

STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS

Introduction

The May 2009 College Board AP Exams were taken by 1,691,905 students from 17,374 secondary schools. College and high school teachers, called Readers, who are familiar with college-level course demands, scored the free-response sections from the 2,929,929 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 2009 exams.

Summary Table of Students' Grades

The grades earned on the May 2009 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.

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 | John Lepri | University of North Carolina - Greensboro |
| Calculus | Michael Boardman | Pacific University |
| Chemistry | Eleanor Siebert | Mount St. Mary's College |
| Chinese Language | Tao-chung Yao | University of Hawaii - Manoa |
| Computer Science | Jody Paul | Metropolitan State College of Denver |
| Economics | David Anderson | Centre College |
| English Lang. & Comp. | Gary Hatch | Brigham Young University |
| 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 | Jean Robinson | Indiana University |
| Government & Politics: United States | Gary Copeland | University of Oklahoma |
| Human Geography | David Lanegran | Macalester College |
| Italian Language | Frank Nuessel | University of Louisville |
| Japanese Language | Laurel Rasplca Rodd | University of Colorado - Boulder |
| Latin | Mary Pendergraft | Wake Forest University |
| Music | Kenneth Stephenson | University of Oklahoma |
| Physics | William Ingham | James Madison University |
| Psychology | Kenneth Keith | University of San Diego |
| Spanish Language | Gwyn Campbell | Washington and Lee University |
| Spanish Literature | Hazel Gold | Emory University |
| Statistics | Christine Franklin | University of Georgia |
| Studio Art | Raul Acero | University of Redlands |
| United States History | Raymond Hyser | James Madison University |
| World History | Merry Wiesner-Hanks | University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee |

STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS*

AP Examinations - May 2009

| 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 | 1,891 | 9.2 | 31,147 | 19.5 | 52,921 | 23.0 | 31,554 | 43.2 | 41,209 | 56.5 | 18,813 | 18.0 |
| 4 | 4,720 | 22.9 | 24,732 | 15.5 | 43,140 | 18.7 | 12,807 | 17.6 | 13,843 | 19.0 | 18,758 | 17.9 |
| 3 | 5,125 | 24.9 | 25,214 | 15.8 | 41,204 | 17.9 | 14,041 | 19.2 | 8,989 | 12.3 | 21,165 | 20.2 |
| 2 | 3,935 | 19.1 | 24,151 | 15.1 | 35,843 | 15.5 | 5,408 | 7.4 | 4,531 | 6.2 | 14,845 | 14.2 |
| 1 | 4,948 | 24.0 | 54,336 | 34.0 | 57,480 | 24.9 | 9,155 | 12.5 | 4,393 | 6.0 | 31,208 | 29.8 |
| Number of Students | 20,619 | | 159,580 | | 230,588 | | 72,965 | | 72,965 | | 104,789 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 11,736 | 56.9 | 81,093 | 50.8 | 137,265 | 59.5 | 58,402 | 80.0 | 64,041 | 87.8 | 58,736 | 56.1 |
| Mean Grade | 2.74 | | 2.71 | | 2.99 | | 3.72 | | 4.14 | | 2.80 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.30 | | 1.54 | | 1.50 | | 1.40 | | 1.21 | | 1.48 | |
| Examination Grade | Chinese Language (Total Group) | | Chinese Language (Standard Group)** | | Computer Science A | | Computer Science AB | | Economics - Macro | | Economics - Micro | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 4,158 | 81.5 | 359 | 47.3 | 3,850 | 23.2 | 2,007 | 39.3 | 11,606 | 15.7 | 8,301 | 17.9 |
| 4 | 499 | 9.8 | 169 | 22.3 | 4,265 | 25.7 | 1,053 | 20.6 | 18,607 | 25.2 | 12,667 | 27.4 |
| 3 | 308 | 6.0 | 138 | 18.2 | 2,200 | 13.2 | 821 | 16.1 | 11,635 | 15.8 | 9,130 | 19.7 |
| 2 | 49 | 1.0 | 33 | 4.3 | 1,361 | 8.2 | 380 | 7.4 | 11,971 | 16.2 | 6,742 | 14.6 |
| 1 | 86 | 1.7 | 60 | 7.9 | 4,946 | 29.8 | 844 | 16.5 | 19,998 | 27.1 | 9,432 | 20.4 |
| Number of Students | 5,100 | | 759 | | 16,622 | | 5,105 | | 73,817 | | 46,272 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 4,965 | 97.4 | 666 | 87.7 | 10,315 | 62.1 | 3,881 | 76.0 | 41,848 | 56.7 | 30,098 | 65.0 |
| Mean Grade | 4.69 | | 3.97 | | 3.04 | | 3.59 | | 2.86 | | 3.08 | |
| Standard Deviation | 0.77 | | 1.24 | | 1.57 | | 1.47 | | 1.45 | | 1.40 | |
| Examination Grade | English Language | | English Literature | | Environmental Science | | European History | | French Language (Total Group) | | French Language (Standard Group)** | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 35,313 | 10.5 | 24,586 | 7.4 | 7,616 | 10.4 | 14,100 | 13.9 | 2,477 | 11.8 | 990 | 6.3 |
| 4 | 64,138 | 19.0 | 68,083 | 20.5 | 15,240 | 20.7 | 19,482 | 19.2 | 3,312 | 15.7 | 2,134 | 13.6 |
| 3 | 101,995 | 30.2 | 102,216 | 30.8 | 13,936 | 18.9 | 34,360 | 33.9 | 5,880 | 28.0 | 4,579 | 29.2 |
| 2 | 95,739 | 28.4 | 104,055 | 31.3 | 13,608 | 18.5 | 11,441 | 11.3 | 4,558 | 21.7 | 3,901 | 24.8 |
| 1 | 40,256 | 11.9 | 33,412 | 10.1 | 23,175 | 31.5 | 21,976 | 21.7 | 4,802 | 22.8 | 4,097 | 26.1 |
| Number of Students | 337,441 | | 332,352 | | 73,575 | | 101,359 | | 21,029 | | 15,701 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 201,446 | 59.7 | 194,885 | 58.6 | 36,792 | 50.0 | 67,942 | 67.0 | 11,669 | 55.5 | 7,703 | 49.1 |
| Mean Grade | 2.88 | | 2.84 | | 2.60 | | 2.92 | | 2.72 | | 2.49 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.16 | | 1.09 | | 1.38 | | 1.31 | | 1.30 | | 1.19 | |
| Examination Grade | French Literature | | German Language (Total Group) | | German Language (Standard Group)** | | Government & Politics Comparative | | Government & Politics United States | | Human Geography | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 298 | 14.9 | 1,166 | 23.3 | 249 | 7.9 | 2,919 | 19.8 | 24,906 | 13.1 | 5,866 | 11.6 |
| 4 | 391 | 19.6 | 1,083 | 21.7 | 675 | 21.4 | 3,144 | 21.3 | 32,225 | 17.0 | 8,480 | 16.7 |
| 3 | 446 | 22.4 | 1,198 | 24.0 | 932 | 29.5 | 3,072 | 20.9 | 48,287 | 25.4 | 11,116 | 21.9 |
| 2 | 420 | 21.1 | 946 | 18.9 | 777 | 24.6 | 3,031 | 20.6 | 46,046 | 24.2 | 8,438 | 16.6 |
| 1 | 440 | 22.1 | 608 | 12.2 | 521 | 16.5 | 2,562 | 17.4 | 38,534 | 20.3 | 16,830 | 33.2 |
| Number of Students | 1,995 | | 5,001 | | 3,154 | | 14,728 | | 189,998 | | 50,730 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 1,135 | 56.9 | 3,447 | 68.9 | 1,856 | 58.8 | 9,135 | 62.0 | 105,418 | 55.5 | 25,462 | 50.2 |
| Mean Grade | 2.84 | | 3.25 | | 2.80 | | 3.06 | | 2.78 | | 2.57 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.36 | | 1.33 | | 1.18 | | 1.38 | | 1.30 | | 1.39 | |

* This table reflects 2,929,929 AP Examinations taken by 1,691,905 students from 17,374 secondary schools

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STUDENT GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS*

AP Examinations - May 2009 (continued)

| Examination Grade | Italian Language (Total Group) | | Italian Language (Standard Group)** | | Japanese Language (Total Group) | | Japanese Language (Standard Group)** | | Latin Literature | | Latin Vergil | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 408 | 17.9 | 113 | 7.4 | 1,018 | 48.8 | 243 | 21.8 | 559 | 13.7 | 841 | 19.6 |
| 4 | 322 | 14.1 | 215 | 14.1 | 214 | 10.3 | 144 | 12.9 | 646 | 15.8 | 802 | 18.7 |
| 3 | 546 | 23.9 | 392 | 25.6 | 412 | 19.8 | 325 | 29.2 | 975 | 23.8 | 1,094 | 25.5 |
| 2 | 463 | 20.3 | 371 | 24.3 | 135 | 6.5 | 123 | 11.0 | 695 | 17.0 | 788 | 18.3 |
| 1 | 543 | 23.8 | 438 | 28.6 | 306 | 14.7 | 279 | 25.0 | 1,218 | 29.8 | 770 | 17.9 |
| Number of Students | 2,282 | | 1,529 | | 2,085 | | 1,114 | | 4,093 | | 4,295 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 1,276 | 55.9 | 720 | 47.1 | 1,644 | 78.8 | 712 | 63.9 | 2,180 | 53.3 | 2,737 | 63.7 |
| Mean Grade | 2.82 | | 2.47 | | 3.72 | | 2.95 | | 2.67 | | 3.04 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.41 | | 1.24 | | 1.48 | | 1.45 | | 1.40 | | 1.37 | |
| Examination Grade | Music Theory | | Music Theory Aural Subscore | | Music Theory Nonaural Subscore | | Physics B | | Physics C E&M | | Physics C Mechanics | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 2,544 | 16.5 | 2,543 | 16.5 | 2,555 | 16.6 | 9,342 | 14.9 | 4,303 | 34.1 | 7,260 | 24.9 |
| 4 | 2,669 | 17.3 | 2,596 | 16.8 | 2,680 | 17.4 | 11,693 | 18.6 | 3,382 | 26.8 | 7,183 | 24.6 |
| 3 | 4,035 | 26.1 | 4,178 | 27.1 | 3,904 | 25.3 | 17,062 | 27.2 | 1,380 | 10.9 | 5,934 | 20.3 |
| 2 | 4,232 | 27.4 | 4,111 | 26.6 | 4,415 | 28.6 | 11,500 | 18.3 | 2,107 | 16.7 | 4,383 | 15.0 |
| 1 | 1,958 | 12.7 | 2,010 | 13.0 | 1,884 | 12.2 | 13,105 | 20.9 | 1,456 | 11.5 | 4,407 | 15.1 |
| Number of Students | 15,438 | | 15,438 | | 15,438 | | 62,702 | | 12,628 | | 29,167 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 9,248 | 59.9 | 9,317 | 60.4 | 9,139 | 59.2 | 38,097 | 60.8 | 9,065 | 71.8 | 20,377 | 69.9 |
| Mean Grade | 2.97 | | 2.97 | | 2.97 | | 2.88 | | 3.55 | | 3.29 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.27 | | 1.27 | | 1.27 | | 1.34 | | 1.40 | | 1.38 | |
| Examination Grade | Psychology | | Spanish Language (Total Group) | | Spanish Language (Standard Group)** | | Spanish Literature | | Statistics | | Studio Art Drawing | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At |
| 5 | 34,365 | 22.8 | 28,300 | 25.6 | 5,143 | 12.5 | 1,924 | 11.6 | 14,353 | 12.3 | 1,989 | 13.6 |
| 4 | 40,564 | 26.9 | 28,948 | 26.1 | 8,599 | 20.9 | 3,081 | 18.5 | 26,050 | 22.3 | 2,638 | 18.1 |
| 3 | 28,756 | 19.0 | 20,135 | 18.2 | 8,050 | 19.6 | 4,779 | 28.7 | 28,276 | 24.2 | 5,475 | 37.5 |
| 2 | 17,968 | 11.9 | 16,979 | 15.3 | 8,605 | 20.9 | 2,332 | 14.0 | 22,283 | 19.1 | 3,847 | 26.4 |
| 1 | 29,353 | 19.4 | 16,361 | 14.8 | 10,736 | 26.1 | 4,517 | 27.2 | 25,914 | 22.2 | 640 | 4.4 |
| Number of Students | 151,006 | | 110,723 | | 41,133 | | 16,633 | | 116,876 | | 14,589 | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 103,685 | 68.7 | 77,383 | 69.9 | 21,792 | 53.0 | 9,784 | 58.8 | 68,679 | 58.8 | 10,102 | 69.2 |
| Mean Grade | 3.22 | | 3.32 | | 2.73 | | 2.73 | | 2.83 | | 3.10 | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.42 | | 1.39 | | 1.37 | | 1.34 | | 1.33 | | 1.07 | |
| Examination Grade | Studio Art 2-D Design | | Studio Art 3-D Design | | United States History | | World History | | | | | |
| | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | N | % At | | | | |
| 5 | 2,156 | 12.4 | 252 | 9.1 | 39,784 | 11.0 | 15,950 | 11.1 | | | | |
| 4 | 4,081 | 23.5 | 430 | 15.6 | 69,619 | 19.3 | 22,987 | 16.0 | | | | |
| 3 | 5,671 | 32.6 | 1,028 | 37.2 | 79,776 | 22.1 | 33,507 | 23.4 | | | | |
| 2 | 4,716 | 27.1 | 859 | 31.1 | 90,872 | 25.2 | 35,238 | 24.6 | | | | |
| 1 | 763 | 4.4 | 192 | 7.0 | 80,122 | 22.2 | 35,744 | 24.9 | | | | |
| Number of Students | 17,387 | | 2,761 | | 360,173 | | 143,426 | | | | | |
| 3 or Higher / % | 11,908 | 68.5 | 1,710 | 61.9 | 189,179 | 52.5 | 72,444 | 50.5 | | | | |
| Mean Grade | 3.12 | | 2.89 | | 2.72 | | 2.64 | | | | | |
| Standard Deviation | 1.08 | | 1.05 | | 1.30 | | 1.31 | | | | | |

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