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# The Advanced Placement Adventure

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Broadneck High School

January 27, 2026

# AP Course Overview: The Courses

The AP classroom is fundamentally different from the Honors classroom because of the **National Exam**, a comprehensive assessment given in May, assessing the student's knowledge and abilities for the entire school year. These national exam scores do not affect a student's final course grade, but if students elect to send their score to colleges, this 'levels the playing field' for colleges since the scoring is done on a national level, outside of specific states and school systems.

The expectation is that if an AP student signs up for course, they also take the National Exam. For this reason, the format and content of the class is modeled after the format and content of the National Exam.

## AP English & Social Studies Courses

### ● Test Format

Multiple-choice questions, short and long essays

### ● Class Format

At-home textbook reading, in-class individual reading and writing exercises

## AP Math & Science Courses

### ● Test Format

Multiple choice and FRQ - both calculator and non-calculator sections

### ● Class Format

At-home: lesson videos and practice exercises  
In-class: note taking and practice exercises

## AP Art & Music Courses

### ● Test Format:

Aural/non-aural multiple choice  
7 FRQs (aural dictation and part writing),  
perform sight singing OR portfolio submission and n o exam (art)

### ● Class Format:

In class listening exercises, musical dictation and aural skills, music theory skills development - pitch, rhythm, harmony, at-home practice

# AP Course Overview: AP Classroom

The College Board provides AP teachers and students access to an online platform, called AP Classroom, that includes daily instructional videos, practice questions (from released National Exams) and other supports for students to work on as class assignments or outside of classroom hours.

The expectation is that students use these supports to supplement their in-class learning.

## Reviewing

- **Daily videos** that review the content for each element of the Course and Exam Description, created by AP teachers around the world, to supplement learning about the content objectives

## Practicing

- **Released questions** from previous National Exam questions may be assigned by teachers to allow students to practice the skills necessary to successfully complete an SAQ, LEQ or DBQ during in-class practices meant to build student capacity

## Assessing

- **Released questions** from the previous National Exam questions allow students to assess their knowledge of the course material using questions that are of the same caliber as they will see on their own end-of-year exam.



# AP Course Overview: The Student

While every AP course looks a little different, and every AP student comes from a different background and brings different skills to the table, there are certain common traits that help students maximize their success in an AP class.

The AP student's performance on the National Exam is measured against all global students taking the test, requiring a higher level of preparation than students taking a teacher-created or district-created assessment

## Intrinsic Motivation

- **Students** should be motivated to go beyond the minimum requirements, including using Bruin Block time to get extra help, work outside of assigned class hours and collaborate with peers

## Subject/Interest Alignment

- Students should challenge themselves in an academic content area they are **interested in** and will be passionate about so that they have the motivation to persist when they are challenged beyond their comfort zone

## Preparation for Collegiate Rigor

- Students may need to work an hour outside of class for every hour they work in class, needing evenings and weekends to work and study for class assignments and a National Exam that qualify the student to get college credit

# *Other Considerations*

## **Depth of Full Course Schedule**

Some students who decide to take an AP course as a freshmen already have at least one Honors class scheduled or recommended as well. Consider the “full” course schedule workload in addition to the general ‘weight’ associated with the transition to high school.

## **Outside Activities**

If a student has many outside activities beyond the school day (clubs, jobs, civic work, sports, etc.), they may want to think about the extra time needed outside of classroom hours to stay engaged in an AP course as well as handle the workload of up to two hours/week outside of school for each AP course. Is this realistic and sustainable for the entirety of the school year?

## **Self-Reliance**

Students who can stay on top of their tasks and deadline with little reminders will do well in an AP course. The courses are designed for high school students, and the teachers put systems in place so students are fully aware of what is needed and when tasks are due.

# Benefits of Completing an AP Course and Exam

“Preparing and taking an AP exam sharpens skills needed for the transition from high school to college. Research shows that students who take AP courses/exams have better college outcomes than peers and graduate on time.”

<https://blog.collegeboard.org/3-reasons-take-ap-exams>

“Three out of four AP students enrolled in a four-year college or university start school with some AP credit. This gives you the flexibility to change majors, pursue a second degree, or study abroad. By skipping introductory courses, you can free up time for courses you’re interested in and have the chance to graduate early.”

<https://blog.collegeboard.org/3-reasons-take-ap-exams>

Strengthens the transcript with the extra weight given to AP grades when calculating your GPA. When colleges review transcripts they may look for more rigorous courses and can see your academic performance from a national perspective.

# All AP Courses

\*New in 26-27 SY

2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design, Drawing

\***Business w/Personal Finance**, Computer Science Principles, Computer Science A

English Language and Composition, English Literature, \***English 10 w/AP Seminar**

Calculus AB, Calculus AB/BC, Pre-Calculus, Statistics

Music Theory

Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics

African American Studies, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, US Government & Politics, US History, World History (Modern)

Spanish Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, \***Spanish Literature and Culture**

# AP Courses Available to 9th Grade Students

\*One-Page  
Student-Friendly  
Flier w/ Freshmen  
AP Stats at BHS

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Human Geography
- AP US History (paired with Honors Historical Inquiry, so daily sessions)



# AP Enrollment by grade

2025-2026  
School Year

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
76/493 students 15% <i>*has been as high as 24%</i>	199/531 students 37%	354/546 students 65%	289/514 students 56%



# Accommodations

Students with AACPS IEP/504 testing accommodations need to submit a College Board consent form to begin the process of requesting these same supports for any College Board testing (AP, PSAT, and SAT). The process can take up to 7 weeks. Email Kathie Cosgrove, School Testing Coordinator ([kcosgrove@aacps.org](mailto:kcosgrove@aacps.org)) for more information.

Thank  
you!