



March 18, 2021

Advanced Placement Student and Families,

It is hard to believe AP testing season is upon us. The resilience and dedication of our students on their AP journey has been so inspiring! Their journey will culminate with course conclusion and the AP exam in May. Our students deserve commendation for taking on such a challenge in an unprecedented school year. Encourage your students to persevere through exam preparation and exam completion.

College Board started releasing details about 2021 AP Exams last month. They are providing high schools with additional exam flexibility and options during this 2020-2021 school year. AACPS discussed the options and gathered input from internal stakeholders. The testing schedule for our district is noted below, including options offered to students.

2021 AP Exam Updates and Key Decision-Making Factors

- AP Exams will be full-length exams covering the full scope of the course.
- Exams for 9 AP courses* are only available in paper pencil format; digital (online) exams are available for the remaining 25 AP courses. NOTE: Digital exams will be taken at home.
- School implementation of the district testing schedule, specifically for the designated paper/pencil only exams, may vary given building capacity. Your School Testing Coordinator will follow up details and logistics as we approach exam administration.
- AP Teachers will continue to offer subject specific practice and details regarding your chosen test format.
- AP students can also watch AP Daily learning videos, on-demand in the College Board’s *AP Classroom*, for every topic and skill for their AP course.
- Mark your calendars! AP Students can tune in to [AP Daily: Live Review](#) on YouTube, April 19-29 for review sessions.

2021 AP Exams		Paper Pencil (At School)		Digital (At Home)	
Date		7:30am Local	11:30am Local	11:30am EDT	3:30pm EDT
Thursday	6-May		Comp. Sci A		
Monday	17-May	Comp Sci Principles			
Tuesday	18-May			English Literature	
Wednesday	19-May			European Hist	Art History
				US History	Macroeconomics
Thursday	20-May			US Gov/Pol	Psychology
				World History	
Friday	21-May	Spanish Lang/Cult*	Chinese Lang/Cult*		
			French Lang/Cult*		
			German Lang/Cult*		
			Music Theory*		
			Spanish Lit/Cult*		
Monday	24-May	Calculus AB/BC	Physics 1		
			Physics C: Mechanics		
Tuesday	25-May	Chemistry	Physics 2		
			Physics C: Elec&Mag	Statistics	
Wednesday	26-May			English Language	Seminar
Thursday	27-May			Biology	Environmental Science
Friday	28-May			Comp Gov/Pol	Microeconomics
				Human Geography	

Special Note:

CDC guidelines and social distancing mandates do force some in-person exam seating limitations. Students with connectivity issues, specific accommodations and other extenuating circumstances who need or would like to take an exam in person using the paper/pencil test format (for an exam other than those in the designated 9 available only in paper/pencil format), will need to contact [Virginia Fernández Milosvich](#), AACPS AP Specialist to obtain the application.

Applications will be reviewed on an individual basis; however, approval is not guaranteed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will digital AP Exams be shorter than the paper pencil exams?

No. The Digital AP Exams will be the same length as traditional paper pencil AP Exams and include both multiple-choice and free-response questions (as always, AP Computer Science Principles remains a multiple-choice-only exam and AP Seminar remains a free-response-only exam).

Can digital AP Exams be taken on iPad?

No. At this time, digital AP Exams can only be taken on laptop and desktop computers (Mac, Windows, or school-managed Chromebook).

How are the digital exams different from the paper and pencil exams?

The exams were designed to be as similar as possible and assess the same course content. However, there are differences related to the testing format and exam security. For example, because it's not feasible to have students draw graphs and figures online this year, students will be asked to answer questions about provided graphs and figures. *Synchronous start times and restrictions on going back to previous questions are also key differences from paper and pencil exams* but important to help ensure that students don't gain an unfair advantage during testing.

Will accommodations be supported on the digital exams?


Yes. Digital exams will be accessible to students with disabilities who are approved for testing accommodations. Students approved for braille accommodations will be able to test using assistive technology, and braille testing options will be available for students who are unable to test using the digital exams.

AP Exam Format Availability by Course

Exam Format	AP Course Titles	
Paper/Pencil only	Chinese Language and Culture German Language and Culture Japanese Language and Culture** Music Theory Spanish Literature and Culture	French Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture** Latin** Spanish Language and Culture
**No AACPS enrollment in 2020-21		
Digital (online) & Paper/Pencil	Art History Calculus AB Chemistry Computer Science A English Language and Composition Environmental Science Human Geography Microeconomics Physics 2 Physics C: Mechanics Seminar United States Government and Politics World History	Biology Calculus BC Comparative Government & Politics Computer Science Principles English Literature and Composition European History Macroeconomics Physics 1 Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism Psychology Statistics United States History

If you still have questions, please contact Virginia Fernández Milosvich, AACPS AP Specialist at vfernandezmilos@AACPS.org or 410-224-6829.

Respectfully,


Mary Tillar
Assistant Superintendent for
Advanced Studies and Programs