

AP CLASSES | EXPLAINED

WHAT ARE AP CLASSES?

Advanced Placement courses were created by College Board (the same people who created the SAT) that allow high school students to take college-level courses in high school. These courses have an introductory-level college curriculum and are typically more difficult than your average high school course.

SHOULD I TAKE AP CLASSES?

Most schools only offer AP Classes to students with a minimum GPA level (often 2.5 or 3.0), so if your school gives you the option to take AP classes, it means they feel you will be successful in them.

Therefore, you should seriously consider taking them! Your school believes you will be successful, so take advantage of the many benefits of taking an AP Class and the corresponding AP Exam.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING AP CLASSES?

These courses allow you to dive more deeply into subjects that interest you by allowing you to take an introductory college-level course at the high school level. They also help you prepare for college, as they more closely follow the difficulty level and curriculum of a college course.

Furthermore, if your school has weighted GPAs (meaning that more difficult courses give you the opportunity to earn above a 4.0) doing well in an AP class can cause your GPA to rise! It can also positively impact your class rank!

Plus, since colleges are always looking to see if you challenged yourself academically during high school, taking - and doing well - in AP classes can be one more way to impress college admission officers.

AP EXAMS | EXPLAINED

WHAT ARE AP EXAMS?

Advanced Placement exams take place every year in May and June, and test the year's worth of content taught in an AP class. There are 38 Exams totals with subjects in math, science, the humanities, and foreign languages.

Information on how to register for AP Exams can be found [here](#).

In 2022, the exams are offered in both the traditional paper-and-pencil format or digital format. Both exams will have the same content and format. Digital formats are offered only in participating schools and have strict requirements. More information can be found [here](#).

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF AP EXAMS?

Every exam has different requirements. However, typically exams are 2-3 hours long, and consist of both a multiple-choice section and free-response questions where students generate their own responses. Depending on the exam, students' responses could be in the form of an essay, a solution to a problem, or a spoken response.

On the multiple choice section, students do not lose points for incorrect or unanswered questions; they are simply scored by how many questions they got correct.

The multiple-choice section is scored by computer. The free-response section is graded by appointed college professors and experienced AP teachers during the first two weeks in June.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING AP EXAMS?

Taking and doing well on AP Exams gives you the chance to earn college credit. Many colleges offer credit for AP scores that earn a score of 3 or higher. This can save you a significant amount of money as tuition for an actual college course is thousands of dollars, and the AP exam costs \$96.

[Here](#) is where you can search AP courses for the list of colleges that offer college credit and the minimum score you must earn to receive it.

Earning college credit through AP courses also saves you time, as you can enter college already with credits needed to graduate!

Additionally, many colleges will recognize your AP scores as proof that you can learn the material for an introductory college class. So they will allow you to skip certain introductory courses and get placed in more advanced courses.

Furthermore, scoring high on AP exams (4-5) is another way to impress college admission officers with your aptitude, talent, and skill in specific subjects. They boost your academic resume, show that you are willing to challenge yourself, and illustrate that you are prepared for college courses.

AP EXAMS | SCORING

HOW ARE AP EXAMS SCORED?

AP Exams are scored on a scale of 1-5. Here is the table College Board uses to show the equivalency between a given score and the college course grade.

5	AP Exam Score 5 : <i>Extremely Well Qualified</i> College Course Grade Equivalent = <i>A+ or A</i>
4	AP Exam Score 4 : <i>Very Well Qualified</i> College Course Grade Equivalent = <i>A-, B+, or B</i>
3	AP Exam Score 3 : <i>Recommendation: Qualified</i> College Course Grade Equivalent = <i>B-, C+, or C</i>
2	AP Exam Score 2 : <i>Possibly Qualified</i> <i>No College Course Grade Equivalent</i>
1	AP Exam Score 1 : <i>No Recommendation</i> <i>No College Course Grade Equivalent</i>

HOW MANY AP EXAMS SHOULD I TAKE?

The answer is different for each student, but when deciding you need to consider your timeline, first. There is no point in taking 10 exams if you don't expect to do well in all of them. How much time do you have to prepare? How can you spread your AP exams out over your high school career?

You want to make sure you have enough time to adequately prepare for each exam, and don't overwhelm yourself.

WHAT ARE AP SCHOLAR AWARDS?

AP Scholar Awards are awarded every fall by College Board to high school students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance on multiple AP Exams. These awards are another competitive way to really boost your academic resume and impress college admission officers.

In 2021, 5 MEK students received AP Scholar awards, and 6 MEK students received this honor in 2019.

You can find the criteria for these awards [here](#).

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR AP EXAMS?

AP Exams are different from your AP classes, in that they are taking a year's worth of information and testing you on it in a 2-3 hour period. They are very content-heavy, so you need plenty of time to absorb and master the information.

However, AP exams also require specific test-taking skills such as time management, strategies for eliminating multiple-choice answers, and techniques for getting the highest amount of credit on free response questions.

The best way to prepare is to have a specific test prep timeline, in which you will specifically prepare for the test (not just the class).

At MEK Review, we offer AP Test Prep courses in 13 of the most popular AP Exams in both group and one-on-one settings:

Group Classes:

AP Biology | AP Calculus AB | AP Calculus BC | AP Chemistry

AP Physics 1 | AP United States History | AP English Literature & Composition

Private Tutoring:

AP Computer Science A | AP English Literature & Composition | AP French Language & Culture | AP Physics 2/C

AP Spanish Language and Culture | AP Statistics

WHAT IS MEK REVIEW'S AP TEST PREP SUCCESS RATE?

Here's some data from last year's AP exams:

COURSES	SCORE OF 5	SCORE OF 4
AP Calculus	~40% of Students	~15% of Students
AP Chemistry	~20% of Students	~20% of Students
AP English Language & Composition	~70% of Students	~30% of Students
AP English Literature & Composition	--	100% of Students
AP U.S. History	~60% of Students	~40% of Students

HOW DOES MEK REVIEW'S AP TEST PREP PREPARE YOU TO EARN A 4-5 ON THE AP EXAM?

MEK Review's AP Test Prep program is 15 sessions starting in January through May. Students meet once a week for two hours with our expert AP test prep teachers.

Our program breaks down a year's worth of AP content into an organized and digestible format so students can master the content-heavy test material.

Throughout the 15 weeks, students consistently take full-length practice tests in a professionally proctored setting to build up their mental endurance, track their overall progress, and get professional feedback on their free response answers.

Our program also utilizes drills, exercises, and homework for additional content-building and skill-building. Our expert teachers demonstrate to students important test-taking strategies that help them master time management, mental endurance, and free response answers.

Furthermore, students are able to track and own their progress every step of the way through our Canvas Learning Platform. This learning platform also allows parents full transparency in viewing their child's performance in the test prep class.

WHY DO I NEED MEK REVIEW'S AP TEST PREP COURSE?

While the test is a standardized exam that is the same for everyone, AP classes vary wildly from teacher to teacher. Furthermore, classroom teachers often are focused solely on teaching the content of an AP course and not specifically how to master the AP Exam.

Also, many AP classes give very little attention to teaching strategies and practicing the free response questions on the test, even though they are usually 50% of the test!

Students often aren't sure how to take the year's worth of material they are learning in class and organizing it effectively to prepare for the exam.

For all these reasons, MEK Review's AP Test Prep course is a perfect solution for students looking to earn a high score on the AP exam. It helps students manage their time and their studying, and master the content and test-taking skills needed to ace the final exam.

REGISTER FOR AN AP TEST PREP COURSE

Contact us [here](#) or call 855-346-1410 to register today for AP Test Prep.

Register by January 8th to receive a 15% discount!

