

STUDENT SCORE DISTRIBUTIONS

Introduction

The May 2012 College Board AP Exams were taken by 2,099,948 students from 18,647 secondary schools. College and high school teachers, called Readers, who are familiar with college-level course demands, scored the free-response sections from the 3,698,407 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 score-setting thresholds for the 5-point AP score 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 2012 exams.

Summary Table of Students' Scores

The scores earned on the May 2012 AP Examinations are summarized in the form of score distributions shown in the table on the next two pages. For each exam, the table provides the number and percentages of students receiving each score, the total number of students, and the mean and standard deviation of scores.

Additional information

Released exam questions, scoring guidelines, and sample student responses for the free-response sections of AP Exams are available at AP Central® (apcentral.collegeboard.com). Entire released exams, with multiple-choice answer keys are available for purchase at store.collegeboard.com.

CHIEF READERS

Art History	Bob Nauman	University of Colorado - Boulder
Biology	Domenic Castignetti	Loyola University of Chicago
Calculus	Stephen Kokoska	Bloomsburg University
Chemistry	Larry Funck	Wheaton College
Chinese Language	Telee Richard Chi	University of Utah
Computer Science	Jody Paul	Metropolitan State College of Denver
Economics - Micro	David Anderson	Centre College
Economics - Macro	Arthur Raymond	Muhlenberg College
English Lang. & Comp.	Mary Trachsel	University of Iowa
English Lit. & Comp.	Susan Strehle	SUNY - Binghamton
Environmental Science	Arthur Samel	Bowling Green State University
European History	Jeffrey Hamilton	Baylor University
French	Irene d'Almeida	University of Arizona
German	Johanna Watzinger-Tharp	University of Utah
Government & Politics: Comparative	Glenn Hastedt	James Madison University
Government & Politics: United States	James Riddlesperger	Texas Christian University
Human Geography	David Lanegran	Macalester College
Italian Language	Frank Nuessel	University of Louisville
Japanese Language	Sufumi So	George Mason University
Latin	Robert Cape	Austin College
Music	Teresa Shelton Reed	University of Tulsa
Physics	Jiang Yu	Fitchburg State University
Psychology	Kenneth Keith	University of San Diego
Spanish Language	Gustavo Fares	Lawrence University
Spanish Literature	Hazel Gold	Emory University
Statistics	Allan Rossman	Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo
Studio Art	Herb Weaver	Georgia Gwinnett College
United States History	Ernie Freeberg	University of Tennessee
World History	Dean Ferguson	Texas A & M University

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AP Exams - May 2012

Exam Score	Art History		Biology		Calculus AB		Calculus BC		Calculus BC Calculus AB Subscore		Chemistry	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	2,806	12.4	37,813	19.7	67,394	25.2	47,553	50.4	55,898	59.2	21,665	16.4
4	5,075	22.4	32,451	16.9	45,523	17.1	15,231	16.1	15,916	16.9	25,587	19.3
3	5,703	25.2	27,468	14.3	46,526	17.4	14,957	15.8	9,218	9.8	26,633	20.1
2	4,235	18.7	27,924	14.6	27,216	10.2	5,076	5.4	5,514	5.8	19,865	15.0
1	4,831	21.3	66,117	34.5	80,335	30.1	11,586	12.3	7,857	8.3	38,675	29.2
Number of Students	22,650		191,773		266,994		94,403		94,403		132,425	
3 or Higher / %	13,584	60.0	97,732	51.0	159,443	59.7	77,741	82.4	81,032	85.8	73,885	55.8
Mean Score	2.86		2.73		2.97		3.87		4.13		2.79	
Standard Deviation	1.32		1.55		1.58		1.40		1.29		1.46	
Exam Score	Chinese Language (Total Group)		Chinese Language (Standard Group)**		Computer Science A		Economics - Macro		Economics - Micro		English Language	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	6,655	71.1	501	28.7	6,171	23.6	13,911	13.9	10,365	16.6	48,665	11.0
4	1,236	13.2	336	19.3	6,351	24.3	23,922	23.9	17,561	28.2	89,834	20.2
3	1,017	10.9	527	30.2	4,075	15.6	17,960	18.0	13,034	20.9	128,472	28.9
2	217	2.3	170	9.8	2,013	7.7	17,831	17.8	9,862	15.8	123,952	27.9
1	232	2.5	209	12.0	7,493	28.7	26,279	26.3	11,529	18.5	52,912	11.9
Number of Students	9,357		1,743		26,103		99,903		62,351		443,835	
3 or Higher / %	8,908	95.2	1,364	78.3	16,597	63.6	55,793	55.8	40,960	65.7	266,971	60.2
Mean Score	4.48		3.43		3.06		2.81		3.09		2.90	
Standard Deviation	0.95		1.32		1.55		1.41		1.36		1.18	
Exam Score	English Literature		Environmental Science		European History		French Language (Total Group)		French Language (Standard Group)**		German Language (Total Group)	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	31,591	8.3	9,712	8.9	11,464	10.5	3,665	18.5	1,945	12.9	1,247	26.2
4	68,396	18.0	27,100	24.9	20,905	19.2	5,315	26.9	3,917	26.0	1,215	25.6
3	115,613	30.4	18,060	16.6	39,233	36.0	6,439	32.6	5,358	35.6	1,306	27.5
2	122,859	32.3	26,416	24.3	11,708	10.8	3,351	17.0	2,949	19.6	662	13.9
1	42,149	11.1	27,551	25.3	25,544	23.5	999	5.1	872	5.8	324	6.8
Number of Students	380,608		108,839		108,854		19,769		15,041		4,754	
3 or Higher / %	215,600	56.6	54,872	50.4	71,602	65.8	15,419	78.0	11,220	74.6	3,768	79.3
Mean Score	2.80		2.68		2.83		3.37		3.21		3.50	
Standard Deviation	1.11		1.33		1.28		1.12		1.08		1.21	
Exam Score	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	388	12.3	3,560	19.3	30,024	12.5	12,383	12.5	408	22.6	143	11.0
4	859	27.3	4,395	23.9	35,747	14.9	19,256	19.5	428	23.7	304	23.4
3	1,056	33.5	3,415	18.6	59,284	24.8	20,084	20.4	507	28.1	444	34.2
2	571	18.1	3,813	20.7	58,762	24.5	17,576	17.8	353	19.5	306	23.5
1	278	8.8	3,219	17.5	55,696	23.3	29,380	29.8	110	6.1	103	7.9
Number of Students	3,152		18,402		239,513		98,679		1,806		1,300	
3 or Higher / %	2,303	73.1	11,370	61.8	125,055	52.2	51,723	52.4	1,343	74.4	891	68.5
Mean Score	3.16		3.07		2.69		2.67		3.37		3.06	
Standard Deviation	1.13		1.38		1.32		1.40		1.20		1.11	

* This table reflects 3,698,407 AP Exams taken by 2,099,948 students from 18,647 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 exam, or that they have lived for one month or more in a country where the language is spoken.

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AP Exams - May 2012 (continued)

Exam Score	Japanese Language (Total Group)		Japanese Language (Standard Group)**		Latin Vergil		Music Theory		Music Theory Aural Subscore		Music Theory Nonaural Subscore	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	997	45.8	233	19.5	1,368	21.3	3,498	19.3	3,436	18.9	3,386	18.6
4	215	9.9	134	11.2	1,093	17.0	3,166	17.4	3,300	18.2	3,222	17.7
3	460	21.1	371	31.1	1,579	24.6	4,526	24.9	4,508	24.8	4,472	24.6
2	184	8.5	161	13.5	1,188	18.5	4,553	25.1	4,344	23.9	4,557	25.1
1	321	14.7	293	24.6	1,196	18.6	2,418	13.3	2,573	14.2	2,524	13.9
Number of Students	2,177		1,192		6,424		18,161		18,161		18,161	
3 or Higher / %	1,672	76.8	738	61.9	4,040	62.9	11,190	61.6	11,244	61.9	11,080	61.0
Mean Score	3.64		2.88		3.04		3.04		3.04		3.02	
Standard Deviation	1.48		1.41		1.40		1.31		1.32		1.32	
Exam Score	Physics B		Physics C E&M		Physics C Mechanics		Psychology		Spanish Language (Total Group)		Spanish Language (Standard Group)**	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	13,106	16.3	6,102	35.1	12,501	32.4	45,724	20.7	32,329	24.9	6,162	13.7
4	15,574	19.3	4,179	24.0	10,191	26.4	57,222	26.0	34,003	26.2	9,222	20.5
3	21,269	26.4	2,411	13.9	7,195	18.6	42,845	19.4	27,804	21.4	10,429	23.1
2	13,507	16.8	2,870	16.5	4,860	12.6	29,782	13.5	19,342	14.9	9,307	20.6
1	17,128	21.3	1,818	10.5	3,883	10.1	44,788	20.3	16,196	12.5	9,966	22.1
Number of Students	80,584		17,380		38,630		220,361		129,674		45,086	
3 or Higher / %	49,949	62.0	12,692	73.0	29,887	77.4	145,791	66.2	94,136	72.6	25,813	57.3
Mean Score	2.93		3.57		3.58		3.13		3.36		2.83	
Standard Deviation	1.36		1.38		1.32		1.42		1.33		1.35	
Exam Score	Spanish Literature		Statistics		Studio Art Drawing		Studio Art 2-D Design		Studio Art 3-D Design		United States History	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	2,055	11.5	19,267	12.5	2,248	13.9	3,375	14.3	397	10.3	49,991	11.7
4	3,847	21.5	32,521	21.1	3,384	20.9	6,714	28.5	784	20.4	90,922	21.3
3	5,179	28.9	39,355	25.6	6,246	38.6	7,567	32.1	1,329	34.6	92,567	21.6
2	2,964	16.5	27,684	18.0	3,606	22.3	5,010	21.2	1,096	28.5	113,920	26.6
1	3,874	21.6	35,032	22.8	704	4.3	925	3.9	234	6.1	80,396	18.8
Number of Students	17,919		153,859		16,188		23,591		3,840		427,796	
3 or Higher / %	11,081	61.8	91,143	59.2	11,878	73.4	17,656	74.8	2,510	65.4	233,480	54.6
Mean Score	2.85		2.83		3.18		3.28		3.00		2.80	
Standard Deviation	1.30		1.33		1.06		1.07		1.07		1.29	
Exam Score	World History											
	N	% At										
5	14,557	6.9										
4	33,169	15.7										
3	64,275	30.5										
2	62,023	29.4										
1	36,781	17.4										
Number of Students	210,805											
3 or Higher / %	112,001	53.1										
Mean Score	2.65											
Standard Deviation	1.14											

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