Task Title: Automotive Codes for Troubleshooting

OALCF Cover Sheet – Learner Copy

Learner Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

Successful Completion: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal Path: Employment ☐ Apprenticeship ☐

Secondary School ☐ Post Secondary ☐ Independence ☐

Task Description: Understand diagnostic codes used in automobiles.

Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:

- Find and Use Information/Read continuous text/A1.1
- Find and Use Information/Interpret documents/A2.2
- Use Digital Technology/D.2

Materials Required:

- Pen/pencil and paper
- Computer or digital device

Learner Information

Most cars today have built-in on-board diagnostics tools (OBD) that can recognize problems and report them using a series of error codes. Automotive Service Technicians must know how to look up error codes to find out what they mean. There are error code databases and charts that provide descriptions of each error code, and most can be found on the internet.

Scan the "Trouble Codes Chart".

Trouble Codes Chart

First Character - System	Second Digit - Code Type	Third Digit - Sub-System
P = Powertrain	0 = Generic (used by many manufacturers)	0, 1 and 2 = air/fuel mixture
B = Body	1 = Enhanced (used only by a few Manufacturers)	3 = ignition system
C = Chassis		4 = checking auxiliary emissions
U = Network & Vehicle Integration		5 = engine idling
		6 = onboard computer and ancillary outputs
		7, 8 and 9 = transmission (gearbox)
		A, B and C = hybrid propulsion

Work Sheet

Task 1: An Infiniti has the trouble code B1049. What do the first three characters and digits in the code represent?

Answer:

_____

Task 2: Open a new page of the web browser of the computer. Search for "Infiniti B1049". What does this code indicate as the possible problem?

Answer:

_____

Task 3: Conduct an internet search for the following error codes. Describe the problem each code is reporting.

P0460:

P0169:

P0636:

P0811:

Answer:

_____

Task 4: Are the codes in Task 3 "Generic" (used by many manufacturers) or "Enhanced" (used only by a few manufacturers)? How do you know?

Answer:

_____