

UPDATED 2/9/2021

# AP<sup>®</sup> Exam Format Information

The 2021 AP Exams will be administered three times, and some subjects will have exams administered in a digital format in addition to the traditional format. Some exams have different formats for paper and digital, and the differences vary by subject. The following table details the exam administration modes and differences, if any, in exam format, for each course.

Please note that all 2021 AP Exams, paper and digital, will be full length and will cover the full scope of course content described in the course and exam description (CED).\*

Exams will be administered on three test dates, in early May, late May, and early June. For a given subject, each test administration will be either all paper/traditional or all digital.

Educators and students will be able to practice answering multiple-choice and free-response questions within the 2021 digital exam app, available in early April.

EXAMS	2021 EXAM INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French Language</li> <li>German Language</li> <li>Italian Language</li> <li>Spanish Language</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exams must be administered in schools or school-proctored locations. Students' access to online translation applications and other tools means that a full-length exam can't be securely and fairly administered at home. All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional format (including reading, listening, writing, and speaking tasks).</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional format (including reading, listening, writing, and speaking tasks).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Literature</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exams must be administered in schools or school-proctored locations. Students' access to online translation applications and other tools means that a full-length exam can't be securely and fairly administered at home. All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional format (including listening, reading, and writing tasks).</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latin</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exams must be administered in schools or school-proctored locations. Students' access to online translation applications and other tools means that a full-length exam can't be securely and fairly administered at home. All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional pencil and paper format.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> </ul>

EXAMS	2021 EXAM INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Music Theory</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All exams must be administered in schools or school-proctored locations. Students' access to musical instruments, software, and other tools means that a full-length exam can't be securely and fairly administered at home. All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional format (including written, listening, and sight-singing sections).</li> <li>▪ For administration of sight-singing questions, teachers and coordinators should refer to new covid-19 safety guidelines in the <i>AP Coordinator's Manual</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chinese Language</li> <li>▪ Japanese Language</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All exams must be administered in schools or school-proctored locations. Students' access to online translation applications and other tools means that a full-length exam can't be securely and fairly administered at home.</li> <li>▪ All exams will be in their traditional computer-based format. As previously announced to AP coordinators, these exams will be administered on a new online platform that can be accessed on PCs, Macs, or Chromebooks with an internet connection. CDs will no longer be used for these exams. More information will be shared with AP coordinators and teachers in the coming weeks.</li> <li>▪ Note that because of the unique nature of digital testing of these two world languages, the new online platform for these two subjects is <b>not</b> the same as the digital testing platform students will use for digital testing in other AP subjects.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comparative Government and Politics</li> <li>▪ Computer Science A</li> <li>▪ English Language</li> <li>▪ English Literature</li> <li>▪ Human Geography</li> <li>▪ Psychology</li> <li>▪ U.S. Government and Politics</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Art History</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> <li>▪ On the digital exam, due to requirements for exam security, works of art won't be identified. Also, students won't be asked to provide identifying information for works of art that are provided as stimuli in free-response questions.</li> </ul>

EXAMS	2021 EXAM INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Environmental Science</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> <li>▪ Per the <a href="#">AP Exam Calculator Policy</a>, a four function (with square root), scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.</li> <li>▪ On the digital exam, students will answer free-response questions with a keyboard, rather than by hand. Questions requiring calculations will be written such that students can show their work via typing. No handwritten or photographed work will be required or accepted.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Computer Science Principles</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ End-of-course exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions of the end-of-course exam will consist of the typical multiple-choice section.</li> <li>▪ The digital submission deadline for the Create performance task has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Seminar</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ End-of-course exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions of the end-of-course exam will consist of the typical free-response questions.</li> <li>▪ The digital submission deadline for performance tasks has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Macroeconomics</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Microeconomics</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> <li>▪ Per the <a href="#">AP Exam Calculator Policy</a>, calculators aren't permitted on the paper exam. On the digital exam, questions will be written such that calculator use won't provide an advantage to the student.</li> <li>▪ On the digital exam, students will answer free-response questions with a keyboard, rather than by hand. Students taking digital exams won't be asked to draw graphs as part of their response—rather, these skills will be assessed with questions about given diagrams. No handwritten or photographed work will be required or accepted.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Biology</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EXAM MODES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAM SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.</li> <li>▪ Per the <a href="#">AP Exam Calculator Policy</a>, a 4-function (with square root), scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.</li> </ul>

## EXAMS

## 2021 EXAM INFORMATION

### ▪ *Biology (Continued)*

- On the digital exam, students will answer free-response questions with a keyboard, rather than by hand. Students taking digital exams will not be asked to draw or graph as part of their response—rather, these skills will be assessed with questions about given graphs or other stimuli. 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. [Updated 2/8/2021]

### ▪ **European History**

#### **EXAM MODES**

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

#### **EXAM SECTIONS**

- The paper and digital versions will differ as follows:
  - **Section 1A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
  - **Section 1B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical short answer question (SAQ) section. Students will answer 3 SAQs; 2 are required, and the student chooses the third from 2 options.
    - ♦ Students taking the digital exam will be given 3 SAQs and will need to answer all 3; test security considerations preclude providing a choice.
      - Question 1 is required, includes 1 primary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1600 and 2001.
      - Question 2 is required, includes a map source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1450 and 2001.
      - Question 3 is required, includes 1 primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1450 and 2001.
  - **Section 2A:** Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ) section.
  - **Section 2B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ) section. Students will choose 1 LEQ to answer from 3 options.
    - ♦ The digital exam doesn't contain a long essay question (LEQ), a question type that is precluded from at-home testing due to security considerations. Instead, it will contain a second SAQ section, containing 2 SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have 40 minutes—the same time as Section 2B on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
      - Question 5 is required, includes 1 source with a data set (such as a chart, table, or graph), and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1450 and 2001.
      - Question 6 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1600 and 2001.

In summary, the paper free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 1 LEQ with some optionality; the digital free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 2 SAQs with no optionality.

## ▪ U.S. History

**EXAM MODES**

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

**EXAM SECTIONS**

- The paper and digital versions will differ as follows:
  - **Section 1A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
  - **Section 1B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical short answer question (SAQ) section. Students will answer 3 SAQs; 2 are required, and the student chooses the third from 2 options.
    - ♦ Students taking the digital exam will be given 3 SAQs and will need to answer all 3; test security considerations preclude providing a choice.
      - Question 1 is required, includes 1 primary source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 1980.
      - Question 2 is required, includes 1 map source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1754 and 1980.
      - Question 3 is required, includes 1 primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 2001.
      - At most 1 SAQ in Section 1B will focus primarily on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 1754 or between the years 1980 and 2001.
  - **Section 2A:** Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ) section.
  - **Section 2B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ) section. Students will choose 1 LEQ to answer from 3 options.
    - ♦ The digital exam doesn't contain a long essay question (LEQ), a question type that is precluded from at-home testing due to security considerations. Instead, it will contain a second SAQ section, containing 2 SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have 40 minutes—the same time as Section 2B on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
      - Question 5 is required, includes a source with a data set (such as a chart, table, or graph), and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1754 and 1980.
      - Question 6 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1754 and 1980.

In summary, the paper free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 1 LEQ with some optionality; the digital free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 2 SAQs with no optionality.

**World History: Modern****EXAM MODES**

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

**EXAM SECTIONS**

- The paper and digital versions will differ as follows:
  - **Section 1A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
  - **Section 1B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical short answer question (SAQ) section. Students will answer 3 SAQs; 2 are required, and the student chooses the third from 2 options.
    - ♦ Students taking the digital exam will be given 3 SAQs and will need to answer all 3; test security considerations preclude providing a choice.
      - Question 1 is required, includes 1 primary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
      - Question 2 is required, includes 1 map source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
      - Question 3 is required, includes 1 primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
  - **Section 2A:** Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ) section.
  - **Section 2B:**
    - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ) section. Students will choose 1 LEQ to answer from 3 options.
    - ♦ The digital exam doesn't contain a long essay question (LEQ), a question type that is precluded from at-home testing due to security considerations. Instead, it will contain a second SAQ section, containing 2 SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have 40 minutes—the same time as Section 2B on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
      - Question 5 is required, includes a source with a data set (such as a chart, table, or graph), and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
      - Question 6 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.

In summary, the paper free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 1 LEQ with some optionality; the digital free-response section will include 3 SAQs, 1 DBQ, and 2 SAQs with no optionality.

## EXAMS

## 2021 EXAM INFORMATION

- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC

### EXAM MODES

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June.

### EXAM SECTIONS

- The paper exam will follow the typical multiple-choice and free-response format.

The multiple-choice and free-response sections of the digital exam will take the same amount of time as those on the paper exam: 1 hour 45 minutes for multiple-choice questions, and 1 hour 30 minutes for free-response questions. However, the free-response questions will be adapted to include responses and explanations that can be easily typed with a computer keyboard, and they won't require students to type complex mathematical expressions or to draw or create graphs. 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.

On the paper exam, calculators aren't allowed in Section 1 Part A and Section 2 Part B, per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#). On the digital exam, questions in those sections will be written such that students won't need a calculator nor benefit from using one.

Educators and students will be able to practice answering multiple-choice questions, as well as these adapted free-response questions within the 2021 digital exam app, available in early April. The best practice for the digital version of the 2021 exam questions remains the existing multiple-choice and free-response questions. Students who can respond to all parts of existing free-response questions will be able to provide the short explanations required within the digital versions of the AP Calculus exams.

- Chemistry

### EXAM MODES

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June.

### EXAM SECTIONS

- The paper exam will follow the typical multiple-choice and free-response format.
- The digital exam will take the same amount of time as the paper exam but will include
  - ♦ More multiple-choice questions than the paper exam. Students will have a second multiple-choice section, with 60 minutes to answer 40 questions.
  - ♦ Fewer free-response questions than the paper exam. Students will have 45 minutes to answer 3 questions:
    1. 2 short questions
    2. 1 long question

On the paper exam, calculators aren't allowed on Section 1, and are allowed on Section 2, per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#). On the digital exam, Section 1 won't include questions where students could benefit from using a calculator.

On the digital exam, free-response questions will consist of familiar tasks that could appear on a traditional exam, but students won't be asked to draw or graph. 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.

Educators and students will be able to practice answering multiple-choice and free-response questions within the 2021 digital exam app, available in early April. The best practice for the digital version of the 2021 exam remains the existing multiple-choice and free-response questions.

## EXAMS

## 2021 EXAM INFORMATION

- **Physics 1\***
- **Physics 2**

### EXAM MODES

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June.

### EXAM SECTIONS

- The paper exam will follow the typical multiple-choice and free-response format.
- The digital exam will take the same amount of time as the paper exam but will include
  - ♦ More multiple-choice questions than the paper exam. Students will have a second multiple-choice section, with 45 minutes to answer 25 questions.
  - ♦ Fewer free-response questions than the paper exam. Students will have 45 minutes to answer 2 questions:
    1. Qualitative/Quantitative Transition (QQT)
    2. Short Answer: Paragraph Argument

Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), a 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.

On the digital exam, free-response questions will consist of familiar tasks that could appear on a traditional exam, but students won't be asked to draw or graph. 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.

Educators and students will be able to practice answering multiple-choice and free-response questions within the 2021 digital exam app, available in early April. The best practice for the digital version of the 2021 exam remains the existing multiple-choice and free-response questions.

- **Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism**
- **Physics C: Mechanics**

### EXAM MODES

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June.

### EXAM SECTIONS

- The paper exam will follow the typical multiple-choice and free-response format.
- The digital exam will take the same amount of time as the paper exam (90 minutes) but will consist of:
  - ♦ Double the number of multiple-choice questions as the paper exam. There will be 2 multiple-choice sections, each lasting 45 minutes and including 35 questions.
  - ♦ No free-response questions.
- Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), a 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.

## EXAMS

## 2021 EXAM INFORMATION

### ▪ Statistics

#### EXAM MODES

- Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June.

#### EXAM SECTIONS

- The paper exam will follow the typical multiple-choice and free-response format.
- The digital exam will take the same amount of time as the paper exam but will include:
  - ♦ More multiple-choice questions than the paper exam. Students will have a second multiple-choice section, with 25 minutes to answer 11 questions.
  - ♦ Fewer free-response questions than the paper exam. Students will have 65 minutes to answer 4 questions:
    1. Multipart question with a primary focus on collecting data
    2. Multipart question with a primary focus on exploring data
    3. Question that combines 2 or more skill categories
    4. Investigative task
- Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), a graphing calculator with statistical capabilities (or scientific nongraphing calculator with the required statistics computational capabilities) is expected on all versions of the exam. Exam questions will be written such that students will not benefit on the exam from additional calculator functions or other aids beyond the calculator.
- On the digital exam, free-response questions will consist of familiar tasks that could appear on a traditional exam, but students won't be asked to draw or graph. 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.
- Educators and students will be able to practice answering multiple-choice and free-response questions within the 2021 digital exam app, available in early April. The best practice for the digital version of the 2021 exam remains the existing multiple-choice and free-response questions.

- 2-D Art and Design
- 3-D Art and Design
- Drawing
- Research

The digital submission deadline for performance tasks and portfolios has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.

**\*NOTE:** The sole exception to exams covering the full scope of course content described in the CEDs is AP Physics 1. Colleges agree that Units 8–10 can be removed from AP Physics 1 because they're covered in AP Physics 2; accordingly, Units 8–10 will no longer be tested in AP Physics 1, effective this year.