

UPDATED 4/8/2021

AP[®] 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"> ▪ French Language ▪ German Language ▪ Italian Language ▪ Spanish Language 	<p>EXAM MODES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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). <p>EXAM SECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All exams will be administered and submitted in their traditional format (including reading, listening, writing, and speaking tasks).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spanish Literature 	<p>EXAM MODES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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). <p>EXAM SECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Latin 	<p>EXAM MODES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>EXAM SECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.

EXAMS

▪ Music Theory

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

EXAM MODES

- 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).
- For administration of sight-singing questions, teachers and coordinators should refer to new covid-19 safety guidelines in the *AP Coordinator's Manual*.

EXAM SECTIONS

- These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.

▪ Chinese Language

▪ Japanese Language

EXAM MODES

- 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 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.
- Note that because of the unique nature of digital testing of these two world languages, the new online platform for these two subjects is **not** the same as the digital testing platform students will use for digital testing in other AP subjects.

EXAM SECTIONS

- These exams will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.

▪ Comparative Government and Politics

▪ Computer Science A

▪ English Literature

▪ Human Geography

▪ Psychology

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.

▪ English Language

[Updated 4/8/2021]

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
- On the digital exam multiple choice section, the sets of MCQs will appear in the following order: Writing, Reading, Reading, Writing, Writing. This is different from the order on the paper and pencil exam.
- On the digital exam, FRQs will be presented in the following order. This is different from the order on the paper and pencil exam.
 - ♦ FRQ 1: Argument
 - ♦ FRQ 2: Synthesis
 - ♦ FRQ 3: Rhetorical Analysis

EXAMS

- **U.S. Government and Politics**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
- On the SCOTUS Comparison question (FRQ 3) on the digital exam, the first task will be worded slightly differently than on the paper and pencil exam. On the digital exam, the student will be asked to choose 1 required SCOTUS case from a provided list, and **describe** how the required case they choose is related to the case given in the scenario.

- **Art History**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
- On the digital exam, due to exam security requirements, identifying information (such as the name of the work and the artist) may not be provided for works of art given in the question. Also, students will not be asked to provide identifying information for works of art in free-response questions.
- On the digital exam, the Visual/Contextual Analysis long essay and Comparison long essay will be switched in order from the paper and pencil exam. On the digital exam, Visual/Contextual Analysis will be FRQ 1, and Comparison will be FRQ 2.

- **Environmental Science**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
- Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), a four function (with square root), scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.
- On the digital exam, common-option sets will appear at the end of the multiple-choice section. (On the paper and pencil exam, they appear at the beginning.)
- 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.

- **Computer Science Principles**

EXAM MODES

- End-of-course exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions of the end-of-course exam will consist of the typical multiple-choice section.
- The digital submission deadline for the Create performance task has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.

EXAMS

- **Seminar**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

EXAM MODES

- End-of-course exams will be offered on paper in early May, and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions of the end-of-course exam will consist of the typical free-response questions.
 - The directions for Part A of the exam are the same on the pencil and paper and digital exams. However, the provided source on the digital exam may include footnotes, which students should consider as part of their analysis
 - The rubric for Part B of the digital exam has been adjusted slightly with points distributed differently across rows. The directions for Part B are the same as on the paper and pencil exam, but students must follow the instruction to incorporate at least two of the provided sources to access higher scores on the rubric. The Part B rubric for the digital exam can be [found here](#).
 - The digital submission deadline for performance tasks has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.
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- **Macroeconomics**
- **Microeconomics**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
 - Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), calculators aren't permitted on the paper exam. **On the digital exam, calculators will be permitted.**
 - 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.
 - Free response questions will be presented in a different order on the digital exam from the paper and pencil exam. On the digital exam, FRQ 1 and 2 will be short questions, and FRQ 3 will be a long question.
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- **Biology**

EXAM MODES

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

EXAM SECTIONS

- Both the paper and digital versions will contain the typical multiple-choice and free-response sections.
 - Per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#), a 4-function (with square root), scientific, or graphing calculator is allowed on all versions of the exam.
 - 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.
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EXAMS

- **European History**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

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 I, Part A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
 - **Section I, Part B:**
 - ♦ 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 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 a primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1450 and 2001.
 - **Section II:**
 - ♦ Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ), with the same recommended time of 1 hour, including a 15-minute reading period
 - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ) . 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 two additional SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have a recommended time of 40 minutes—the same time as the LEQ on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
 - Question 2 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 1450 and 2001.
 - Question 3 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1600 and 2001.
 - ♦ Please note that students will respond to the DBQ and the last two SAQs in the same combined time limit of 1 hour and 40 minutes - just as on the paper and pencil exam, they will respond to the DBQ and the LEQ in the same combined time limit.

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

- **U.S. History**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

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 I, Part A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
 - **Section I, Part B:**
 - ♦ 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 primary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 1980.
 - Question 2 is required, includes a map source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1754 and 1980.
 - Question 3 is required, includes a primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 2001.
 - At most 1 SAQ in Section I, Part B will focus primarily on historical developments or processes between the years 1491 and 1754 or between the years 1980 and 2001.
 - **Section II:**
 - ♦ Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ), with the same recommended time of 1 hour, including a 15-minute reading period
 - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ). 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 two additional SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have a recommended time of 40 minutes—the same time as the LEQ on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
 - Question 2 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 3 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1754 and 1980.
 - ♦ Please note that students will respond to the DBQ and the last two SAQs in the same combined time limit of 1 hour and 40 minutes - just as on the paper and pencil exam, they will respond to the DBQ and the LEQ in the same combined time limit.

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

- **World History: Modern**
[Updated 4/8/2021]

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

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 I, Part A:** Both exams will contain the typical multiple-choice section.
 - **Section I, Part B:**
 - ♦ 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 a primary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
 - Question 2 is required, includes a map source, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
 - Question 3 is required, includes a primary source image, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
 - **Section II:**
 - ♦ Both exams will contain the typical document-based question (DBQ), with the same recommended time of 1 hour, including a 15-minute reading period
 - ♦ The paper exam will contain the typical long essay question (LEQ) . 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 two additional SAQs; students will need to answer both. Students will have a recommended time of 40 minutes—the same time as the LEQ on the paper exam—to answer these 2 SAQs.
 - Question 2 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 3 is required, includes secondary source text, and focuses on historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and 2001.
 - ♦ Please note that students will respond to the DBQ and the last two SAQs in the same combined time limit of 1 hour and 40 minutes - just as on the paper and pencil exam, they will respond to the DBQ and the LEQ in the same combined time limit.

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

- **Calculus AB**
- **Calculus BC**

[Updated 4/8/2021]

- **Chemistry**

2021 EXAM INFORMATION

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.

Free-response questions on the digital exam will be adapted to be answered entirely on a regular computer keyboard in the digital testing application, which will include a selection of special characters that students may use. They will consist of familiar tasks that could appear on a traditional AP exam, but may also include some tasks that resemble multiple-choice questions, and/or provide labels for expressions or equations students can refer to in their answers. Students will not need to draw diagrams, charts or complicated mathematical expressions. Students will see examples of these adapted FRQs when they answer example questions in the digital testing application.

On the paper exam, calculators aren't allowed in Section I Part A and Section II Part B, per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#). **On the digital exam, calculators will be permitted on all sections.**

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 I and are allowed on Section II, per the [AP Exam Calculator Policy](#). **On the digital exam, calculators will be allowed on all sections.**

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 Translation (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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistics 	<p>EXAM MODES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exams will be offered on paper in early May and late May and as a digital exam in early June. <p>EXAM SECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2-D Art and Design ▪ 3-D Art and Design ▪ Drawing ▪ Research 	<p>The digital submission deadline for performance tasks and portfolios has been extended to Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.</p>

***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.