CollegeBoard | AP®

2021 AP® Exams Overview Guide

Preserving Opportunities for Students
School of the Arts AP Information Meeting
April 19, 2021

Contents

1   About the 2021 AP Exams

2   AP Exam Schedule

3   Exam Administration

4   Supports for Teaching and Learning

5   Q&A

1

About the 2021 AP® Exams

Overview

About the 2021 AP Exams

Guiding Principles

Decisions for 2021 AP® Exams were made to prioritize the health and safety of educators and students while preserving opportunities for motivated students to earn college credit.

The 2021 AP Exams will cover the full course content so that students are accurately placed into higher-level courses where they can succeed when they get to college.

If it's safe and feasible, we advocate for in-school testing because it maximizes opportunities for students, but we're providing multiple exam dates for all AP courses and, if safety conditions require it, a backup at-home digital testing option for 25 AP courses.
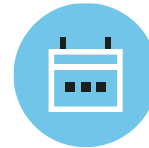
Key Features

3x Schools have a variety of testing options, with 3 administration windows, that reflect the unique characteristics of each exam and the preferences we've heard from AP teachers, coordinators, and school leaders.

Digital exams are available for 25 AP courses, and they can be administered in school or authorized for at-home testing, if in-school testing isn't possible.

Schools don't need to pick just one of the testing windows or modes. AP coordinators can authorize a mix of at-home and in-person exams and mix testing dates, as needed.

All cancellation fees are waived to give students utmost flexibility.

Free, live review sessions can help students review course content and skills while free, on-demand resources on AP Classroom can help students practice skills before exams.

Mix and Match Among 3 Testing Windows

Schools can choose to offer AP Exams at a time that's right for individual students.

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	**7**	8
	ADMIN 1					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ADMIN 1				ADMIN 1	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	ADMIN 1	ADMIN 2				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	ADMIN 2					
30	31					

JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		ADMIN 3				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		ADMIN 3				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Mix and Match Between 2 Location Settings

Schools can choose to offer AP Exams at a place that's right for individual students.

In School

Schools that can safely administer **paper and pencil exams** or **digital exams** in school buildings or at other school-proctored locations should do so.

RCSD has elected to use Window one with paper as the primary testing option for AP Exam Administration

At Home

To increase local flexibility and preserve credit-earning opportunities for students who aren't able to take an in-school exam this year, the school's AP coordinator can authorize students to take backup, at-home **digital** testing options for 25 AP courses, if in-school testing isn't possible.

CollegeBoard

Overview: Exam Administration Options

Schools can choose the options that best serve their instructional schedules and safety needs.

	IN-SCHOOL EXAMS		AT-HOME EXAMS
	Traditional Paper and Pencil*	**Digital***	**Digital***
Administration 1 May 3–7, 10–12, 14, and 17	✓ **34 Exams**		
Administration 2 May 18–21, 24–28	✓ 17 Exams	✓ 17 Exams	✓ 17 Exams
Administration 3 June 1–4, 7–11	✓ 9 Exams	✓ 25 Exams	✓ 25 Exams

*AP Chinese and AP Japanese Language and Culture Exams are administered in school on a computer-based platform, in all three administrations.

- All AP Exams have at least 1 in-school paper and pencil option.
- Not all courses have an at-home or digital exam option.
- To ensure equitable and secure testing of full course content and skills, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish Language and Culture; Latin; Music Theory; and Spanish Literature and Culture exams can only be administered in a proctored in-school environment. Although these exams will be available to students in Administrations 1, 2, and 3, they can only be administered in schools.
- All digital testing options (except Chinese and Japanese Language) have synchronous start times at 12 p.m. EDT and 4 p.m. EDT.

CollegeBoard

AP Exam	Administration 1 May 3–7, 10–12, 14, and 17	Administration 2 May 18–21, 24–28	Administration 3 June 1–4, 7–11
AP Art History	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Biology	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Calculus AB	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Calculus BC	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Chemistry	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Chinese Language and Culture	In-School Computer-Based*	In-School Computer-Based*	In-School Computer-Based*
AP Comparative Government and Politics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Computer Science A	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Computer Science Principles	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP English Language and Composition	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP English Literature and Composition	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Environmental Science	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP European History	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP French Language and Culture	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP German Language and Culture	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Human Geography	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Italian Language and Culture	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Japanese Language and Culture	In-School Computer-Based*	In-School Computer-Based*	In-School Computer-Based*
AP Latin	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Macroeconomics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Microeconomics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Music Theory	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Physics C: Mechanics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Psychology	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Seminar	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP Spanish Language and Culture	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Spanish Literature and Culture	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil
AP Statistics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP United States Government and Politics	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP United States History	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital
AP World History: Modern	In-School Paper and Pencil	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital	In-School Digital and/or At-Home Digital

*AP Chinese and AP Japanese are administered in-school on a computer-based platform, in all three administrations.

2 AP Exam Schedule

Reading the AP Exam Schedule

AP Exam Schedule

Paper	8 a.m. Local Time	12 noon Local Time	2 p.m. Local Time
Monday, May 3, 2021	• United States Government and Politics	• Physics C: Mechanics	• Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	• Calculus AB • Calculus BC	• German Language and Culture • Human Geography	
Wednesday, May 5, 2021	• English Literature and Composition	• Japanese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Physics 1: Algebra-Based	
Thursday, May 6, 2021	• United States History	• Art History • Computer Science A	
Friday, May 7, 2021	• Chemistry • Spanish Literature and Culture	• European History • Physics 2: Algebra-Based	
Monday, May 10, 2021	• French L • World His		
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	• Seminar • Spanish L		
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	• English L		
Thursday, May 13, 2021*	• NO EXAM		
Friday, May 14, 2021	• Biology • Italian La		
Monday, May 17, 2021*	• Compara • Computer		

Digital	12 noon Eastern Daylight Time	4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time
Tuesday, May 18, 2021	• English Literature and Composition	• Computer Science A
Wednesday, May 19, 2021	• European History • United States History	• Art History • Macroeconomics
Thursday, May 20, 2021	• United States Government and Politics • World History: Modern	• Psychology

Paper	8 a.m. Local Time	12 noon Local Time
Friday, May 21, 2021	• Italian Language and Culture • Japanese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Latin • Spanish Language and Culture	• Chinese Language and Culture (computer-based) • French Language and Culture • German Language and Culture • Music Theory • Spanish Literature and Culture

1. Each administration calendar designates AP Exam administration dates, the start time of each exam, and whether an exam is paper and pencil or digital.

2. The exam format, whether paper and pencil or digital, is indicated in the blue header above the exam dates.

3. In-school paper and pencil exams are scheduled to start at 8 a.m., 12 noon, and 2 p.m. local time.

4. Digital exams, whether they're taken in school or at home, are scheduled for simultaneous start times worldwide at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. EDT.

5. During Administration 1, no exams are scheduled for Thursday, May 13, to avoid conflicts for students observing Eid al-Fitr. Exams previously scheduled for May 13 will instead be administered on May 17.

Administration 1

2021 AP Exam Schedule

Paper ✐	8 a.m. Local Time	12 noon Local Time	2 p.m. Local Time
Monday, May 3, 2021	• United States Government and Politics	• Physics C: Mechanics	• Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	• Calculus AB • Calculus BC	• German Language and Culture • Human Geography	
Wednesday, May 5, 2021	• English Literature and Composition	• Japanese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Physics 1: Algebra-Based	
Thursday, May 6, 2021	• United States History	• Art History • Computer Science A	
Friday, May 7, 2021	• Chemistry • Spanish Literature and Culture	• European History • Physics 2: Algebra-Based	
Monday, May 10, 2021	• French Language and Culture • World History: Modern	• Macroeconomics	
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	• Seminar • Spanish Language and Culture	• Latin • Psychology	
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	• English Language and Composition	• Microeconomics • Music Theory	
Thursday, May 13, 2021*	• NO EXAMS SCHEDULED		
Friday, May 14, 2021	• Biology • Italian Language and Culture	• Chinese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Environmental Science	
Monday, May 17, 2021*	• Comparative Government and Politics • Computer Science Principles	• Statistics	

Administration 2

2021 AP Exam Schedule

Digital 🖥	12 noon **Eastern Daylight Time**	4 p.m. **Eastern Daylight Time**
Tuesday, May 18, 2021	• English Literature and Composition	• Computer Science A
Wednesday, May 19, 2021	• European History • United States History	• Art History • Macroeconomics
Thursday, May 20, 2021	• United States Government and Politics • World History: Modern	• Psychology

Paper ✎	8 a.m. **Local Time**	12 noon **Local Time**
Friday, May 21, 2021	• Italian Language and Culture • Japanese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Latin • Spanish Language and Culture	• Chinese Language and Culture (computer-based) • French Language and Culture • German Language and Culture • Music Theory • Spanish Literature and Culture

Paper ✎	8 a.m. **Local Time**	12 noon **Local Time**
Monday, May 24, 2021	• Calculus AB • Calculus BC	• Physics 1: Algebra-Based • Physics C: Mechanics
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	• Chemistry • Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	• Physics 2: Algebra-Based • Statistics

Digital 🖥	12 noon **Eastern Daylight Time**	4 p.m. **Eastern Daylight Time**
Wednesday, May 26, 2021	• English Language and Composition	• Computer Science Principles • Seminar
Thursday, May 27, 2021	• Biology	• Environmental Science
Friday, May 28, 2021	• Comparative Government and Politics • Human Geography	• Microeconomics

Administration 3

2021 AP Exam Schedule

Digital 🖥	12 noon Eastern Daylight Time	4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	• English Literature and Composition	• Computer Science A
Wednesday, June 2, 2021	• European History • United States History	• Art History • Macroeconomics
Thursday, June 3, 2021	• United States Government and Politics • World History: Modern	• Psychology

Paper ✎	8 a.m. Local Time	12 noon Local Time
Friday, June 4, 2021	• Italian Language and Culture • Japanese Language and Culture (computer-based) • Latin • Spanish Language and Culture	• Chinese Language and Culture (computer-based) • French Language and Culture • German Language and Culture • Music Theory • Spanish Literature and Culture

Digital 🖥	12 noon Eastern Daylight Time	4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time
Monday, June 7, 2021	• English Language and Composition	• Computer Science Principles • Seminar
Tuesday, June 8, 2021	• Comparative Government and Politics • Human Geography	• Microeconomics
Wednesday, June 9, 2021	• Calculus AB • Calculus BC	• Physics 1: Algebra-Based • Physics C: Mechanics
Thursday, June 10, 2021	• Chemistry • Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	• Statistics • Physics 2: Algebra-Based
Friday, June 11, 2021	• Biology	• Environmental Science

CollegeBoard

3

Exam Administration
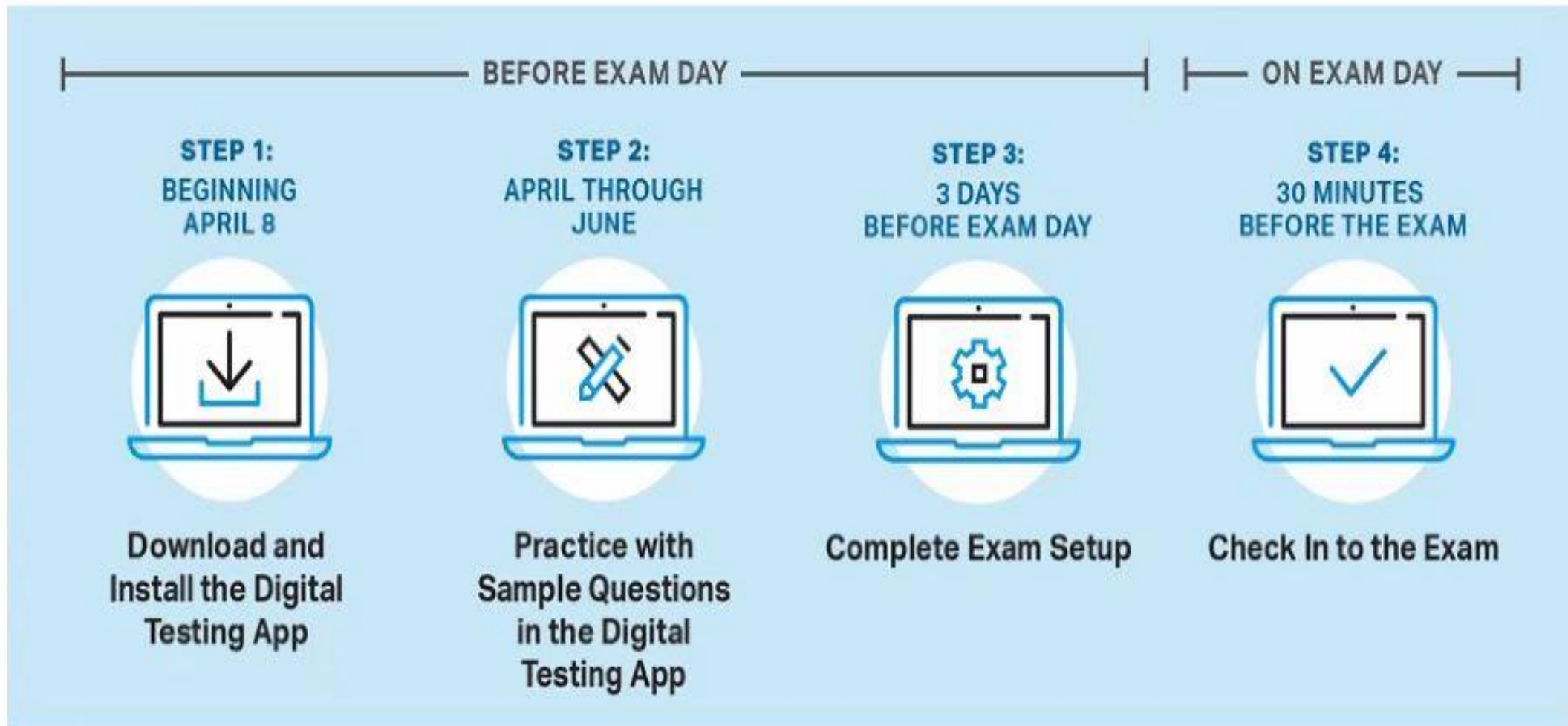
Testing Window One-Paper Testing

- Paper tests in Window One were ordered for all students taking AP May 2021

- May 3, 2021 – May 17, 2021

- Test will be administered either at School of the Arts or Memorial Art Gallery

- AP Music Theory exam is offered by CollegeBoard for in-person testing only

Selecting Digital Testing

- Students were asked to complete a Google Form indicating testing preference of paper or digital

- AP Coordinator authorizes move to digital testing based upon availability of exam

- Move to digital test can be made up until seven calendar day before digital test

- If exam is available digitally in Window Two then students will be placed in second window

- Calculus, Chemistry, Physics and Statistics are only available digitally in Window Three

- Notification of test change can be found in student MyAP Account

Digital Exams: An Overview

Planning Your Exam Administration

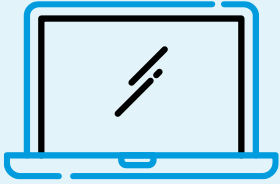Whether digital exams are given in school or taken at home, schools are responsible for ensuring that all requirements for digital testing are met and that students complete all setup and readiness steps before exam day and abide by exam security policies while testing.

The following details apply to all digital exams, whether administered in school or at home, except for Chinese and Japanese exams.

Format	Start Times	Authorization
Digital exams will be full length and test the same knowledge and skills as paper and pencil exams, in a format-appropriate manner. Students will answer free-response questions with a keyboard, rather than by hand. The digital exam app will include any symbols students would need to type their responses. No handwritten or photographed work will be required or accepted.	Full-length digital AP Exams, whether taken in school or at home, have simultaneous start times worldwide in Administration 2 and Administration 3.	If needed, the school's AP coordinator can authorize students to take these exams securely at home without requesting approval from College Board, as a testing option for schools that are closed or have students who are unable to test in school for safety reasons.
Exam Application	**Devices**	**Makeup Exams**
Students will need to install the AP Exam application on the computer they'll use throughout AP testing this year; **this WILL NOT be the same digital testing platform that was used for emergency testing in spring 2020**. Students **will not** need to install the LockDown Browser they may use for secure AP Classroom assignments.	Because the full-length digital AP Exams require typewritten responses in the free-response section, the exams can't be taken on smartphones. Digital exams taken on desktop or laptop computers (Windows, Mac, school-managed Chromebook) will be the sole exam format for many subjects on the Administration 2 and Administration 3 test dates.	Even if a school is only planning to administer paper and pencil exams, it should ensure that its students are prepared to take the digital version of the exam (if applicable), in the event they need to take a makeup exam that is only offered digitally.

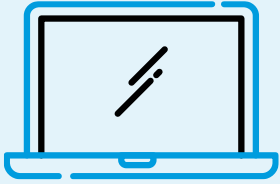CollegeBoard

Digital Exams: Testing Requirements

Planning Your Exam Administration

	Digital Testing in School (or at a school-selected location)	Digital Testing at Home (if authorized by the AP coordinator)
Computer	Each student will need access to a laptop computer (Mac, Windows, or school-managed Chromebook). The computer can be a personal computer or a school-provided computer but must not be shared between students after exam setup is completed.	Each student will need access to a desktop or laptop computer (Mac, Windows, or school-managed Chromebook). The computer can be a personal computer or a school-provided computer but must not be shared between students after exam setup is completed.
Power	While students will be asked to have a fully charged computer to last through the full-length exams, schools will need to ensure that a student can access an electrical outlet, if needed.	Students' computers must be fully charged to last through the full-length exams and be able to be plugged in during the exam, if needed.
Internet/ Network access	Students must be able to access a reliable internet connection that can support concurrent data transmission commensurate with the volume of students taking the exam in the same location. Students will need to be able to access their school's internet network, and the network must allow outbound traffic to College Board and inbound traffic from College Board.	Students must have a reliable internet connection. Our testing application has been designed to be tolerant of disruptions in internet connectivity during the exam.

Digital Exams: Testing Requirements

Planning Your Exam Administration

	Digital Testing in School (or at a school-selected location)	Digital Testing at Home (if authorized by the AP coordinator)
Readiness steps	Schools must ensure that all students complete all required readiness steps before exam day. • Students will need to be able to install the testing application on their computer. If students are using school- or district-managed devices, the application will need to be pushed down centrally or permission for downloading the application will need to be granted. • Students will need to complete exam setup ahead of each exam day on the specific computer that they plan to use for testing. Exam setup will be available 3 days before exam day and must be completed no later than the day before exam day.	
Start times	Schools need to be able to support the start of testing at exactly 12 p.m. eastern daylight time and 4 p.m. eastern daylight time and provide students with a proctored testing environment for the duration of the exam(s). All digital testing, whether at home and in school, will start at the exact same time, worldwide. Please note that students will need to be seated in the testing room and check in online 30 minutes before the official start time.	Students must understand that testing starts at exactly 12 p.m. eastern daylight time and 4 p.m. eastern daylight time. Digital exams for a specific subject start at the exact same time, worldwide. Please note that students will need to check in online 30 minutes before the official start time.

4

Supports for Teaching and Learning

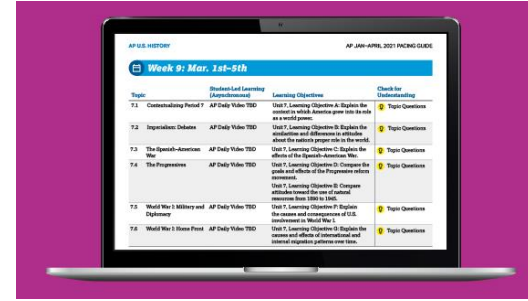# Free Resources for Teachers and Students

collegeboard.org/apclassroom

AP Instructional Resources Built for Any Learning Environment
Free, digital resources in AP Classroom provide students with daily instruction, practice, and feedback on every topic and skill covered on AP Exams. Teachers and students can also use feedback reports and the progress dashboard to focus practice before exams.

AP Daily Videos in AP Classroom
Short, searchable AP Daily videos help students learn skills and content in every course, and can be assigned by teachers in addition to topic questions, progress checks, and practice exams in AP Classroom.

AP Course Pacing Guides
New course pacing guides, designed for classrooms that have completed around 25% of typical course content by January, provide one option for teachers to use the resources in AP Classroom to catch up and expose students to all skills and content for their course.

AP Daily: Live Review
April 19–29, AP students can tune in to their AP YouTube channel for free, live review sessions for their course.

Additional Supports for Students

apstudents.collegeboard.org

Tech and Connectivity
Explore how College Board partners can help connect students to devices and internet access.

BigFuture™ Days
Help high school students sign up for virtual events to connect directly with college admissions representatives and take action on the most important steps for college.

College Board Opportunity Scholarships
Send students to collegeboard.org/opportunity to find out more about College Board Opportunity Scholarships.

Wyatt, Financial Assistance Chatbot
Connect seniors with Wyatt℠, a FAFSA® assistance chatbot, at getfafsahelp.org, so they can complete important steps in their college planning journey.

AP
Exams

Free Score Reports for Students

- Remind students—especially seniors—that they need to indicate through My AP the college, university, or scholarship program they'd like to receive their free score report. Students indicate this information only through My AP. The deadline to indicate or change their free score report recipient through My AP is **June 20**.

○ CollegeBoard

5

Q&A