

Preparing for the AP Exam

Here are various things you can be doing to review for the Final / AP Exam:

- 1) Take two, preferably, three practice exams (there are two full exams in the *Strive for 5* review book with answers)
- 2) Do the Strive for 5 Chapter reviews, Sample problems, crossword puzzles. (answers are in the back)
- 3) Review old chapter tests (they must remain in class)
- 4) Review FRAPPYS!
- 5) Study the **Biggest Idea** flashcards (several times) to help with the major points which you need to remember.
- 6) Read the AP Exam Tips at the end of this packet (several times)
- 7) From our textbook: Read the Chapter Reviews and do the Chapter Review Exercises.
- 8) Khan Academy materials, online quizzes
- 9) Pay for a \$29.99 a Stat Medic AP Exam Review
- 10) Review books (Strive for 5, Barron's, etc)
- 11) Practice *Choosing the right inference procedure* (you may need to install updated Adobe Flash). De-select "Anova"
<http://www.ltcconline.net/greenL/java/Statistics/catStatProb/categorizingStatProblems13.html>
- 12) Finish the Barron's Online Practice Test (Good diagnostic).
<http://www.barronsbooks.com/ap/stats/>

Tips for the AP Statistics Exam

The Multiple Choice Section:

- Worth 50% of your overall grade.
- 40 questions in 90 minutes (there is usually enough time for this section).
- There is no penalty for wrong answers, so ANSWER EVERY QUESTION!
- Generally the questions get harder as you go. Skip tough questions and return to them later.
- Circle answers in booklet in case you have a bubbling error on the scantron.
- Formulas in front of booklet, Tables in back.

The Free Response Section:

- Worth 50% of your overall grade.
- 6 questions in 90 minutes (students often feel rushed on this section).
- Formulas in front of booklet, Tables in back.
- The first 5 questions are shorter and should take 10-15 minutes each.
- The 6th and final question is called the investigative task. It is worth 25% of the free response portion and typically takes longer. The question usually has a “flow” and almost always asks you to do something familiar *and* something new. Don’t save it until the end of the exam, you will be too tired and rushed to think creatively. Keep an open mind and do your best—if it is hard for you, it will be hard for everyone.
- A good strategy is to do question 1, then question 6, then the remaining 4 questions. Read each question first so you can get the big picture and prioritize your time (save hardest items for the end).
- Communication is very important. Don’t use statistical vocabulary unless you use it correctly. Make sure the grader knows what you are doing and why. Define all symbols, draw pictures, etc.
- Never just give a numerical answer.
- If you use calculator commands, clearly label each entry. For inference, make sure to name the procedure!
- Explain your reasoning. When asked to choose between several options, give reasons for your choice AND reasons why you did not choose the others.
- When you are asked to compare two distributions, use explicit comparison phrases such as “greater than” or “approximately the same as.” Lists of characteristics do not count as a comparison.
- Don’t waste time erasing. Cross out wrong answers and draw arrows to help the reader follow your work.
- Don’t give 2 different solutions to a problem. The worst one will be graded.
- Answer all questions in the context of the problem.
- If a question asks you to use results from previous parts, explicitly refer to them in your answer.
- If you cannot get an answer for an early part of a question but need it for a later part, make up a value or carefully explain what you would do if you knew the answer.
- Space on the exam is not suggestive of the desired length of an answer. The best answers are usually quite succinct. There is no need for “extra fluff” on an AP Stats exam.
- Don’t automatically enter data into your calculator. In most cases, you will not need to.
- Use words like “approximately” liberally, especially with the word “Normal.”

Other Stuff:

- Make sure to eat a healthy, typical meal before the test
- Bring a watch to help pace yourself. Bring an extra calculator or extra batteries and an extra pencil.
- Do NOT bring a cell phone (or any other communication device).
- You may not use rulers, white-out or highlighters.
- You may not discuss the multiple choice questions (ever) and may not discuss the free response questions until they are released on AP Central (not all FR questions will be released).
- The AP Exam is harder than a normal classroom test. Scoring at least 40% will almost guarantee a 3 or higher on the exam. Don’t panic if you cannot answer a question or two.