

STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS

Introduction

The May 2005 College Board AP Examinations were taken by 1,221,016 students from 15,380 secondary schools. College and high school teachers, called readers, who are familiar with college-level course demands, scored the free-response sections from the 2,105,803 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 2005 exams.

Summary Table of Students' Grades

The grades earned on the May 2005 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.

CHIEF READERS

Art History	Susan Bakewell	University of Texas - Arlington
Biology	Dwayne Wise	Mississippi State University
Calculus	Caren Diefenderfer	Hollins University
Chemistry	John Gelder	Oklahoma State University
Computer Science	David Reed	Creighton University
Economics	Arthur Raymond	Muhlenberg College
English Lang. & Comp.	David Jolliffe	DePaul University
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
Latin	John Sarkissian	Youngstown State University
Music	Jo Anne Caputo	Cleveland Institute of Music
Physics	Patrick Polley	Beloit College
Psychology	Jane Halonen	University of West Florida
Spanish	Gwyn Campbell	Washington and Lee University
Statistics	Brad Hartlaub	Kenyon College
Studio Art	Penny McElroy	University of Redlands
United States History	Diane Vecchio	Furman University
World History	Kenneth Curtis	California State University

STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS*

AP Examinations - May 2005

Form 4BBP

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	2,323	13.8	22,055	18.2	38,539	20.7	23,877	43.9	27,131	49.9	11,796	15.0
4	4,237	25.2	24,448	20.1	36,347	19.5	9,237	17.0	13,174	24.2	14,340	18.3
3	5,105	30.4	27,820	22.9	33,006	17.7	10,929	20.1	6,404	11.8	17,775	22.7
2	2,951	17.6	28,357	23.3	31,141	16.7	3,695	6.8	4,547	8.4	15,493	19.7
1	2,169	12.9	18,766	15.5	46,959	25.2	6,677	12.3	3,154	5.8	19,049	24.3
Number of Students	16,785		121,446		185,992		54,415		54,410		78,453	
3 or Higher / %	11,665	69.5	74,323	61.2	107,892	58.0	44,043	80.9	46,709	85.8	43,911	56.0
Mean Grade	3.10		3.02		2.94		3.73		4.04		2.80	
Standard Deviation	1.22		1.33		1.48		1.39		1.21		1.38	
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	2,495	17.9	1,591	31.2	6,910	14.3	3,931	12.1	17,315	7.5	21,043	8.1
4	3,237	23.2	993	19.5	13,970	28.9	7,789	24.1	37,805	16.4	52,405	20.1
3	2,076	14.9	944	18.5	7,667	15.9	7,198	22.2	75,080	32.5	88,170	33.8
2	1,385	9.9	528	10.4	8,157	16.9	5,670	17.5	76,799	33.3	77,501	29.7
1	4,731	34.0	1,041	20.4	11,615	24.0	7,771	24.0	23,710	10.3	21,839	8.4
Number of Students	13,924		5,097		48,319		32,359		230,709		260,958	
3 or Higher / %	7,808	56.1	3,528	69.2	28,547	59.1	18,918	58.5	130,200	56.4	161,618	61.9
Mean Grade	2.81		3.31		2.93		2.83		2.78		2.90	
Standard Deviation	1.54		1.51		1.41		1.35		1.08		1.07	
Examination Grade	Environmental Science		European History		French Language (Total Group)		French Language ** (Standard Group)		French Literature			
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At		
5	3,551	9.3	10,073	11.8	2,864	14.2	1,308	8.6	474	25.8		
4	8,901	23.4	16,926	19.8	3,738	18.5	2,550	16.7	460	25.1		
3	7,204	18.9	31,396	36.8	5,585	27.6	4,446	29.1	401	21.9		
2	6,813	17.9	14,696	17.2	4,033	19.9	3,444	22.6	259	14.1		
1	11,635	30.5	12,336	14.4	4,019	19.9	3,518	23.0	241	13.1		
Number of Students	38,104		85,427		20,239		15,266		1,835			
3 or Higher / %	19,656	51.6	58,395	68.4	12,187	60.2	8,304	54.4	1,335	72.8		
Mean Grade	2.63		2.97		2.87		2.65		3.36			
Standard Deviation	1.37		1.19		1.31		1.24		1.35			

* This table reflects 2,105,803 AP Examinations taken by 1,221,016 students from 15,380 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 2005 (continued)

Form 4BBP

Examination Grade	German Language (Total Group)		German Language** (Standard Group)		Government & Politics Comparative		Government & Politics United States		Human Geography		Latin Literature	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	1,136	24.6	279	9.8	2,062	14.3	8,349	6.5	2,074	14.7	631	17.9
4	947	20.5	595	20.8	2,329	16.1	23,990	18.6	2,946	20.8	678	19.2
3	1,043	22.6	783	27.4	5,022	34.8	35,364	27.3	3,274	23.2	858	24.3
2	873	18.9	697	24.4	3,052	21.1	42,742	33.1	2,387	16.9	552	15.6
1	622	13.5	501	17.5	1,982	13.7	18,878	14.6	3,458	24.5	811	23.0
Number of Students	4,621		2,855		14,447		129,323		14,139		3,530	
3 or Higher / %	3,126	67.6	1,657	58.0	9,413	65.2	67,703	52.4	8,294	58.7	2,167	61.4
Mean Grade	3.24		2.81		2.96		2.69		2.84		2.93	
Standard Deviation	1.36		1.23		1.22		1.12		1.38		1.41	
Examination Grade	Latin Vergil		Music Theory		Music Theory Aural Subscore		Music Theory Nonaural Subscore		Physics B		Physics C E&M	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	815	18.7	1,800	18.2	1,815	18.4	1,788	18.1	6,559	14.0	3,395	30.4
4	752	17.2	1,836	18.6	1,751	17.7	1,749	17.7	8,592	18.3	2,625	23.5
3	1,249	28.6	2,633	26.6	2,633	26.6	2,733	27.6	12,992	27.7	1,490	13.3
2	713	16.3	2,584	26.1	2,628	26.6	2,554	25.8	7,148	15.2	1,991	17.8
1	833	19.1	1,034	10.5	1,059	10.7	1,062	10.7	11,680	24.9	1,676	15.0
Number of Students	4,362		9,887		9,886		9,886		46,971		11,177	
3 or Higher / %	2,816	64.6	6,269	63.4	6,199	62.7	6,270	63.4	28,143	59.9	7,510	67.2
Mean Grade	3.00		3.08		3.06		3.07		2.81		3.36	
Standard Deviation	1.36		1.26		1.27		1.26		1.36		1.45	
Examination Grade	Physics C Mechanics		Psychology		Spanish Language (Total Group)		Spanish Language (Standard Group)**		Spanish Literature		Statistics	
	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At	N	% At
5	5,595	23.8	16,761	19.2	20,002	20.4	3,367	8.3	1,616	11.8	9,649	12.6
4	5,565	23.7	23,926	27.4	22,688	23.1	6,268	15.4	2,816	20.5	17,534	22.8
3	4,988	21.2	17,916	20.5	28,712	29.2	12,220	30.0	4,226	30.8	19,389	25.3
2	4,029	17.1	11,715	13.4	16,725	17.0	10,703	26.3	1,848	13.5	14,755	19.2
1	3,328	14.2	16,889	19.4	10,118	10.3	8,135	20.0	3,206	23.4	15,459	20.1
Number of Students	23,505		87,207		98,245		40,693		13,712		76,786	
3 or Higher / %	16,148	68.7	58,603	67.2	71,402	72.7	21,855	53.7	8,658	63.1	46,572	60.7
Mean Grade	3.26		3.14		3.26		2.66		2.84		2.88	
Standard Deviation	1.36		1.39		1.25		1.20		1.31		1.31	
Examination Grade	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		
5	1,443	11.8	937	9.3	181	9.7	26,220	9.2	6,577	10.2		
4	2,063	16.8	1,886	18.7	274	14.7	56,507	19.8	10,957	17.1		
3	4,788	39.0	3,888	38.5	698	37.3	61,145	21.4	16,212	25.2		
2	3,262	26.6	2,727	27.0	563	30.1	77,996	27.3	15,021	23.4		
1	718	5.8	673	6.7	153	8.2	63,500	22.3	15,440	24.0		
Number of Students	12,274		10,111		1,869		285,368		64,207			
3 or Higher / %	8,294	67.6	6,711	66.4	1,153	61.7	143,872	50.4	33,746	52.6		
Mean Grade	3.02		2.97		2.88		2.66		2.66			
Standard Deviation	1.07		1.05		1.07		1.27		1.29			

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