

ALL ABOUT AP'S:

**WHY THEY MATTER,
WHAT TO EXPECT &
HOW TO SUCCEED**



marigold prep



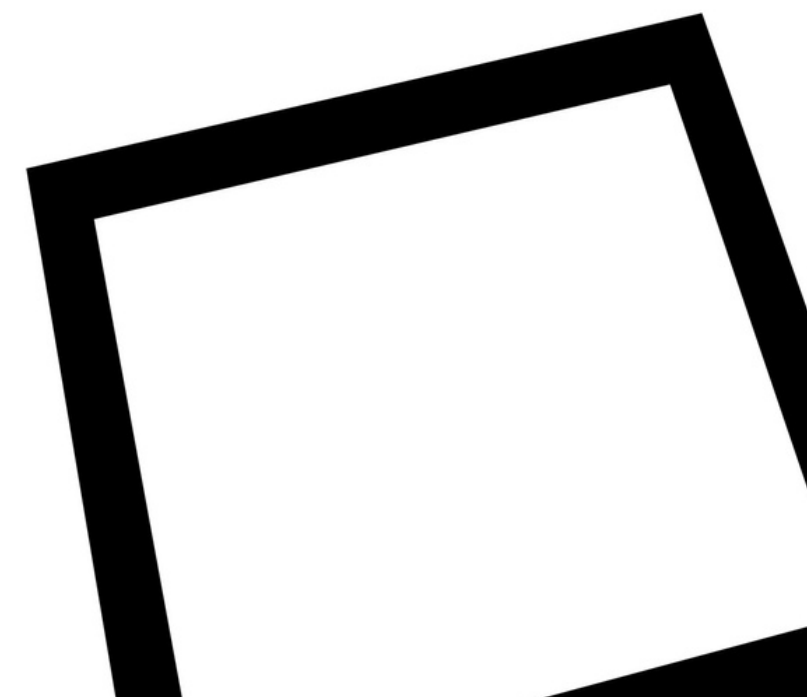
What we'll cover

① THE BASICS

② WHY THEY MATTER

③ WHAT TO EXPECT

④ HOW TO SUCCEED



Part 1

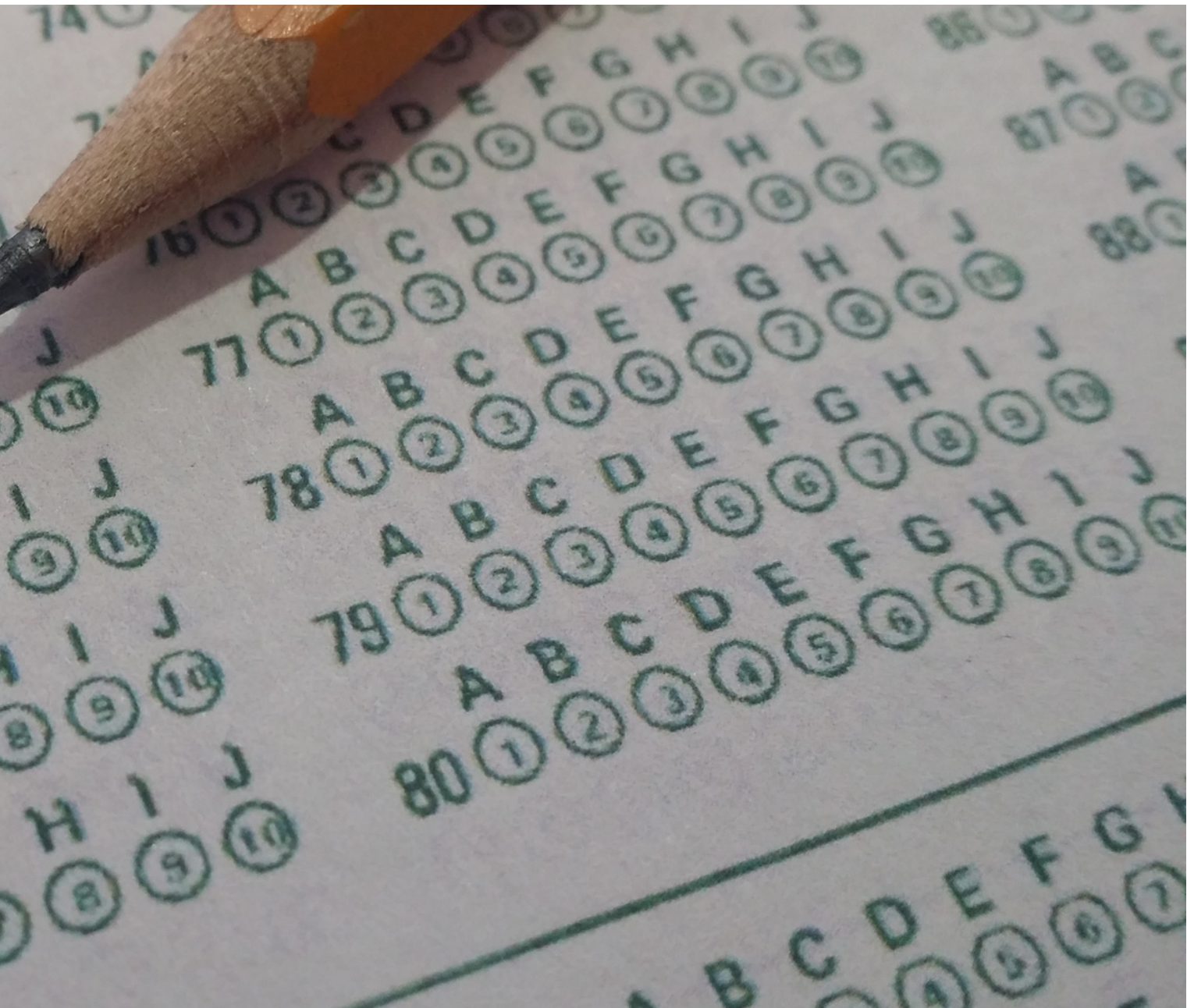
The Basics



What are APs, anyways?

- AP, or “**Advanced Placement**”, refers to **college level** courses and exams offered to high school students.
- Many schools weight grades in AP classes more heavily than grades in regular classes, meaning taking AP classes can **boost your GPA**.
- AP classes can also make a student’s **transcript stand out** to colleges.
- AP classes are designed to prepare students for **end-of-year exams**, offered in May every year.
- AP exams are generally **offered through a student’s school** and during the school day.
- AP exams are generally a **combination of multiple choice and free response questions**, and range from 2-3 hours long.
- AP exams are scored from 1-5. Qualifying scores on AP exams can **earn students college credit**.

What **classes and tests** are offered as APs?



AP offers **differ from school to school**, but the College Board has the following **38 tests available** to students:

AP CLASSES & EXAMS

English

- Language & Composition
- Literature & Composition

History & Social Science

- Comparative Government & Politics
- European History
- Human Geography
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Psychology
- US Government & Politics
- United States History
- World History

Math & Computer Science

- Calc AB
- Calc BC
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Precalc
- Statistics

Sciences

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics 1
- Physics 2
- Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- Physics C: Mechanics

Arts

- 2D Art & Design
- 3D Art & Design
- Drawing
- Art History
- Music Theory

Languages & Culture

- Spanish Language & Culture
- Spanish Lit & Culture
- French Language & Culture
- Chinese Language & Culture
- German Language & Culture
- Japanese Language & Culture
- Italian Language & Culture
- Latin



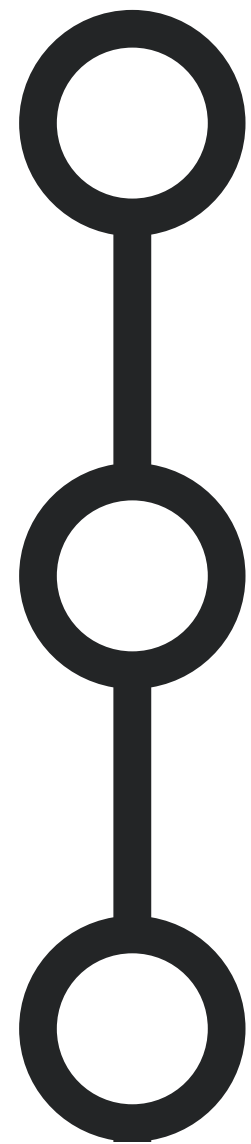
AP Capstone Diploma Program

From the College Board: AP Capstone is not a course. It's a two-year program based on two AP courses—**AP Seminar and AP Research**. Other AP courses teach you, in depth, about a specific subject, like biology or U.S. history. AP Seminar and AP Research are different. They focus on **helping you develop academic skills you can use in any discipline**. These skills include:

- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Conducting Research
- Public Speaking



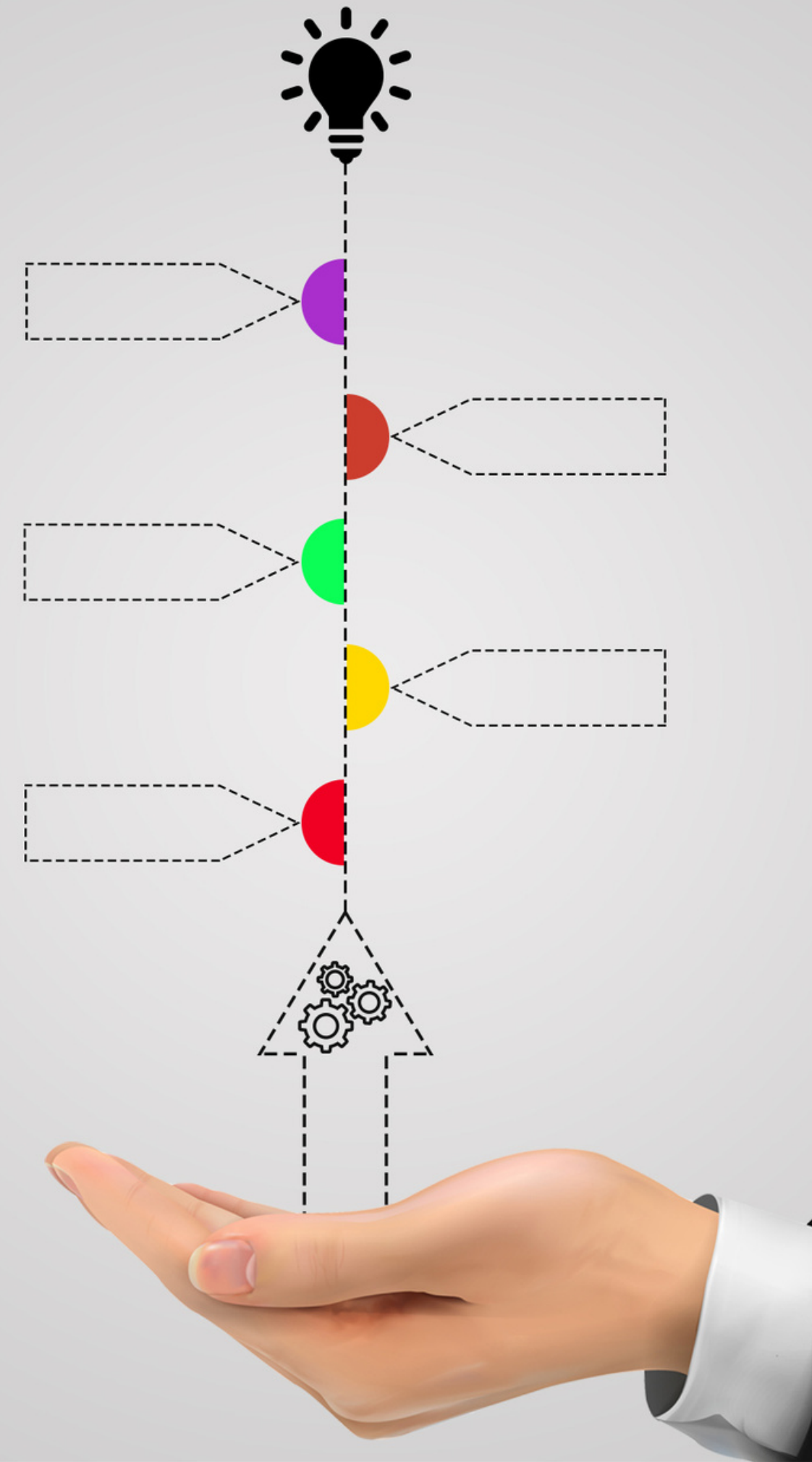
Important Dates



May 6-10, 2024:
AP Exam Administration Week 1

May 13-17, 2024:
AP Exam Administration Week 2

July 2024:
AP Exam Score Release



What if my **school does not offer a specific AP class or exam?**

If you are interested in taking an AP class that is not offered at your school, talk to your school counselor about taking the course through an **authorized online provider**.

For most APs, you can **take the exam without taking the AP class**. If the exam is not being offered on campus, visit the [College Board's AP Ledger](#). This is a comprehensive list of schools where you can take an AP exam, even if it is not offered at your school. Reach out to these schools early and often.

** AP Computer Science Principles, AP Seminar, and AP Research exams MUST be preceded by an actual AP course, because certain coursework contributes to the end-of-year exam score.*

Part 2

Why They Matter



BENEFITS OF AP CLASSES & EXAMS

According to the College Board, taking AP courses and exams has the following benefits:



**STAND OUT TO
COLLEGES**



**EARN COLLEGE
CREDIT**



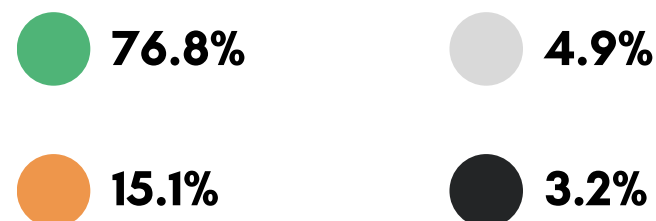
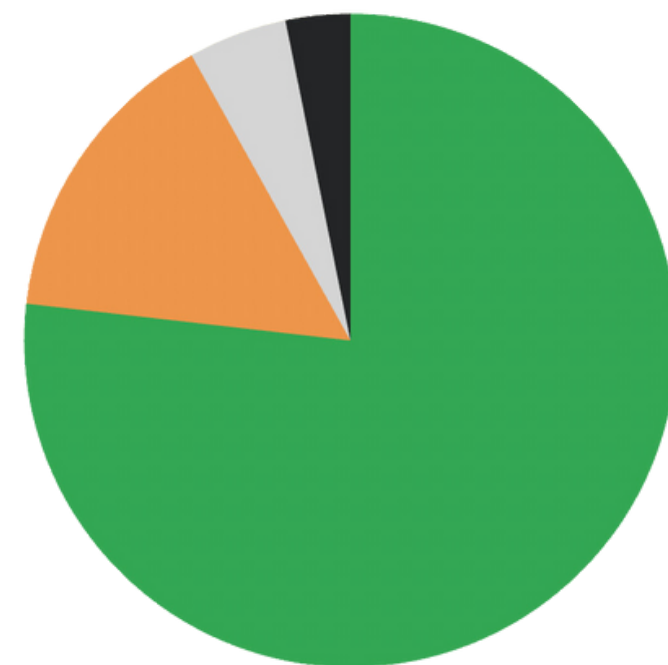
BOOST YOUR GPA

Let's look at the **data...**

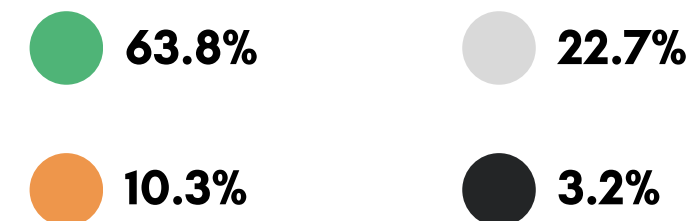
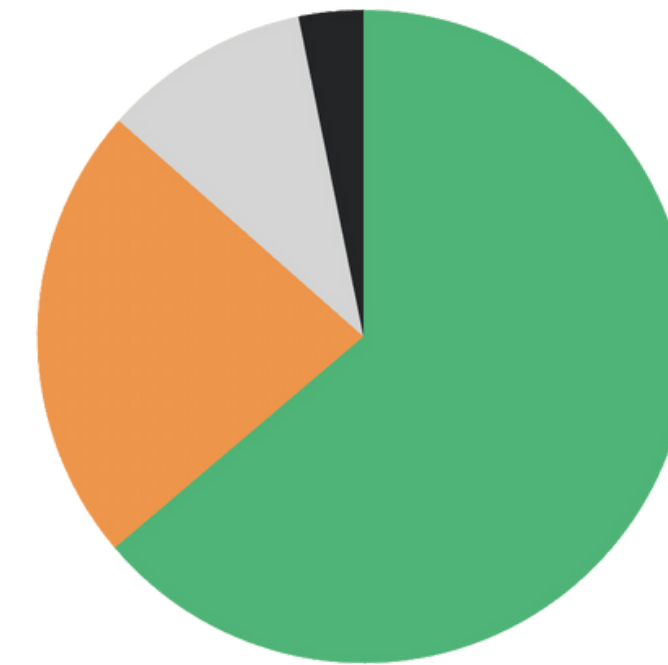
Standing Out to Colleges

According to **NACAC's State of College Admissions** report, which surveys hundreds of college admissions officers each year, "**grades in college prep courses**" and "**strength of high school curriculum**" are consistently and unversally identified as the **most important factors in college admissions decisions**.

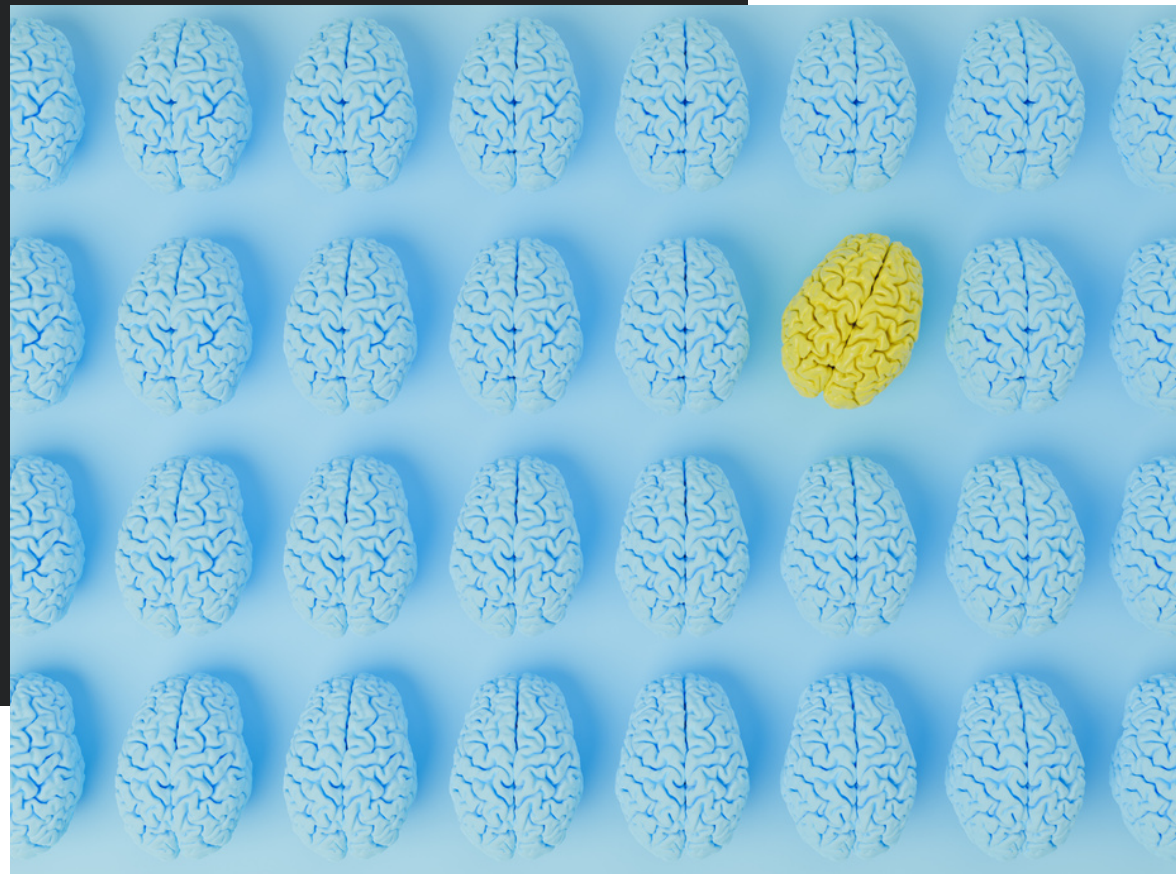
Grades in Colleges Prep Courses



Strength of High School Curriculum



- Considerable Importance
- Moderate Importance
- Limited Importance
- Not Important



Standing Out to Colleges

College admissions officers want to see students **push themselves** in high school, because it demonstrates the mindset they will bring to college. Doing well in challenging classes also proves to colleges that you are **able to handle rigorous academic workloads.**



Students applying to competitive colleges should take as many AP classes as they can **without compromising their grades, hobbies, or sanity.**

Standing Out to Colleges

Colleges care more about a student's performance than their performance on an AP exam.

Students don't need to submit AP exam scores with their applications, but strong scores can help a student stand out. Even colleges that place less weight on SAT/ACTs will take AP scores into consideration:

Test Policy	What does it mean?	Relevance of AP Exam scores
Test Blind	SAT/ACT scores do not hold weight in admissions decisions, even if submitted.	Many test blind schools, like the UC system, still consider AP scores if a student submits them.
Test Optional	Schools will consider an SAT/ ACT score if a student submits them, but will not penalize a student if they do not submit them	Will consider AP scores if a student submits them. This can be a good option if a student wants to demonstrate a strong testing history, but will not submit and SAT/ACT score.
Test-Flexible	Sometimes used interchangeably with "test optional", test-flexible also means schools require proof of testing history, but will accept exams other than the SAT/ACT.	Will accept an AP exam score in the absense of an SAT/ ACT score.

If you don't not submit you scores as part of your application, you'll submit them to your college the summer before you begin for potential credit.

Earning College Credit

Most U.S. colleges offer **credit** or **advanced placement**, or both, for qualifying AP scores.

College Credit

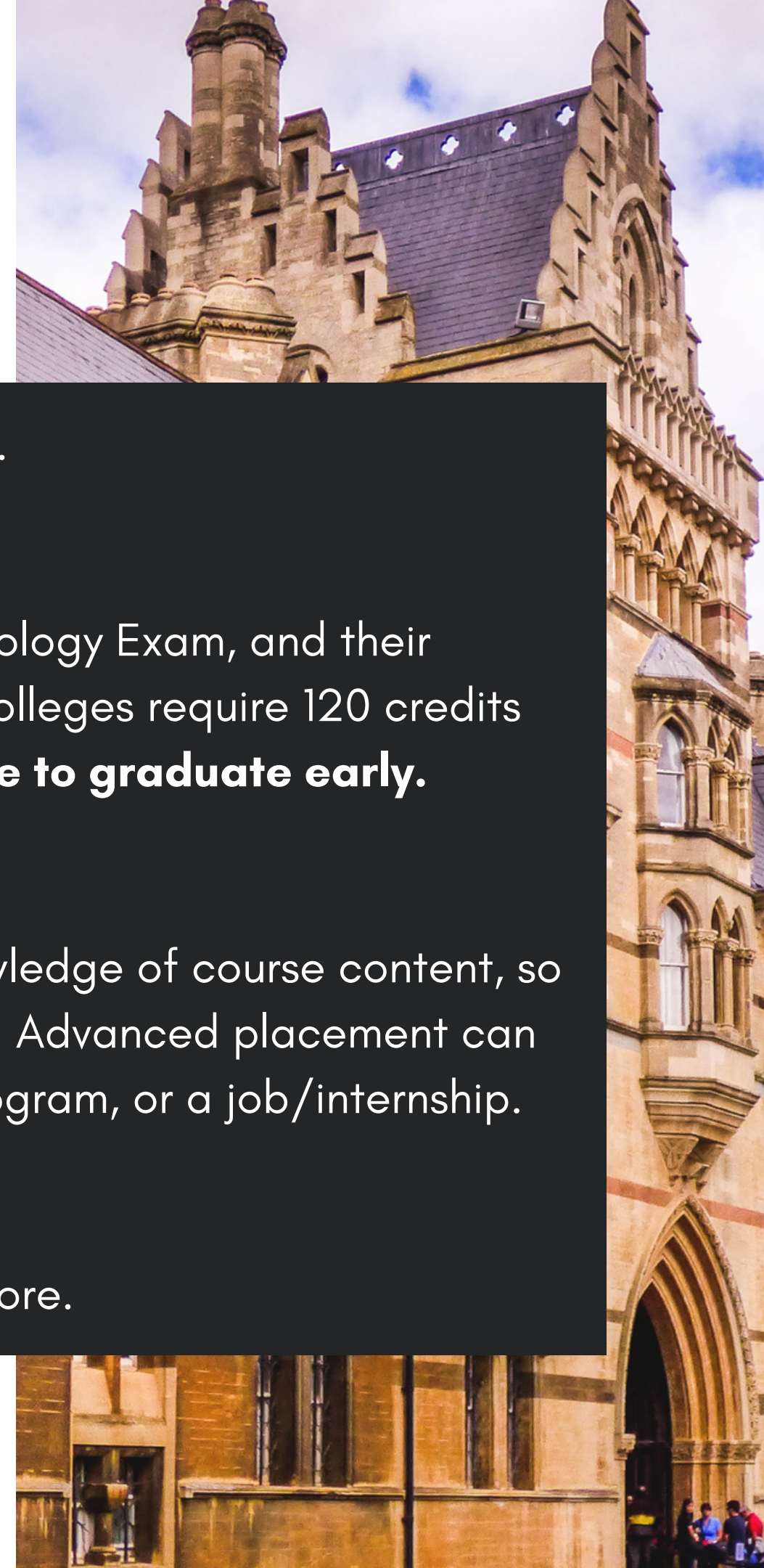
Many colleges offer credit for AP scores. For example, if a student earns a 4 on their AP Biology Exam, and their college grants 8 credits for that score, the student will enter college with 8 credits. Most colleges require 120 credits for a bachelors degree, meaning **students who enter college with credits might be able to graduate early.**

Advanced Placement:

Many colleges recognize that a qualifying AP score demonstrates a student's existing knowledge of course content, so they will let that student **skip the course**. This is called granting **advanced placement**. Advanced placement can free up time in a student's schedule, allowing them to pursue a double major, a special program, or a job/internship.

Both Credit and Placement:

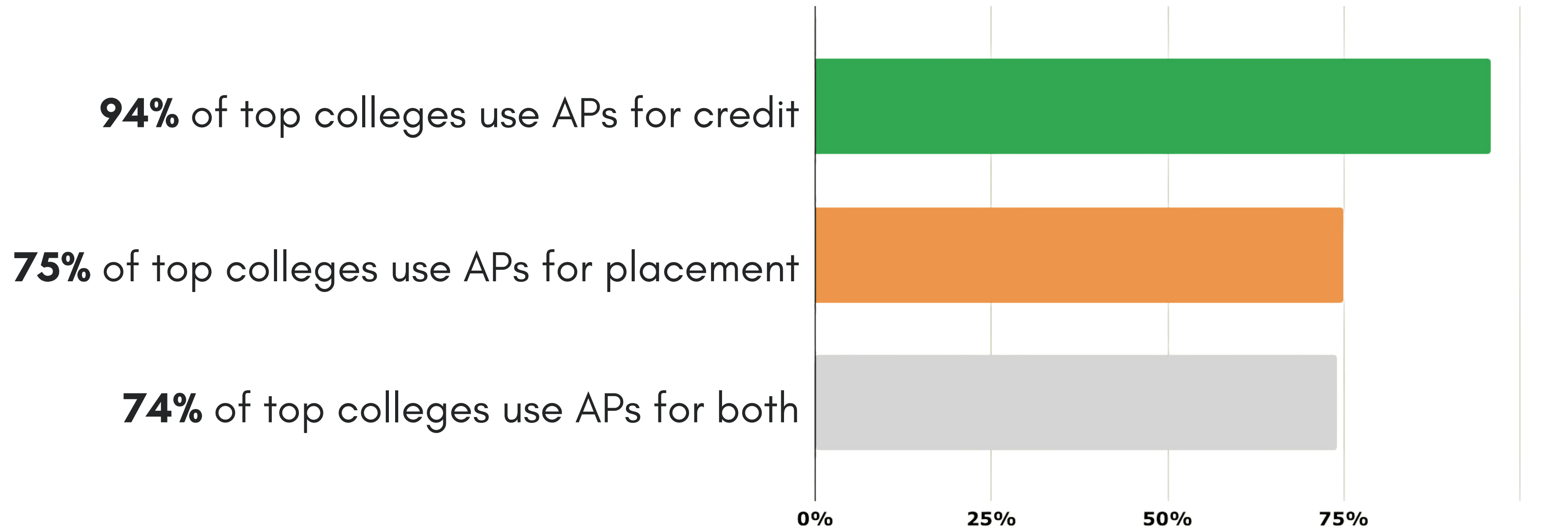
Many colleges award students both credit and advanced placement for a qualifying AP score.



Earning College Credit

Different colleges have different policies when it comes to awarding credit and advanced placement.

Below is data reported from the top 100 colleges.



 Brown University is the only top 100 college that uses APs for placement, but not credit.

Earning College Credit

Qualifying scores can also differ from school to school and test to test. For example, some schools will accept a 3 for credit and/or placement on some tests, and require a 5 for others.

AP Exam Score	Qualification for College Course	Equivalent College Course Grade	Eligible for AP Credit
5	Extremely qualified	A	Usually
4	Well qualified	A-, B+, B	Usually
3	Qualified	B-, C+, C	Maybe
2	Possibly qualified	N/A	Rarely
1	Not qualified	N/A	No

How can I find out what my (future) college's policy is?

The College Board has an "AP CREDIT POLICY SEARCH" tool that allows you to search policies for every major college by AP Course. You can also find policies on individual college websites.

Boosting Your GPA

Taking **AP courses can boost your weighted GPA**. A weighted GPA assigns more value to AP courses. Generally speaking, **AP courses are worth a full extra point on a 4.0 scale**. This means an A in an AP course can count as a 5.0 as opposed to a 4.0.

Colleges generally recalculate your GPA based on their own system, because different high schools calculate GPAs differently. That said, you should still **include your weighted GPA on your college application**, unless the college specifically asks for your non-weighted GPA.

This chart shows how weighted AP grades compare to non-weighted grades in standard high school classes.

Grade	Standard Weight	AP Weight
A	4	5
A-	3.7	4.7
B+	3.3	4.3
B	3	4
B-	2.7	3.7
C+	2.3	3.3
C	2	3
C-	1.7	2.7

Big Picture Benefits

In addition to the near term advantages, students and parents report the following **big picture benefits** of taking AP courses:

- Improved time management and organizational skills
- An introduction to **college-level** critical thinking and writing standards
- An opportunity to **discover passions** and/ or potential majors
- Increased academic **confidence**



Part 3

What to Expect



Testing Environment

Students almost always **take their AP exams at school**, during the school day, with other students from their class.

Most AP exams are still offered in pencil/ paper. **In 2024, schools will be given the option to offer certain exams digitally:**

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP European History
- AP Seminar
- AP U.S. History
- AP World History: Modern
- AP African American Studies (2023-24 pilot schools only)

Schools can decide if they want to offer these tests digitally or not. **Check with your school's AP coordinator** to confirm the testing format.



ANATOMY OF AP EXAMS

Most AP exams are 2-3 hours long and consist of two types of questions:



1. MULTIPLE CHOICE

The first part of the exam is almost always multiple choice. Students must pick 1 of 4-5 answer choices for each questions. There is no guessing penalty, meaning incorrect answers do not deduct points.



2. FREE RESPONSE

The second part of the exam is usually made up of free response questions, in which students must generate their own answers. These can be essays, solutions, or verbal responses, depending on the exam.

The following classes do not have free response questions:

AP Computer Science Principles, AP Research, AP 2D Art, AP 3D Art, AP Drawing

SCORE DISTRIBUTION ACROSS POPULAR AP EXAMS

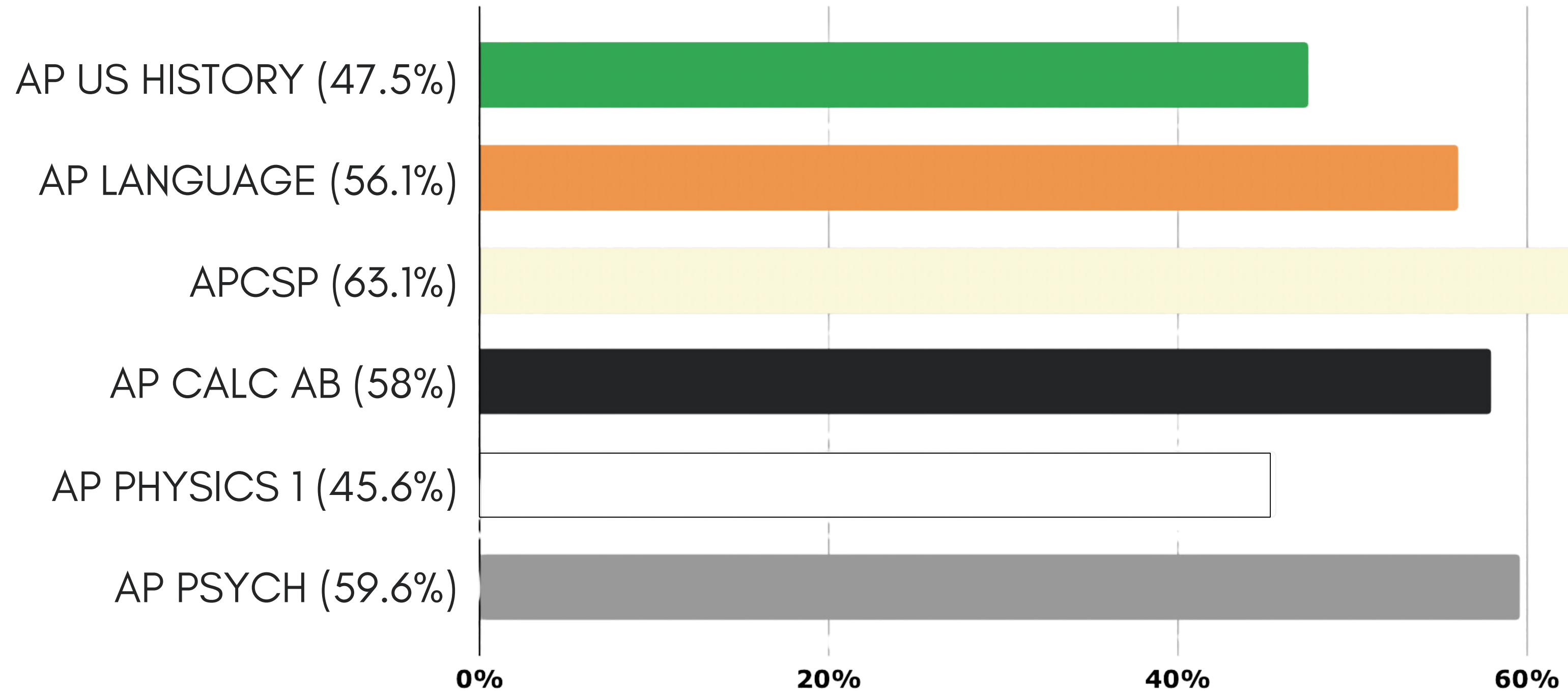
This is official data, as reported by the College Board, from 2023 AP Exams.

EXAM	5	4	3	2	1
AP US History	10.6%	14.8%	22.1%	22.7%	29.8%
AP Language	10.3%	19.7%	26.1%	29.5%	14.4%
AP Computer Science Principles	11.5%	20.6%	31.1%	16.4%	22.5%
AP Calc AB	22.4%	16.2%	19.4%	6.3%	6.3%
AP Physics 1	8.8%	18.3%	18.5%	28.0%	26.4%
AP Psych	16.9%	23.20%	19.5%	12.4%	28.0%

What does this tell us about AP Exams?

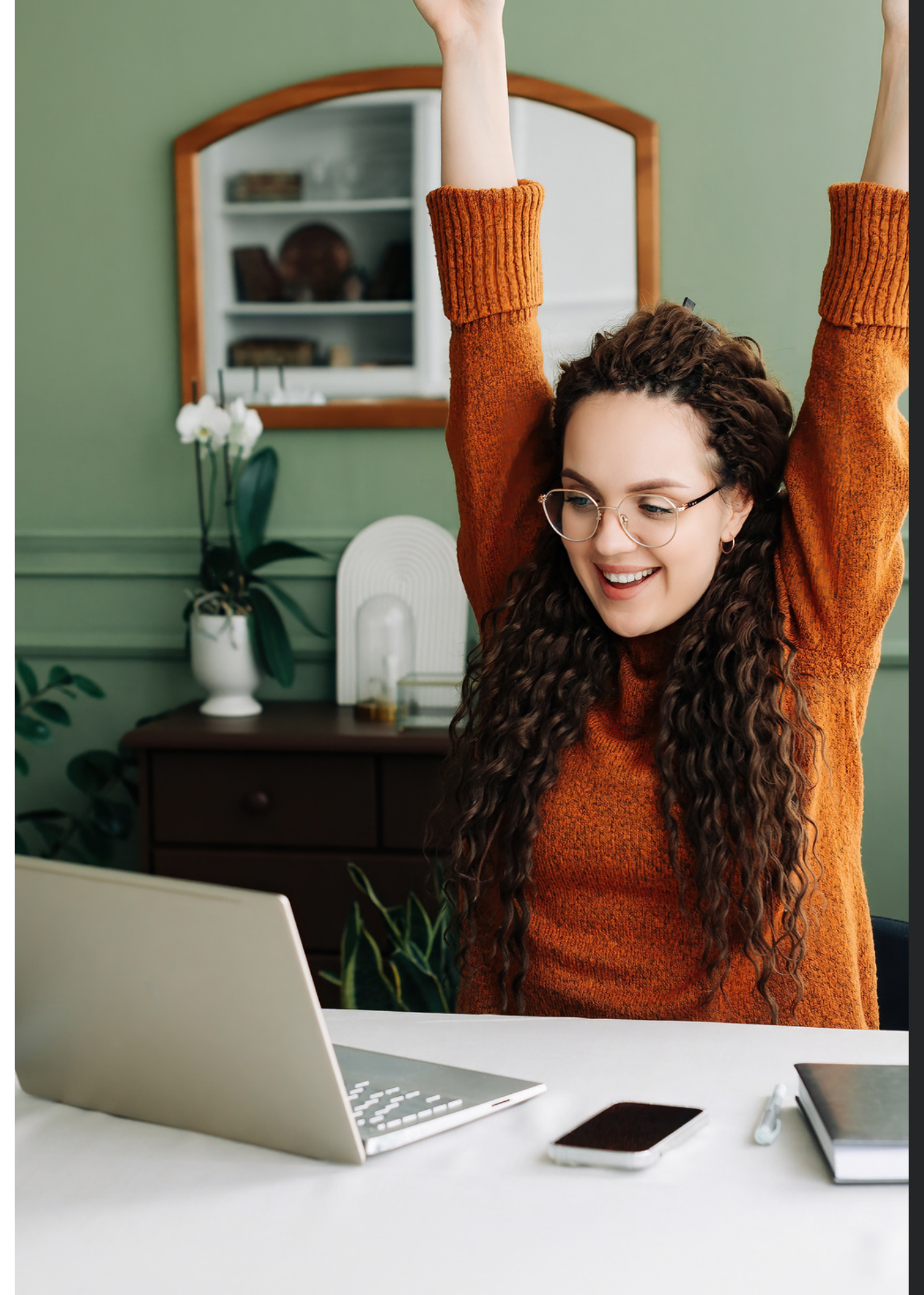
Scoring well on AP exams is hard. In general, only about half of students who take AP exams will earn scores that qualify for college credit or advanced placement.

STUDENTS SCORING ABOVE 3 ON POPULAR AP EXAMS



After the exam

- AP scores are almost always **released in July**.
- You can access them through your **College Board account**, the same way you accessed your PSAT scores.
- The College Board allows you to send **one free score report** to the school or scholarship organization of your choice before June 20 each year.
- After June 20, you can **send score reports to schools at anytime** for a \$15 standard delivery fee or \$25 rush delivery fee.
- **You have the option to withhold scores** from schools.



Part 4

How to Succeed



Steps to AP Success

AP success starts before a student even sets foot in the classroom. Marigold Prep helps students maximize success in every part of the AP process.



Let's look at each step in a bit more detail...

COURSE SELECTION

Consider the following factors when choosing AP classes:

Strengths & Interests: Pick AP classes that cater to your proven academic strengths, and avoid those that have been problem subject areas in the past. If you plan to pursue a specific academic strength or interest in college, consider getting a head start by taking a corresponding AP class.

Class & Teacher Reputations: Different teachers have different approaches to teaching AP content, and some approaches produce higher pass rates than others. Talk to other students at your school their experiences with certain teachers, and/or your school if you can see pass rates from specific classes and exams.

Potential College Policies: If you already have an idea of where you will apply to college, familiarize yourself with their specific policies. Some colleges will only accept credit for certain classes, and learning their policies ahead of time will help you gauge what classes are worth the extra effort.

AVOID BURNOUT: Be honest with yourself about your current workload, both in and out of school, and don't bite off more than you can chew. While colleges like to see students challenge themselves with AP classes, they don't like to see students fall apart. And neither do we! Don't let AP classes derail your goals, hobbies, or sanity!

CLASSROOM LEARNING

Complete all homework
and assignments

Understand your teacher's
expectations and grading
policies, asking for
clarification when
necessary

Manage your time and
workload, triaging
assignments based on
importance and grade
weight

Read the textbook

**Take effective
notes**

**Review content in
digestible chunks**

Ask for help

EXAM READINESS

Do AP exam specific prep
and take AP practice
tests

Learn test taking strategy:
time management,
eliminating answer
choices, and managing
anxiety

Understand how the test
is weighted and how the
FRQs are scored

Understanding how the tests are scored:

- AP Lit FRQ Rubric
- APUSH Scoring Guidelines
- AP Calc Scoring Guidelines
- AP Bio Score Weighting
- AP Psych Score Weighting



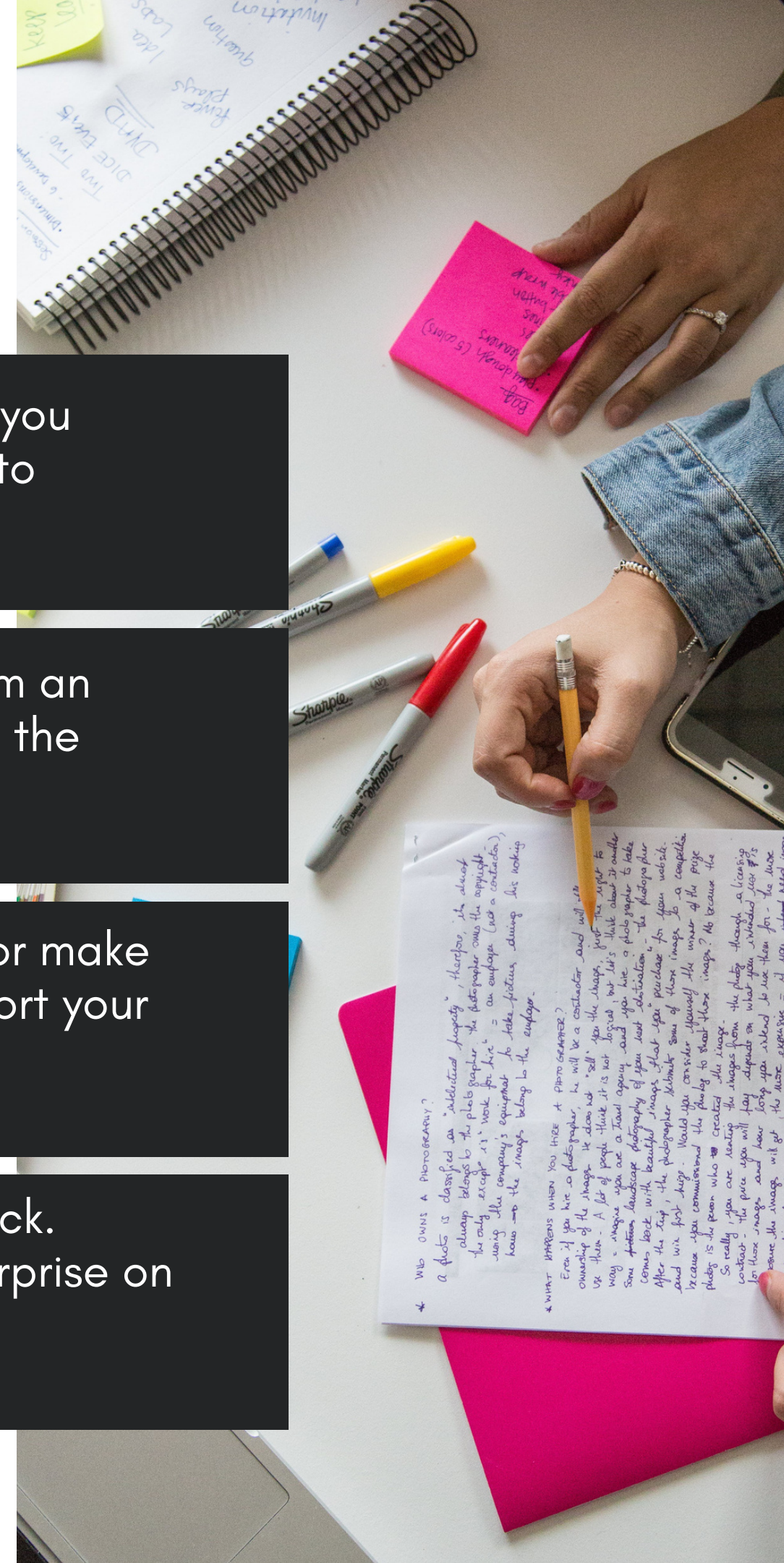
GENERAL TIPS FOR FRQs

Read the question. Then read it again. Read it one more time if you need to. Make sure you **understand precisely what is asking**, and all the elements that need to be addressed to answer it thoroughly.

Follow the question's lead. Depending on the test and subject, FRQs will ask you to form an argument, make a graph, or show the steps of your problem solving. Craft your answer to the framework the test asks for.

Outline evidence before developing a thesis. If an FRQ is asking you to form a thesis or make an argument, outline your evidence first. Ensuring you have concrete examples that support your opinion will prevent you from wasting time on something you cannot support.

Manage your time. There is a lot to pay attention to during FRQs, including a ticking clock. Practice answering past test questions in a timed environment so you're not caught by surprise on test day.



**One does not simply pass the AP
exam**

**without
actually STUDYING!**

MAXIMIZING SCORE REPORTING

WHAT

A typical report sent to colleges will list all of a student's AP exam scores from the past four years. If you do not want a college to see a specific score, **you can withhold** it from a specific school for a fee of \$10 per school.

There is also an option to **cancel scores for free**, meaning the College Board will delete the score entirely from their records.

WHEN

Most colleges do not require students to send AP scores with their application, but some applications have an option to list exam scores. If a student chooses to list scores on their application, admissions officers will see them and factor them into their admissions decision.

Otherwise, official scores are **usually sent at the end of senior year**, after a student has selected their college.

WHY

Familiarize yourself with your **chosen college's specific policies** and submit your AP scores accordingly.

For example, **don't automatically assume** that a 3 on your APUSH exam is worthless---at certain schools it will still earn you college credit and/or qualify you for an advanced placement.

FAQ

- How many AP classes should I take?
- Will a poor AP exam grade hurt my chances of being accepted into college?
- Are there certain AP classes that will help me get accepted into a certain program/ major?
- How should I prepare for an official AP exam?
- When should I consider canceling an AP score?



Questions?

We're here to help!

Contact us any time with questions about your student, our programs, and the best game plan to set them up for success.



415 237 3377



marigoldprep.com

