

# STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS

## Introduction

The May 2006 College Board AP Examinations were taken by 1,339,282 students from 16,000 secondary schools. College and high school teachers, called readers, who are familiar with college-level course demands, scored the free-response sections from the 2,312,611 examinations taken. Computers at ETS® scored the multiple-choice sections.

The Chief Readers, relying on their subject-matter expertise, statistical equating data, data from comparability studies, and historical trends, determine the grade-setting thresholds for the 5-point AP grade scale: 5 = extremely well qualified, 4 = well qualified, 3 = qualified, 2 = possibly qualified, 1 = no recommendation. Listed below are the Chief Readers who directed the scoring of the free-response sections of the May 2006 exams.

## Summary Table of Students' Grades

The grades earned on the May 2006 AP Examinations are summarized in the form of grade distributions shown in the table on the next two pages. For each exam, the table provides the number and percentages of students receiving each grade, the total number of students, and the mean and standard deviation of grades. It should be noted that AP students are among the most academically able students of the college-bound group and that AP grading standards are held to higher standards in their secondary school AP course work than college students are in comparable courses at most colleges.

## Additional information

Entire examinations, multiple-choice answer keys, scoring standards for the free-response sections, and sample student responses are available in most subjects. These publications are available through the College Board store at [store.collegeboard.com](http://store.collegeboard.com).

## CHIEF READERS

Art History	Joy Sperling	Denison University
Biology	Dwayne Wise	Mississippi State University
Calculus	Caren Diefenderfer	Hollins University
Chemistry	Eleanor Siebert	Mount St. Mary's College
Computer Science	David Reed	Creighton University
Economics	Arthur Raymond	Muhlenberg College
English Lang. & Comp.	David Jolliffe	University of Arkansas
English Lit. & Comp.	James Barcus	Baylor University
Environmental Science	Susan Postawko	University of Oklahoma
European History	George Munro	Virginia Commonwealth University
French	James Day	University of South Carolina
German	Wiebke Strehl	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Government and Politics	Kerry Haynie	Duke University
Human Geography	Tim Strauss	University of Northern Iowa
Italian	Frank Nuessel	University of Louisville
Latin	John Sarkissian	Youngstown State University
Music	Kenneth Stephenson	University of Oklahoma
Physics	William Ingham	James Madison University
Psychology	Jane Halonen	University of West Florida
Spanish	Gwyn Campbell	Washington and Lee University
Statistics	Brad Hartlaub	Kenyon College
Studio Art	Raul Acero	Sage College of Albany
United States History	Raymond Hyser	James Madison University
World History	Kenneth Curtis	California State University

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## AP Examinations - May 2006

**Form 4CBP**

Examination Grade	Art History		Biology		Calculus AB		Calculus BC		Calculus AB Subscores		Chemistry	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	1,510	8.4	25,862	19.6	43,925	22.3	24,561	41.9	31,869	54.4	14,837	17.0
4	4,036	22.5	26,809	20.3	40,353	20.5	11,524	19.7	12,764	21.8	16,114	18.4
3	4,653	25.9	27,897	21.2	36,627	18.6	11,537	19.7	6,858	11.7	19,597	22.4
2	3,508	19.5	30,642	23.3	30,486	15.5	3,756	6.4	3,855	6.6	15,471	17.7
1	4,270	23.8	20,573	15.6	45,790	23.2	7,225	12.3	3,256	5.6	21,446	24.5
Number of Students	17,977		131,783		197,181		58,603		58,602		87,465	
3 or Higher / %	10,199	56.7	80,568	61.1	120,905	61.3	47,622	81.3	51,491	87.9	50,548	57.8
Mean Grade	2.72		3.05		3.03		3.72		4.13		2.86	
Standard Deviation	1.28		1.36		1.48		1.38		1.19		1.41	

  

Examination Grade	Computer Science A		Computer Science AB		Economics-Macro		Economics-Micro		English Lang./Comp		English Lit./Comp	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	3,213	21.9	1,666	33.7	6,662	12.7	5,418	16.4	13,850	5.4	19,890	7.1
4	3,255	22.2	972	19.7	12,333	23.4	9,202	27.8	40,728	15.9	58,490	20.8
3	2,111	14.4	851	17.2	9,173	17.4	6,299	19.0	76,107	29.6	96,309	34.3
2	1,136	7.7	457	9.3	11,063	21.0	5,256	15.9	94,093	36.7	83,702	29.8
1	4,947	33.7	993	20.1	13,368	25.4	6,917	20.9	31,944	12.4	22,720	8.1
Number of Students	14,662		4,939		52,599		33,092		256,722		281,111	
3 or Higher / %	8,579	58.5	3,489	70.6	28,168	53.6	20,919	63.2	130,685	50.9	174,689	62.1
Mean Grade	2.91		3.38		2.77		3.03		2.65		2.89	
Standard Deviation	1.59		1.52		1.38		1.39		1.06		1.05	

  

Examination Grade	Environmental Science		European History		French Language (Total Group)		French Language ** (Standard Group)		French Literature		German Language (Total Group)	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	4,171	9.3	10,885	12.0	2,436	11.3	1,030	6.2	327	16.3	1,282	24.9
4	9,807	21.9	18,448	20.3	3,534	16.4	2,317	13.9	436	21.7	1,023	19.9
3	8,591	19.2	33,557	36.9	5,950	27.6	4,794	28.8	536	26.7	1,222	23.8
2	7,807	17.5	15,800	17.4	4,610	21.4	4,011	24.1	316	15.7	941	18.3
1	14,322	32.0	12,350	13.6	5,042	23.4	4,471	26.9	394	19.6	671	13.1
Number of Students	44,698		91,040		21,572		16,623		2,009		5,139	
3 or Higher / %	22,569	50.5	62,890	69.1	11,920	55.3	8,141	49.0	1,299	64.7	3,527	68.6
Mean Grade	2.59		3.00		2.71		2.48		2.99		3.25	
Standard Deviation	1.37		1.18		1.30		1.20		1.35		1.36	

\* This table reflects 2,312,611 AP Examinations taken by 1,339,282 students from 16,000 secondary schools

\*\* Standard students generally receive most of their foreign language training in U.S. schools. They did not indicate on their answer sheet that they regularly speak or hear the foreign language of the examination, or that they have lived for one month or more in a country where the language is spoken.

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## AP Examinations - May 2006 (continued)

**Form 4CBP**

Examination Grade	German Language** (Standard Group)		Government & Politics Comparative		Government & Politics United States		Human Geography		Italian Language (Total Group)		Italian Language (Standard Group)**	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	281	8.6	1,659	13.0	11,561	8.0	3,550	16.9	263	16.5	71	7.1
4	658	20.2	2,361	18.5	25,415	17.7	4,132	19.7	212	13.3	112	11.2
3	954	29.4	2,772	21.8	41,982	29.2	4,579	21.8	350	21.9	225	22.5
2	793	24.4	3,125	24.5	44,096	30.6	3,362	16.0	331	20.7	243	24.3
1	564	17.4	2,825	22.2	20,926	14.5	5,380	25.6	441	27.6	351	35.0
Number of Students	3,250		12,742		143,980		21,003		1,597		1,002	
3 or Higher / %	1,893	58.2	6,792	53.3	78,958	54.8	12,261	58.4	825	51.7	408	40.7
Mean Grade	2.78		2.76		2.74		2.86		2.70		2.31	
Standard Deviation	1.20		1.33		1.15		1.43		1.42		1.25	
Examination Grade	Latin Literature		Latin Vergil		Music Theory		Music Theory Aural Subscore		Music Theory Nonaural Subscore		Physics B	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	740	22.2	867	17.9	2,267	19.2	2,222	18.8	2,285	19.3	6,551	12.8
4	660	19.8	848	17.5	2,209	18.7	2,286	19.4	2,159	18.3	9,359	18.4
3	803	24.1	1,336	27.6	3,374	28.6	3,335	28.2	3,436	29.1	14,894	29.2
2	469	14.1	804	16.6	2,803	23.7	2,780	23.5	2,785	23.6	7,304	14.3
1	661	19.8	989	20.4	1,156	9.8	1,186	10.0	1,144	9.7	12,879	25.3
Number of Students	3,333		4,844		11,809		11,809		11,809		50,987	
3 or Higher / %	2,203	66.1	3,051	63.0	7,850	66.5	7,843	66.4	7,880	66.7	30,804	60.4
Mean Grade	3.10		2.96		3.14		3.14		3.14		2.79	
Standard Deviation	1.42		1.37		1.25		1.25		1.25		1.34	
Examination Grade	Physics C E&M		Physics C Mechanics		Psychology		Spanish Language (Total Group)		Spanish Language (Standard Group)**		Spanish Literature	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	3,626	34.6	5,929	24.2	19,737	19.5	23,718	23.4	3,822	8.6	1,681	11.8
4	2,498	23.8	5,996	24.5	28,192	27.9	24,812	24.5	7,128	16.1	2,982	20.9
3	1,298	12.4	5,188	21.2	20,552	20.3	28,291	27.9	13,743	31.1	4,165	29.2
2	1,747	16.7	3,799	15.5	12,760	12.6	15,573	15.3	11,590	26.2	2,161	15.1
1	1,312	12.5	3,568	14.6	19,980	19.7	9,079	8.9	7,943	18.0	3,298	23.1
Number of Students	10,481		24,480		101,221		101,473		44,226		14,287	
3 or Higher / %	7,422	70.8	17,113	69.9	68,481	67.7	76,821	75.7	24,693	55.8	8,828	61.8
Mean Grade	3.51		3.28		3.15		3.38		2.71		2.83	
Standard Deviation	1.42		1.37		1.40		1.24		1.19		1.31	
Examination Grade	Statistics		Studio Art Drawing		Studio Art 2-D Design		Studio Art 3-D Design		United States History		World History	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	11,154	12.6	1,345	10.7	906	7.7	208	10.3	34,070	11.0	8,728	10.4
4	19,568	22.2	2,350	18.7	2,111	17.9	336	16.6	61,911	19.9	12,808	15.2
3	22,357	25.3	4,728	37.6	4,678	39.6	806	39.9	69,103	22.2	21,354	25.4
2	16,119	18.3	3,485	27.7	3,407	28.9	559	27.7	81,153	26.1	20,532	24.4
1	19,039	21.6	672	5.3	701	5.9	110	5.4	64,763	20.8	20,721	24.6
Number of Students	88,237		12,580		11,803		2,019		311,000		84,143	
3 or Higher / %	53,079	60.2	8,423	67.0	7,695	65.2	1,350	66.9	165,084	53.1	42,890	51.0
Mean Grade	2.86		3.02		2.92		2.99		2.74		2.62	
Standard Deviation	1.32		1.05		1.00		1.04		1.29		1.29	

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