
AP 2020 Exam Updates

As schools and communities navigate the unprecedented challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the health and safety of educators and students are the AP Program's top priorities. We're supporting our communities through **free, remote learning resources** and **at-home testing options**.

Exam Development

This year's AP[®] Exams—like all AP Exams—were developed in close consultation with faculty from our AP Development Committees. These committees create assessment and scoring expectations that ensure AP students earning a passing score on an AP Exam will have the skills necessary to succeed in subsequent coursework in the discipline. These faculty will ensure the tasks on the 2020 exams meet the traditional rigor of AP Exams and provide psychometric validity for decisions to award credit or placement. In this unprecedented year, we have over 200 higher education members providing us with ongoing expertise and feedback. We're also developing expanded communication channels to keep our partners in higher education informed about each update as it is finalized.

Instructional Resources

Starting on March 25, we began offering optional free, live AP review courses, delivered by AP teachers from across the country. These mobile-friendly classes are designed to be used alongside work schools may continue to assign. The courses have been viewed more than 3.2 million times since they became available. These classes:

- Enable AP students to complete the few remaining topics of each AP class they may have missed due to a school closure.
- Complement work that may be given by schools.
- Are available on-demand after the original presentation so teachers and students can access them any time.

Exam Scores and Score Validity

As usual, students' work will be scored by our network of college faculty and AP readers and reported on a 1–5 scale. We're working to release scores as close to the usual July timeframe as possible.

We have conducted analyses of past administrations of AP Exams, examining to what extent students' performance on content from the first 75% of the course is predictive of performance on the overall exam. Our findings, which show a very high degree of correlation, enable us to be fair to all students by providing an exam based on topics they will already have covered prior to the COVID-19 crisis.

This year's online exam offerings are a one-time solution to address students' needs during an unprecedented global emergency. We expect to return to standard AP Exams in 2021.

Recommendations for Credit and Placement

In this tumultuous year, we recommend institutions honor the same AP credit and placement policies they already have in place. Since our March 20 announcement on the online exams, multiple states, systems, and institutions have announced they will continue to award credit in 2020 based on their existing policies. We understand institutions may have additional questions, and we encourage you to ask for the details you need to be confident in your credit and placement policies.

Exam Format and Delivery

- For most subjects, the exams will be 45 minutes long. Most exams will have 1 or 2 free-response questions. Certain courses will continue to use portfolio submissions and will not have a separate online exam.
- Students will be able to take exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Exams will be given from May 11 through May 22. Makeup test dates will be available for each subject from June 1 through June 5. After the makeup dates no additional testing opportunities will be offered.
- Students can take exams at home. If schools reopen, exams may also be taken in the classroom.

Exam Security

This year's AP Exams will be open book/open note. However, students may not consult with any other individuals during the testing period. We will take necessary steps to protect the integrity of each exam administration, as we do every year. We're confident the vast majority of AP students will follow the rules for taking the exams. For the small number of students who may try to gain an unfair advantage, we have a comprehensive and strict set of protocols in place to prevent and detect cheating. We're keeping some of these protocols confidential to maximize their effectiveness. Protocols include:

- Developing exam questions that require students to demonstrate critical thinking and synthesis skills, as opposed to providing content that can be found in textbooks or online.
- Requiring student verification of their identity and confirmation that the work they submitted is their own.
- Use of a range of digital security tools, including plagiarism detection software and post-administration analytics, to protect the integrity of the exams.
- Providing AP teachers with copies of the work their students submit, enabling teachers to spot inconsistencies with students' known work.

Testing Accommodations

Students will be able to take online AP Exams with College Board–approved accommodations such as extended time. Details will be available soon.

Learn More

Students have expressed a lot of uncertainty about how the COVID-19 pandemic will impact their ability to attend college in the fall. Therefore, it may be helpful for you to post a public-facing statement about your position in 2020 AP Exam scores. A recent example was published by the University of California System, which reads: *College Board recently announced changes to Advanced Placement® (AP) Exam content and formats for spring 2020. UC recognizes the effort that students have already applied in these challenging courses and will award UC credit for 2020 AP Exams completed with scores of 3, 4, or 5, consistent with previous years.*

If you need additional information before crafting a public statement, and the above topics have not addressed your questions, please also reference these key resources:

- To see what course units will be covered on every 2020 exam, visit: apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update.
- To understand what content is covered in those units, please visit: apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses. Select the course you're interested in learning more about, and then choose **Course and Exam Description**.
- The next round of updates will be provided by late April. Please continue to visit here for updates: apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update.
- If you have further questions, please email aphighered@collegeboard.org.