed by compounding and polishing
B. Wiping with vinegar solution and waxing
C. Applying a light coat of clearcoat over the affected area
D. Using a clay bar treatment only

25. Painter A says that burn-through during buffing is typically caused by using too much pressure. Painter B says that using a high-speed buffer on thin paint film can cause burn-through. Who is right?

A. A only
B. B only
C. Neither A nor B
D. Both A and B

26. Which condition is characterized by a whitish or milky appearance in the clearcoat?

A. Delamination
B. Orange peel
C. Blushing
D. Chalking

27. Which defect appears as tiny bubbles in the finish after the paint has dried?

A. Mottling
B. Solvent pop
C. Orange peel
D. Fish eyes

28. The most effective remedy for staining caused by industrial fallout on a vehicle's finish is:

A. Clay bar treatment followed by polishing
B. Acid-based cleaner application
C. Wet sanding with 800 grit paper
D. Solvent wipe and recoating with clearcoat

29. Excessive film build-up that results in edge mapping can be prevented by:

A. Using faster drying reducers
B. Applying thinner coats of basecoat
C. Increasing the spray gun distance from the panel
D. Properly tapering repair edges during the preparation phase

30. A vehicle's finish shows fine checking or cracking in the clearcoat. The most likely cause is:

A. Too much reducer in the mixture
B. Low humidity conditions during application
C. Excessive hardener in the clearcoat mixture
D. Insufficient flash time between coats

Answer Key & Explanations

1. D — Both A and B
Both technicians are correct. HVLP (High Volume Low Pressure) spray guns operate with air cap pressure of 10 PSI or less, and they have higher transfer efficiency (65% or more) compared to conventional spray guns.

2. C — Mottling will occur
When air pressure is set too high while spraying metallic basecoat, the metallic flakes can bounce back, causing mottling. This creates an uneven appearance where the metallic particles are distributed inconsistently.

3. B — To direct compressed air into the fluid stream to atomize the paint
The primary purpose of the air cap is to direct compressed air into the fluid stream to atomize the paint and shape the spray pattern. It's a critical component that affects the quality of atomization and pattern formation.

4. A — Viscosity adjustment
A viscosity adjustment is not found on a spray gun. Viscosity is adjusted when mixing the paint, not on the gun itself. Spray guns typically have pattern control, air pressure, and fluid control adjustments.

5. D — Both A and B
Both technicians are correct. For proper cleaning, both the fluid needle and air cap should be removed to allow thorough cleaning of all passages and components of the spray gun.

6. C — Improper atomization
If the fluid tip and needle are mismatched, improper atomization will occur because these components are designed to work together as a set. Mismatching can lead to leaking, uneven spray patterns, and poor finish quality.

7. B — They heat the substrate, which then transfers heat to the paint film
Infrared lamps heat the substrate directly, which then transfers heat to the paint film. This is more efficient than heating the air around the vehicle, as it focuses energy where it's needed most.

8. A — The packing nut is too loose
When paint is leaking around the fluid needle packing, the packing nut is likely too loose. The packing nut compresses the packing material to create a seal around the needle, and if it's loose, paint will leak through this area.

9. D — Adjust it to be narrow/vertical
When painting narrow areas like door pillars, the spray pattern should be adjusted to be narrow/vertical to reduce overspray and ensure proper coverage of the targeted area without wasting material.

10. C — A only
Technician A is correct. UV lamps can be used to cure certain specialized automotive coatings. Technician B is incorrect because UV curing is actually faster than conventional methods, not slower.

11. B — Adjust pattern control first, then fluid control, then air pressure
The proper procedure is to adjust the pattern control knob first to set the shape/size of the pattern, then adjust the fluid control to determine how much material flows, and finally set the air pressure to achieve proper atomization.

12. A — Fluid needle
The fluid needle controls the amount of paint that flows through the gun. It works in conjunction with the fluid tip to regulate how much material exits the spray gun when the trigger is pulled.

13. D — Damaged or dirty air cap hole on the left side
A damaged or dirty air cap hole on the left side would cause a heavy concentration of material on the right side of the pattern. This happens because the balanced air flow is disrupted, causing more material to flow to the opposite side.

14. C — Using the correct cleaning solvent for the type of coating
Using the correct cleaning solvent for the type of coating is most important. Using the wrong solvent can damage gun components, leave residue that affects future spraying, or fail to properly clean the gun.

15. B — Better transfer efficiency
The main advantage of a gravity-feed spray gun is better transfer efficiency. The paint flows down with gravity, requiring less air pressure for atomization, which results in less overspray and better material utilization.

16. A — The gun may continue to spray when the trigger is released
If the fluid needle spring is worn or damaged, the gun may continue to spray when the trigger is released. The spring is responsible for pulling the needle back to close the fluid passage when pressure is released from the trigger.

17. D — 6-8 inches
The recommended distance for an HVLP spray gun is 6-8 inches from the surface. This distance allows for optimal atomization and transfer efficiency while maintaining proper coverage and avoiding defects.

18. C — Both A and B
Both technicians are correct. The air compressor must have adequate CFM capacity to maintain proper air pressure for the spray gun, and water traps are essential to prevent moisture contamination that can cause finish defects.

19. B — Both A and B
Both painters are correct. Delamination (separation of paint layers) can be caused by improper surface cleaning before application and by applying clearcoat before the basecoat has adequately flashed, preventing proper adhesion between layers.

20. A — Trapped moisture or solvents under the paint surface
Trapped moisture or solvents under the paint surface is the most common cause of delayed blistering, as it creates vapor pockets that eventually push outward forming blisters weeks after application.

21. D — Applying a hard drying material over a softer undercoat
Applying a hard drying material over a softer undercoat creates tension as the materials cure at different rates, resulting in the characteristic alligator skin pattern of cracking.

22. C — Both A and B
Both statements are correct. UV radiation breaks down paint resins causing the chalky appearance (oxidation), and minor chalking can be corrected by buffing to remove the degraded layer and applying wax for protection.

23. B — Cleaning with mild soap, wet sanding, compounding, and polishing
Bird droppings are acidic and can etch paint. The proper repair involves neutralizing any remaining acid with mild soap and water, wet sanding the affected area to remove the damaged clear coat, then compounding and polishing to restore shine.

24. A — Wet sanding with 1500-2000 grit followed by compounding and polishing
For water spots that have etched into the clearcoat, wet sanding with 1500-2000 grit sandpaper followed by compounding and polishing is the most effective repair method that removes the minimum amount of clear coat necessary.

25. D — Both A and B
Both statements are correct. Excessive pressure can generate heat and remove too much material, while high-speed buffing on thin paint can quickly cut through the finish - both causing burn-through.

26. C — Blushing
Moisture contamination during the application or curing process causes the whitish or milky appearance in clearcoat known as blushing, as water becomes trapped in the film.

27. B — Solvent pop
Solvent pop appears as tiny bubbles or pinholes in the finish after drying, caused by trapped solvents that burst through the surface as the paint cures.

28. A — Clay bar treatment followed by polishing
Clay bar treatment is specifically designed to remove embedded contaminants like industrial fallout from paint surfaces without damaging the finish, followed by polishing to restore gloss.

29. D — Properly tapering repair edges during the preparation phase
Proper tapering of primer and paint layers at the repair edges prevents the build-up that causes edge mapping, where repair areas become visible due to thickness differences at the edges.

30. C — Excessive hardener in the clearcoat mixture
Excessive hardener accelerates the curing process, making the finish brittle and prone to fine checking or cracking as the paint film cannot accommodate normal substrate flexing.

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