A+ 220-1201 / 220-1202 Cheat Sheet

One-page cram sheet for the current CompTIA A+ Core 1 and Core 2 exam series.

Best for Last review before practice tests	Focus Core 1 + Core 2 essentials	Use with Quick summary, ports, and commands

1. Core 1 hardware essentials

CPU / RAM / Storage	Know upgrade logic first: CPU socket and chipset compatibility, RAM type/speed limits, and SSD form factors like 2.5-inch SATA vs M.2 NVMe.
Motherboard connectors	Identify DIMM slots, PCIe lanes, SATA ports, power connectors, front-panel headers, and TPM placement.
Displays and video	Match HDMI, DisplayPort, USB-C, and legacy VGA to the right use case; resolution, refresh rate, and adapter pitfalls matter.
Printers	Laser = toner and fuser; inkjet = cartridges and printhead. Troubleshoot streaks, jams, ghosting, and faded output fast.

2. Core 1 networking and devices

Common ports	Memorize the support set first: 20/21 FTP, 22 SSH/SFTP, 23 Telnet, 25 SMTP, 53 DNS, 67/68 DHCP, 80 HTTP, 110 POP3, 143 IMAP, 389 LDAP, 443 HTTPS, 3389 RDP.
Wi-Fi standards	2.4 GHz travels farther but is crowded; 5 GHz is faster with shorter range; 6 GHz reduces interference when supported.
Mobile devices	Understand screen types, biometrics, mobile hotspots, synchronization, and email/profile setup on iOS and Android.
SOHO basics	Router, switch, AP, modem, NAS, and UPS all appear in scenarios; know what each device actually solves.

3. Core 2 operating systems

Windows editions and tools	Use Task Manager, Services, Disk Management, Device Manager, Event Viewer, System Configuration, and Recovery Environment with purpose.
macOS and Linux basics	Recognize common admin actions, file systems, terminal basics, permissions, and package/update workflows.
File system logic	NTFS permissions, share permissions, BitLocker, quotas, and recovery tools show up often in troubleshooting questions.
Application support	Install, repair, uninstall, and roll back safely; verify requirements, licensing, and update method.

4. Core 2 security and operations

Account security	Least privilege, MFA, strong passwords, lockout policy, and role-based access control are recurring test themes.
Malware response	Best rhythm: identify, quarantine, remediate, update, validate, and document. Safe mode and recovery tools matter.
Change and documentation	Ticketing, change approval, backup verification, asset tracking, and baseline documentation are part of real support work.

Professionalism	Use plain language, set expectations, protect privacy, and document what changed before closing the ticket.