

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP World Languages and Cultures Program

The AP World Languages and Cultures program features eight courses and exams and includes the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish (both Language and Literature).

In today's global community, competence in more than one language is an essential part of communication and cultural understanding. Study of another language not only provides individuals with the ability to express thoughts and ideas for their own purposes, but also provides them with access to perspectives and knowledge that is only available through the language and culture. The proficiencies acquired through the study of languages and literatures give language learners cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that carry over into many other areas of their academic studies. The three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) defined in the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* and described in more detail in the *ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners*, are foundational to the AP World Language and Culture courses.

AP Chinese Language and Culture Course Overview

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course in Mandarin Chinese emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Chinese Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Chinese.

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products, (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisite courses; however students are typically in their fourth year of high school-level study. In the case of native or heritage speakers, there may be a different course of study leading to this course.

World Languages and Cultures Learning Objectives

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency at the Intermediate to Pre-Advanced range in each of the three modes of communication described in the *ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners*.

Students are expected to

- Engage in spoken interpersonal communication;
- Engage in written interpersonal communication;
- Comprehend information from a variety of audio, visual, and audiovisual resources;
- Comprehend information from a variety of written and print resources;
- Plan, produce, and present spoken presentational communications; and
- Plan and produce written presentational communications.

AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam Structure

AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM:
2 HOURS 15 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The exam assesses students' interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication skills in Mandarin Chinese, as well as knowledge of Chinese culture. The exam is administered on a computer. The student reads on the screen, listens through headphones, types using the keyboard, and speaks into a microphone.

Students may choose between traditional or simplified Chinese characters for reading and writing in Chinese. The selected display and input options have no effect on a student's score. All Chinese text displayed on the screen is available in either traditional Chinese characters or simplified Chinese characters. Students have two options for typing Chinese text: Microsoft *Pinyin* IME (MSPY) or Microsoft *New Phonetic* IME.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice | 70 Questions | ~ 90 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Part A: Listening (2 Sections)

- Interpersonal Communication: Rejoinders (10–15 Questions)
- Interpretive Communication: Listening Selections (15–20 Questions)

Part B: Reading Selections (35–40 Questions)

Section II: Free Response | 4 Tasks | ~ 45 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Presentational Writing: Story Narration (1 prompt)
- Interpersonal Writing: Email Response (1 prompt)
- Interpersonal Speaking: Conversation (1 conversation: 6 prompts)
- Presentational Speaking: Cultural Presentation (1 prompt)

EXAM COMPONENTS

Multiple-Choice Section

Part A:

Listening: Interpersonal Communication: Rejoinders

Assesses interpersonal communication skills in the listening modality by requiring students to identify the appropriate continuation of a conversation.

Listening: Interpretive Communication of Audio Resources

Assesses interpretive communication skills by requiring students to answer questions about different types of listening stimuli.

Students respond to questions based on a variety of audio materials, including:

- Announcement
- Conversation
- Instructions
- Message
- Report

Part B:

Reading: Interpretive Communication of Written and Print Resources

Assesses interpretive communication skills by requiring students to read a variety of documents and answer questions about them.

Students respond to questions based on a variety of print texts, including:

- Advertisement
- Article
- Brochure
- Email
- Letter
- Note
- Poster
- Sign
- Story

Free-Response Section

Presentational Writing: Story Narration (15 minutes)

Students narrate the story depicted in a series of pictures.

Interpersonal Writing: Email Response (15 minutes)

Students read and respond to an email message.

Interpersonal Speaking: Simulated Conversation (4 minutes: 20 seconds to respond to each of 6 prompts)

Students participate in a conversation by responding to six prompts.

Presentational Speaking: Cultural Presentation (6 minutes: 4 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes to present)

Students prepare and deliver a presentation to respond to a prompt about the significance of a Chinese cultural practice or product.