



## AP Language and Composition Exam Components

*The AP Language and Composition exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes. You will get one short break between the multiple-choice and free response section.*

### Things to remember:

- APMC requires a number two pencil.
- Essays must be written in blue or black ink.

### AP Multiple Choice

**Time**  
**60 minutes**

**Number of Questions**  
**Approx. 55**

Multiple-choice is the first section of the test. You will be given 4-6 passages with accompanying multiple-choice (8-15 questions per passage). It is important to scan the passages and decide where to begin. Think about your strategy. Starting with an “easier” passage can help build confidence and momentum.

- Answer each question. There is no deduction for wrong answers.
- Scan first and last paragraphs of each passage for big picture/author purpose.
- Cross out answer choices that are clearly wrong.
- Do not linger over questions/answer choices. Come back later and/or guess.

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### AP Essays

**Time**  
**15 minutes of reading time**  
**40 minutes per essay (135 minutes total)**

**Number of Essays**  
**3**

**Reading Time** is yours to peruse the documents, annotate, write working thesis statements, list evidence, etc. Spend most of your time prepping the **synthesis documents**. Extra time should be spent working on the other two prompts.

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## **Essay Types**

### **Synthesis-Question #1 in the free response section**

- A “cover sheet” that offers directions, topic background and the assignment
- 6-10 documents of which you are required to use at least 3
  - Evaluate documents for worth and credibility.
  - Do not summarize documents. Determine how they run pro and con to your own opinion.
- Consider any outside knowledge you bring to the topic

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **Rhetorical Analysis-Question #2 in the free response section**

- A 50-90 line passage (approx.)
- A prompt that will ask you, the writer, to analyze “rhetorical strategies” (i.e. style)
- A required focus on how these “devices” prove the author’s argument/purpose

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **Argument –Question #3 in the free response section**

- A moral or ethical dilemma that you “theoretically” address and/or solve
  - “Defend, challenge, qualify” the point of view established in the prompt
- Requires you, the writer, to identify evidence from reading, observations, etc.
- Evidence can (i.e. History, Literature, Current Events, etc.)

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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