**The AP Test**

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/4559.html>

This site describes the AP exam and includes practice questions and prompts.

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| **Section** | **Number of Questions** | **Percent of Final Score** | **Time** |
| **Section I: Multiple Choice** | **Approx. 95 minutes** |
| Part A | Interpretive Communication: Print Texts | 30 questions | 50% | Approx. 40 minutes |
| Part B | Interpretive Communication: Print and Audio Texts (combined) | 35 questions | Approx. 55 minutes |
| Interpretive Communication: Audio Texts |
| **Section II: Free Response** | **Approx. 85 minutes** |
| Interpersonal Writing: E-mail Reply | 1 prompt | 50% | 15 minutes |
| Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay | 1 prompt | Approx. 55 minutes |
| Interpersonal Speaking: Conversation | 5 prompts | 20 seconds for each response |
| Presentational Speaking: Cultural comparison | 1 prompt | 2 minutes to respond |

* Multiple choice (literary & non-literary sources (poems, stories, articles, news, graphics, etc.):
	+ When given several sources, be sure to use ideas from each one
	+ Take notes as you listen/read – use what you know
	+ Remember, you don’t have to understand everything – go for the gist of it
* Free Response (related to real-life situations, cultural aspects, modern issues):
	+ Answer *every* aspect of the prompt
	+ The most important point is to make yourself understood clearly – this is even more important than completely accurate grammar
	+ Show off! Use a couple if/then sentences, conditional, subjunctive, expressions, etc.
	+ NO ENGLISH! Use circumlocution whenever you can. Just do your best with what you know!
	+ Write an outline – it is important that you have a plan and it flows well – revise it at the end
		- Email:
			* Use email format
			* Use appropriate greetings/conclusions (formal v. informal)
		- Persuasive essay
			* State your opinion and defend it
			* Give specific, culturally relevant examples
		- Conversation: (they say something and tell you how to answer)
			* Speak for the full 20 seconds
			* Use what you know!
		- Cultural comparison
			* Compare = compare and contrast: similarities and differences
			* Be specific with your personal and cultural examples

**Themes, Possible Contexts, and Overarching Essential Questions**

**Thème: Global Challenges / Les défis mondiaux**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Diversity Issues / La tolérance

• Economic Issues / L’économie

• Environmental Issues / L’environnement

• Health Issues / La sante

• Human Rights / Les droits de l’être humain

• Nutrition and Food Safety / L’alimentation

• Peace and War / La paix et la guerre

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• What environmental, political, and social issues propose challenges to societies throughout the world?

• What are the origins of those issues?

• What are possible solutions to those challenges?

**Theme: Science and Technology / La science et la technologie**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Current Research Topics / La recherche et ses nouvelles frontières

• Discoveries and Inventions / Les découvertes et les inventions

• Ethical Questions / Les choix moraux

• Future Technologies / L’avenir de la technologie

• Intellectual Property / La propriété intellectuelle

• The New Media / Les nouveaux moyens de communication

• Social Impact of Technology / La technologie et ses effets sur la société

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• How do developments in science and technology affect our lives?

• What factors have driven innovation and discovery in the fields of science and technology?

• What role do ethics play in scientific advancement?

**Theme: Contemporary Life / La vie contemporaine**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Advertising and Marketing / La publicité et le marketing

• Education / L’éducation et l’enseignement

• Holidays and Celebrations / Les fetes

• Housing and Shelter / Le logement

• Leisure and Sports / Les loisirs et le sport

• Professions / Le monde du travail

• Rites of Passage / Les rites de passage

• Travel / Les voyages

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• How do societies and individuals define quality of life?

• How is contemporary life influenced by cultural products, practices, and perspectives?

• What are the challenges of contemporary life?

**Themes, Possible Contexts, and Overarching Essential Questions**

**Theme: Personal and Public Identities / La quête de soi**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Alienation and Assimilation / L’aliénation et l’assimilation

• Beliefs and Values / Les croyances et les systèmes de valeurs

• Gender and Sexuality / La sexualité

• Language and Identity / L’identité linguistique

• Multiculturalism / Le pluriculturalisme

• Nationalism and Patriotism / Le nationalisme et le patriotisme

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• How are aspects of identity expressed in various situations?

• How do language and culture influence identity?

• How does one’s identity develop over time?

**Theme: Families and Communities / La famille et la communauté**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Age and Class / Les rapports sociaux

• Childhood and Adolescence / L’enfance et l’adolescence

• Citizenship / La citoyenneté

• Customs and Ceremonies / Les coutumes

• Family Structures / La famille

• Friendship and Love / L’amitié et l’amour

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• What constitutes a family in different societies?

• How do individuals contribute to the well-being of communities?

• How do the roles that families and communities assume differ in societies around the world?

**Theme: Beauty and Aesthetics / L’esthétique**

*Possible Contexts:*

• Architecture / L’architecture

• Contributions to World Artistic Heritage / Le patrimoine

• Ideals of Beauty / Le beau

• Literature / Les arts litteraires

• Music / La musique

• Performing Arts / Les arts du spectacle

• Visual Arts / Les arts visuels

*Overarching Essential Questions:*

• How are perceptions of beauty and creativity established?

• How do ideals of beauty and aesthetics influence daily life?

• How do the arts both challenge and reflect cultural perspectives?

**Other Resources**

**Grammar Practice**

An AP French student should be familiar with all tenses. It is a good idea to review grammar taught at earlier levels.

These sites are helpful for general grammar & vocabulary practice.

[www.apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.com)

[www.laits.utexas.edu/fi](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi)

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/vp/>

<http://www.nvcc.edu/home/lfranklin/lettres/>

<http://www.frenchlearningfun.net/>

<http://www.languageguide.org/>

<http://www.verbs-online.com/french-verbs/french-verbs.htm>

<http://www.frenchlearningfun.net/AP_pages/French_AP_grammaire.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/>

<http://www.quia.com/shared/french/>

<http://french.about.com/>

<http://www.classzone.com>

These are links to French publications. In some cases, they provide direct links to television, radio, and newspapers from many locations throughout the French speaking world.

[www.rfi.fr](http://www.rfi.fr) - langue français

[www.tv5.fr](http://www.tv5.fr) - langue français - apprendre le français

[www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)

[www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr)

[www.lepetitjournal.com](http://www.lepetitjournal.com)

[www.France24.fr](http://www.France24.fr)

[www.Elle.fr](http://www.Elle.fr); [www.parismatch.com](http://www.parismatch.com)

Really, do all you can to speak, listen to, read, and write French.

**Study Record**

If you set specific goals, make clear plans for how to accomplish them, and record your progress, you are more likely to improve. Create a study record to show your progress. Good luck!

**Other suggestions for success on the AP French Exam**

The AP French Language Exam is a 3-hour exam testing your abilities and proficiency in French. You are “on stage” in French for 3 hours integrating all four of your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. The exam assumes and demands critical, integrated expression in French. You must maintain your focus during these 3 hours.

The AP French Language class is an intense, demanding course if you want a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP test. Our goal is for you to obtain a 3or above on the exam. You must show a high level of analysis, synthesis and evaluation to receive a 4 or 5. If you have questions, contact your AP French teacher at your school and visit the website at: http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html.

Ready to step up to the challenge?

If you are taking the AP French class, here are some recommendations for what you should consistently do to help you.

1. Every day, pick up a French publication and read some of it. Some possible choices include People Magazine en Français, Reader’s Digest en Français or other such publications. These are available at local book stores/magazine shops. Car magazines, fashion magazines, etc. are all fine. Just do some reading and come in contact with French publications. Some books are available in the school library.

2. You can also go on the Internet and read articles in French, such as on-line newspapers, magazines, etc. Many search engines are available in French. If you click on or type “video” at [www.Yahoo.com](http://www.Yahoo.com) or [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com), you can find videos in French that will help with visual, audio and gestures in French.

3. Have some daily contact with French programming on television or video. Videos and DVDs are excellent resources, too, for listening to French. While watching your favorite DVD, select to hear or watch your DVD in the French language. Just watch the program and jot down some words or things you don’t understand or want to learn, and then let the rest flow over you….. or….. Record a show, then pick a 3-5 minute segment and keep rewinding it, working with it until you get most of what is going on. You might like working with music videos or commercials when you do this at first. Have fun with this! Work with a partner if you choose. You will be surprised at how much you know already!

4. Don’t become discouraged. The most important thing is maintaining your motivation, fine-tuning your listening skills, and maintaining your efforts en Français. If you are lucky enough to have TV5 cable from France, you will be especially inspired to watch TV in French.

5. Seek out opportunities to listen or communicate in French. Hampton Roads is a transient area and the military provides many opportunities to interact with people from around the world. There are community and cultural events that have activities.

6. Listen to French music. Visit local download songs from the internet or check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). You may even want to consider podcasts available in French. There are some designed to teach French as well as some for entertainment.