

2001 AP United States History Exam Scoring Worksheet

Section 1: Multiple Choice

[- (1/4 x)] x 1.1250 =		=	
Number correct	Number wrong		Multiple-Choice		Weighted
(out of 80)			Score		Section I
			(If less than zero,		Score
			enter zero.)		

Section II: Free Response



How AP Grades Are Determined

Students could have received 0 to 80 points in Section I and 0 to 27 points in Section II of this exam. These scores are not released to the student, school, or college. Instead, these raw scores are converted to grades on an AP 5-point scale, and it is these grades that are reported. This conversion involves a number of steps, which are detailed on the Scoring Worksheet.

- 1. **The multiple-choice score is calculated.** To adjust for random guessing, a fraction of the number of wrong answers is subtracted from the number of right answers. This fraction is ¼ for the five-choice questions (as on the AP U.S. History Exam), so that students are unlikely to benefit from random guessing.
- 2. **The free-response score is calculated.** When the free-response section includes two or more parts, those parts are weighted according to the value assigned to them by the Development Committee. These weightings allow the Committee to place more importance on certain skills to correspond to the emphasis placed on these skills in the college curriculum.
- 3. **The composite score is calculated.** Weighting also comes into play when looking at the multiple-choice section in comparison to the free-response section. In consultation with experts from the College Board and ETS, the AP U.S. History Development Committee decided that Section I should contribute one-half to the total score, and Section II, one-half. The maximum composite score was 180. The Scoring Worksheet details the process of converting section scores to composite scores for this exam.
- 4. **AP grades are calculated.** The Chief Reader sets the four cut points that divide the composite scores into groups. A variety of information is available to help the Chief Reader determine the score ranges into which the exam grades should fall:
 - AP grade distributions from the past three years
 - Information about the achievement level of AP students in each of the past five years, based on common items (multiple-choice questions that were included in both the current exam and on or more previous exams).
 - The Chief Reader's own observations of the students' free-response answers.
 - The frequency of distributions of the scores on each section, subsection, and individual free-response questions.
 - The average score on each free-response question for candidates with each composite score.