



Headquarters Air Cadets Examination

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Senior Cadet
33/3 Propulsion
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1. Use black or dark blue pen, NOT pencil.
2. Mark one answer per question with a cross.
3. If you wish to change an answer, cancel the original mark and mark another single answer.

☒ A selected answer.

☒ A cancelled answer.

Mark:

Name and Initials _____

Date of Exam _____

Date of Birth _____

Squadron/Unit _____

Wing _____

1 In a 4-stroke piston engine, what is the force which closes the exhaust and inlet valves?

- a ☐ Gravity
- b ☐ A pushrod
- c ☐ A spring
- d ☐ Suction

2 In this diagram of a simple carburettor of an aircraft piston engine, the carburettor is fitted with a control which automatically adjusts the mixture for changes in altitude. The arrow X points to an essential item. This item is:

- a ☐ A reserve fuel chamber
- b ☐ A bi-metallic strip
- c ☐ A pitot tube
- d ☐ An aneroid capsule



3 In a magneto, one purpose of the capacitor (condenser) is to:

- a ☐ Reduce pitting of the contact breaker points
- b ☐ Make the secondary current flow evenly
- c ☐ Reduce erosion at the sparking plug gaps
- d ☐ Make the primary current flow evenly

4 A jet engine's compressor is driven by:

- a ☐ Residual pressure in the tailpipe
- b ☐ The turbine
- c ☐ The gearbox
- d ☐ Air pressure at the air intake

5 The function of the turbine in a turbojet engine is to:

- a ☐ Drive the gas stream into the atmosphere
- b ☐ Drive the compressor
- c ☐ Vaporise the fuel as much as possible
- d ☐ Energise the gas stream

6 Which of these is a turbojet engine?

- a ☐ Viper
- b ☐ Spey
- c ☐ Adour
- d ☐ Pegasus

7 Which of the following statements applies to the ramjet engine?

- a ☐ It has only one compressor
- b ☐ It has no moving parts
- c ☐ It is most efficient at subsonic speeds
- d ☐ It has only one turbine

8 What characteristic of the piston engine permits the use of such efficiency-enhancing features as valve lead, valve lag and valve overlap:

- a ☐ Ineffective crank angle at TDC and BDC
- b ☐ The ease with which extra cylinders may be added at the design stage
- c ☐ Its ability to be mounted at any angle
- d ☐ Its wide tolerance of operating temperatures

9 The purpose of gudgeon pins in a piston engine is to:

- a ☐ Attach the pistons to their connecting rods
- b ☐ Fasten together the two halves of the crankcase
- c ☐ Hold the sparking plugs in place
- d ☐ Retain the valves in their guides

10 What ratio (by weight) of fuel to air should the carburettor normally supply in a piston engine?

- a ☐ 15:01
- b ☐ 02:01
- c ☐ 01:02
- d ☐ 01:15

11 When a piston engine is accelerating, the purpose of an accelerator pump when fitted to the carburettor is:

- a ☐ Decrease the air pressure in the float chamber
- b ☐ Prevent the mixture from becoming weak
- c ☐ Increase the air pressure in the float chamber
- d ☐ Prevent the mixture from becoming rich

12 Which of these statements, about an exhaust-driven turbocharger, is true?

- a ☐ It is more effective than an engine-driven supercharger at increasing the power output
- b ☐ It operates as soon as the throttle is opened
- c ☐ It operates best at low engine speeds
- d ☐ It operates best at high engine speeds

13 What is the purpose of the fins which are arranged about the cylinder and cylinder head of an air-cooled engine?

- a ☐ To support the engine cowlings
- b ☐ To allow heat to dissipate rapidly
- c ☐ To direct air through the engine compartment
- d ☐ To reduce the weight of the engine

14 Which of these statements applies to a propeller that has been feathered?

- a ☐ Its leading edges are facing forwards into the direction of flight
- b ☐ Its leading edges are facing at 90 degrees to the direction of flight
- c ☐ It is producing maximum power
- d ☐ It is operating at its maximum rotational speed

15 In a bypass engine, part of the air is fully compressed and is passed into the combustion chamber, whilst the remainder is compressed to a lesser extent and is ducted around the hot section. Which type of engine normally employs this system:

- a ☐ Turbojet
- b ☐ Turboshift
- c ☐ Turboprop
- d ☐ Turbofan

16 In a piston engine, ineffective crank angle occurs in the region of:

- a ☐ TDC only
- b ☐ 90 degrees after BDC and TDC
- c ☐ Both BDC and TDC
- d ☐ BDC only

17 Direct fuel injection is often used in aero piston engines, in preference to float chamber carburettors. Which of these statements applies to the direct fuel injection system?

- a ☐ It cannot operate inverted
- b ☐ A throttle butterfly is unnecessary
- c ☐ There is no choke on the intake
- d ☐ The fuel does not have to be vaporised

18 Which of the following describes a magneto as used in an aircraft's piston engine?

- a ☐ A mechanical pump for circulating fuel
- b ☐ A secondary compass system
- c ☐ A dynamo to produce the spark for the spark plugs
- d ☐ An instrument for metering the fuel flow

19 Which of these is a turbojet engine?

- a ☐ Olympus 593
- b ☐ Spey
- c ☐ Tyne
- d ☐ Pegasus

20 Which of these is a turboprop engine?

- a ☐ RB 211
- b ☐ Adour
- c ☐ Spey
- d ☐ Dart

21 In the modified 4-stroke cycle, ignition takes place:

- a ☐ Just before TDC on the power stroke
- b ☐ At TDC on the power stroke
- c ☐ Just before TDC on the compression stroke
- d ☐ At TDC on the compression stroke

22 Which of these statements refers to turbo-chargers? They are:

- a ☐ Driven by exhaust gases
- b ☐ Fitted to turbo-fans only
- c ☐ Fitted to turbojet engines only
- d ☐ Driven by gears from the engine

23 In an aircraft propeller system the function of the constant speed unit (CSU) is to:

- a ☐ Increase the mixture strength
- b ☐ Feather the propeller
- c ☐ Retard the ignition timing
- d ☐ Maintain a selected engine speed within the power available

24 Blade twist in a propeller helps to:

- a ☐ Make feathering possible
- b ☐ Even out the thrust along the length of the blade
- c ☐ Make the blade stronger and lighter
- d ☐ Reduce noise levels

25 Which of these statements about the ramjet engine is true?

- a ☐ It requires an extra compressor to achieve the high ram pressure needed
- b ☐ It is very susceptible to compressor stall
- c ☐ It is like a turbojet from which the compressor and turbine have been removed
- d ☐ It is used only in sub-sonic aircraft