

The Ultimate Guide to AP[®] Exams

1. Organize all your resources.

This is an important step in the process that most students skip. You should take an inventory of all the resources you have.

Make a list. Maybe you have a copy of a textbook, a test prep book, or a box of flashcards. Add to that any study notes from your classes, a copy of a source reader if you have one, and any handouts or outlines or timelines you have, or little color-coded study notes you made in study groups. Add them all to the pile and to your list. Now add all the online resources you have found helpful. Maybe there is a really good YouTube channel or some old history documentaries that have helped you. Add them too.



Resource Inventory	
1.	Textbook
2.	Test prep book
3.	Flashcards
4.	Study notes
5.	YouTube-Tom Richey
6.	Source reader
7.	Handouts
8.	Outlines
9.	Timelines
10.	YouTube-Math Person

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Now take a look at your list. Be honest with yourself. Which of these resources just aren't useful to you? Class notes no good? Cross them off the list. Maybe that YouTube channel is entertaining, but you don't really learn much from the videos. Cross that off your list. Now look at what's left and ask yourself which ones will help you review content the most? Then focus on the best three (or so) resources you have. Maybe it's flashcards, class notes, or a series of documentaries.

Marco Learning also has some **free practice tests** and **study guides** on our website and many videos on our **YouTube channel** to add to your list.



2. Develop a study plan.

AP® exams have undergone a series of dramatic changes and redesigns in recent years. This means you can't necessarily trust every article online or even a test prep book from two years ago.

The history exams, including AP® U.S. History, AP® European History, and AP® World History, are good examples of how test format matters. These exams have become less focused on mastering tons of historical facts, dates, and names and are much more focused on reading primary sources provided to you on the exam. The AP® history exams are basically open-book tests.

At Marco Learning, we have a **number of great articles** that break down the format of several exams.

Week 1

- ☐ Complete all sections of the course *Introduction*: **20 minutes**
- ☐ Complete the multiple-choice questions of Practice Test 1 in one full sitting: **1 hour**
- ☐ Read explanations for multiple-choice questions: **45 minutes**
- ☐ If possible, ask your teacher to grade your essay and review: **30 minutes**
- ☐ Complete all chapters and sections of *Skills in Interpretation*, including drills: **2 hours**

Week 2

- ☐ Complete all available sections of *The Multiple Choice Section* and *The Free Response Section* of the course: **90 minutes**
- ☐ Complete free-response questions of Practice Test 1: **2 hours**

3. Start early!

We have worked with thousands of students, and if there is one thing we know about all of you, it's that you procrastinate until the very last second.



AP® exams are different though. They are supposed to reflect an entire semester or year of college-level work, so you need to start earlier than a few days before the exam!

4. Take full-length practice tests.

One of the most common mistakes students make in test preparation is the failure to practice well. You may know all the presidents and all the facts and all the words, but if you don't perform well on test day, all your hard work will be in vain. You have to be prepared to bring together your knowledge and skills on test day. The best way to do this is to take **full-length practice tests**.

For more on how to incorporate practice tests into your study plan, check out this [article](#) on how to take practice tests effectively.



Practice ^{with feedback} makes perfect.

5. Get your essays graded.

For the majority of AP® exams, the most important section is the free-response section, which can consist of short-answer questions and longer essays.

While it can be useful to look over scoring guidelines, nothing can replace scoring and written feedback from an expert grader. That's why Marco Learning has partnered with expert graders at **The Graide Network** to offer the first ever grading program for AP® students, where you can get your AP® essays graded and returned with comprehensive feedback within a week.



For more about this resource, click [here](#).

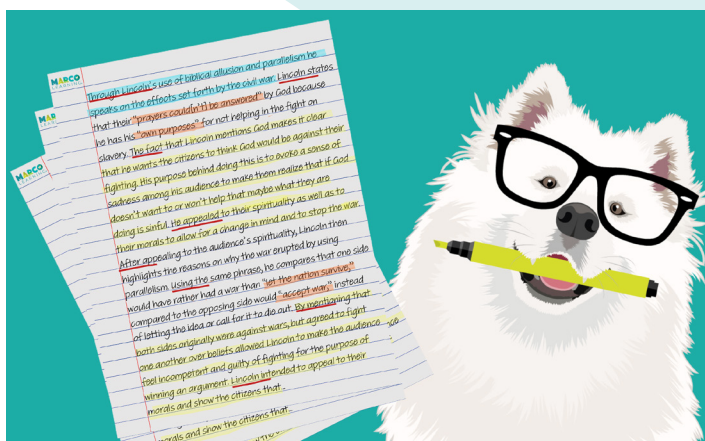
6. Don't go it alone.

Studying for one or more AP® exams by yourself for weeks can be daunting. Students can be overwhelmed by all the nuances of the format and scoring of AP® exams (never mind the challenging nature of the content). This is why a study group or live online study sessions can be so valuable for students.

At Marco Learning, we have **free live online events** so that you can get your questions answered by expert tutors and hear how others in the AP® community are working their way through this process.



7. Prepare for test day.



Checklist

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Notes:

There are specific requirements about what you are allowed to bring to a testing site. See our **Test Day Checklist article** and other **articles** about what you can bring to various AP® exams.

At Marco Learning, we help students prepare for AP® exams. Learn more about how our **video-based courses and essay-grading services** can help you get ready for test day.

Save 10% off your exam prep with promo code ULTIMATE

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