

CollegeBoard

AP

# An Introduction to Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses



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# What Are Advanced Placement Courses?



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# The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school.
- Courses reflect what's taught in introductory college courses.
- Students take AP Exams at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.
- Students can typically earn college credit and/or placement into honors or advanced courses when they score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
- AP examinations can be written in English and Spanish.

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# AP Courses

(not all courses are offered in Nova Scotia schools)

- **AP Capstone™**: AP Seminar, AP Research
- **Arts**: Art History, Drawing, Music Theory
- **English**: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences**: European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, World History: Modern
- **Mathematics and Computer Science**: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Statistics
- **Sciences**: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra-Based, Physics 2: Algebra-Based, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C: Mechanics
- **World Languages and Cultures**: Chinese Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture

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# AP Assessment

AP results are based solely on the final AP examination and are scored on a scale of one to five, as follows:

5. Extremely well qualified
4. Well qualified
3. Qualified
2. Possibly Qualified
1. No recommendation

AP examinations are written in English.



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# Benefits of Taking AP

# About the AP Experience

- Research shows that when students are given **access to advanced coursework** opportunities, they:
  - Work harder.
  - Engage more in school.
  - Have fewer absences/suspensions.
  - Graduate at higher rates.

(EdTrust, 2019)

“It’s a good learning experience, no matter what the outcome is.”

— Ny’Asia, AP Student

“The AP credits I received allowed me to skip straight to higher-level, more demanding courses in my major.”

— Tyler V., University of Washington



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# A Head Start in High School

Research consistently shows that AP students are better prepared for college than students who don't take AP. They're more likely to enroll and stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate in four years.



## Get a Taste of College

Get familiar with college-level work—and boost your confidence by tackling it.



## Develop College Skills

Time management, critical thinking, scholarly writing—AP courses help you hone the skills you'll need in college and career.



## Discover Your Passion

Studying a subject in depth could give you new insights and even put you on the path to a career.



## Boost GPA <Include this bullet if applicable>

Our school offers a GPA boost to students who take AP courses and/or exams. This helps students stand out on college applications and stay motivated to take AP courses.

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# An Edge in College

Taking AP courses in high school could give you an advantage in college.



## **Earn College Credit**

Your AP score could earn you college credits before you even set foot on campus.



## **Stand Out to Colleges**

AP on your high school transcript shows colleges you've tackled college-level work.



## **Earn Placement in Advanced or Honors Courses**

Your AP score can let you skip introductory courses in college.



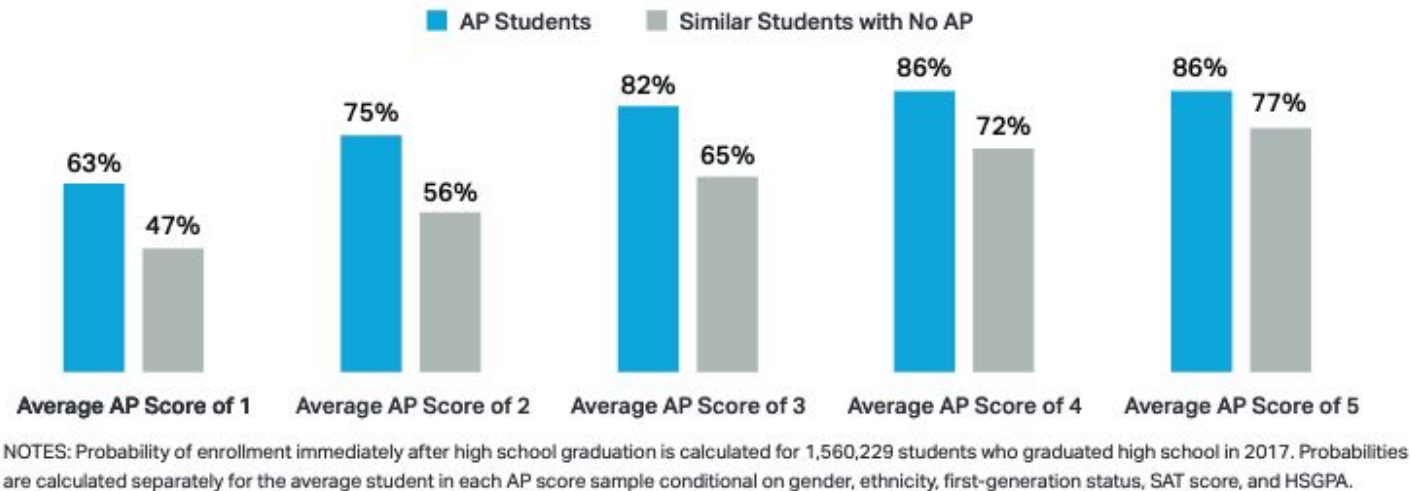
## **Save Money and Time**

Earning credit or placement can free up time on your schedule or even let you graduate early.

# New Findings on the AP Experience

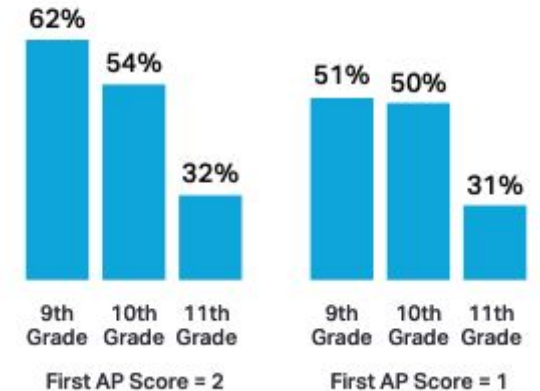
Regardless of the score, completing an AP Exam has benefits.

### FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROBABILITIES, BY AVERAGE AP SCORE



AP students, including those with average scores of 1 or 2, are more likely to enroll in a four-year college compared to academically similar students who did not take AP in high school.

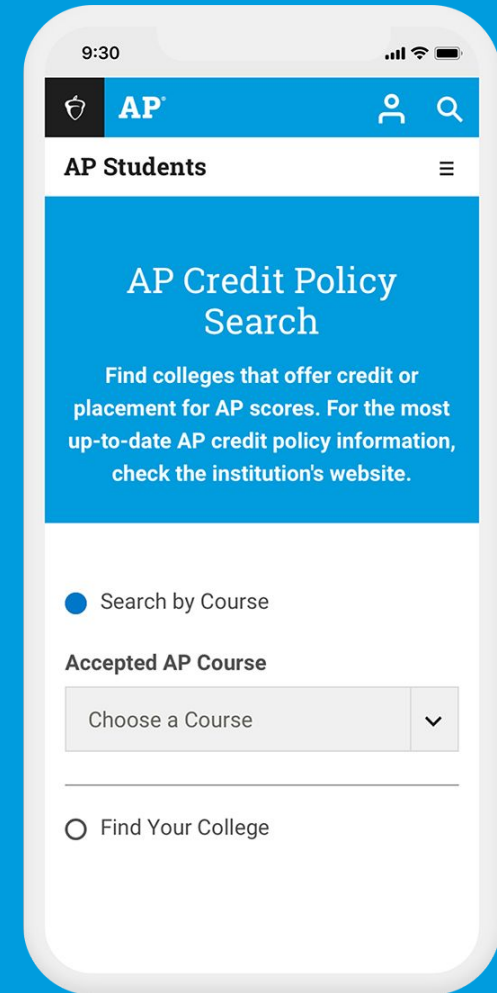
### PERCENTAGE EARNING A HIGHER SCORE ON A SUBSEQUENT AP EXAM



Many students who first earn an AP Exam score of 1 or 2 will then earn a higher score on the subsequent AP Exams they take.

# Credit and Placement Opportunities

- Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP credit and placement.
- Find colleges that grant credit, placement, or both for AP Exam scores at [collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](https://collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)
  - Search by course or college
  - Data for each college includes a direct link to that college's website detailing AP credit and placement policies
  - See each college or university's statement about its AP policy



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# Credit vs. Placement

- Credit
  - Many colleges offer credit for AP scores.
  - Example—a student earns a 4 on their AP Biology Exam, and the college grants 8 credits for that score. That means the student has earned 8 credits before taking their first class there.
- Placement
  - Many colleges recognize that AP scores demonstrate knowledge of material in certain courses and let students skip those courses.
  - These could be introductory courses required in your major, or core courses the college requires all its students to take.
- In some cases, students can get both credit and placement for a qualifying AP score.

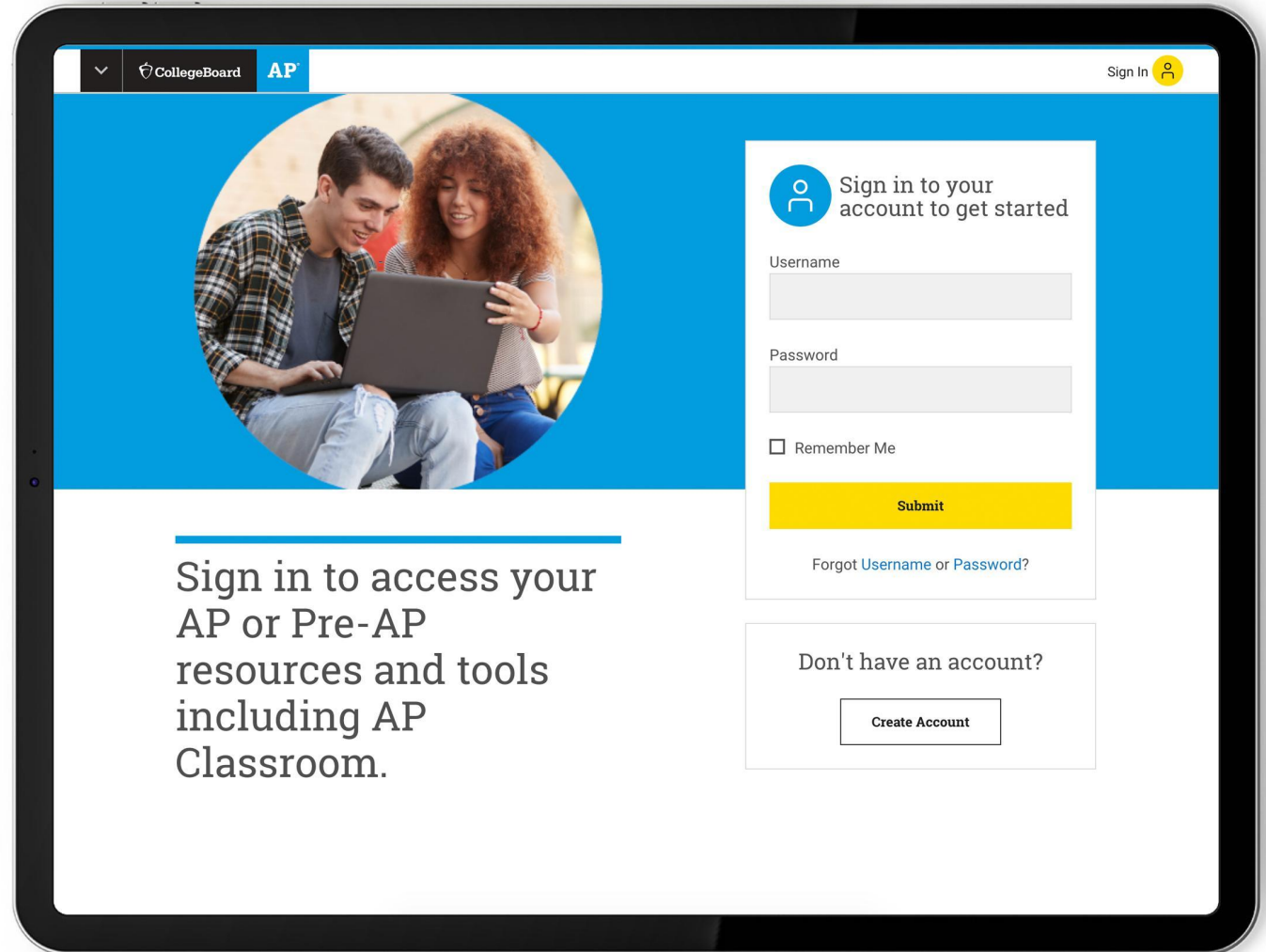


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# Resources and Supports for Student Learning

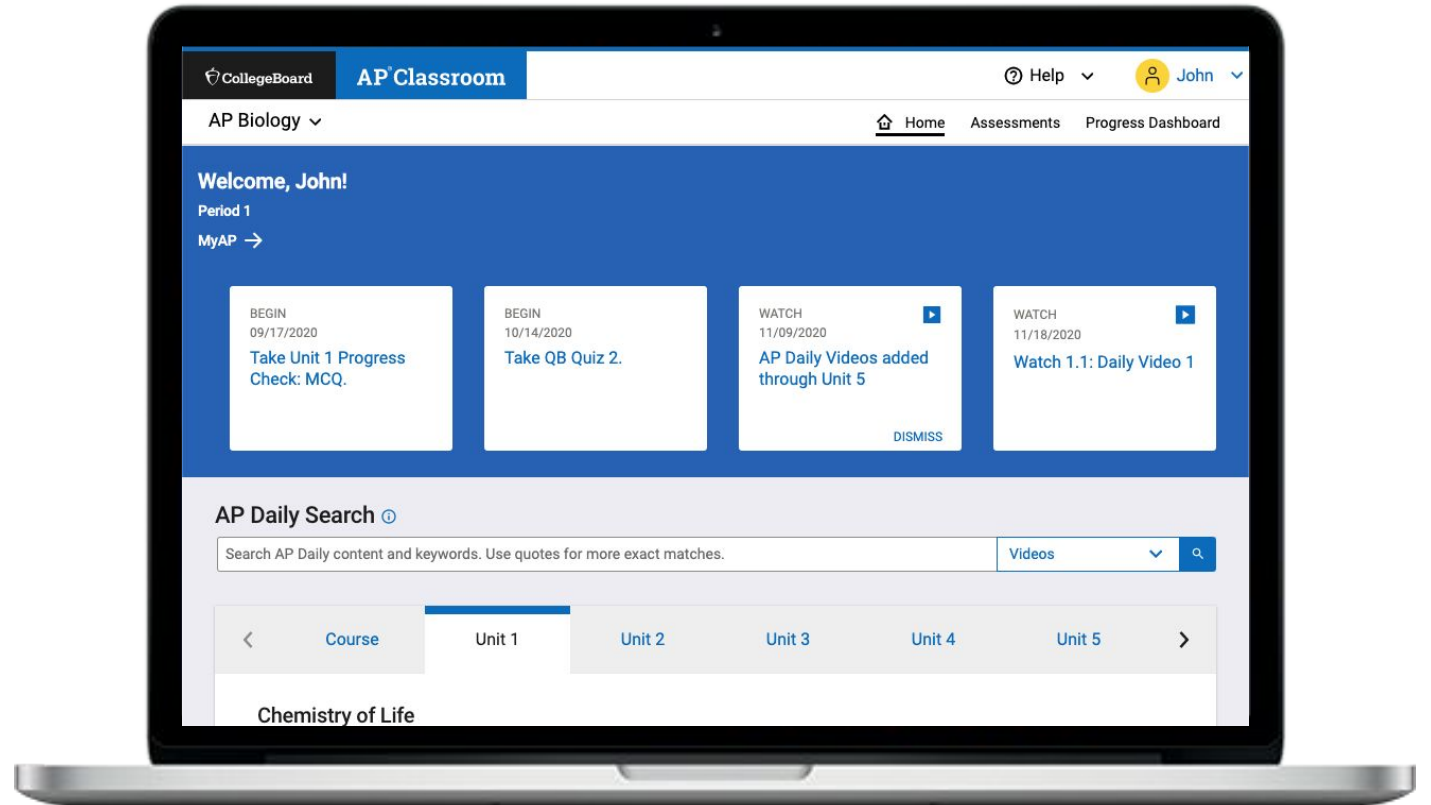
# AP Resources for students

- AP teachers and students have access to an online resource called AP Classroom.
- AP Classroom is an online resource that helps students improve their performance all year long.
- It's mobile friendly, so students can access it anytime, anywhere, once they've joined the class online.
- AP Classroom includes:
  - AP Daily Videos
  - Practice Questions
  - Personal Progress Checks
  - Progress Dashboard



# AP Daily Videos

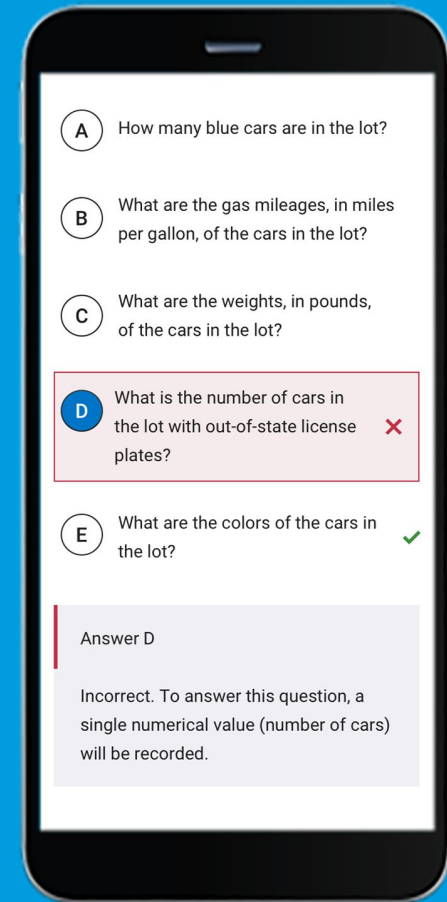
- Short learning videos on every topic in every unit for targeted support to help students build knowledge and skills
- Roughly 8 minutes long
- 2 or 3 videos for every topic and skill pairing within a given unit
- Led by expert AP teachers
- Accessible anytime, anywhere, so students can get answers to questions the moment they have them





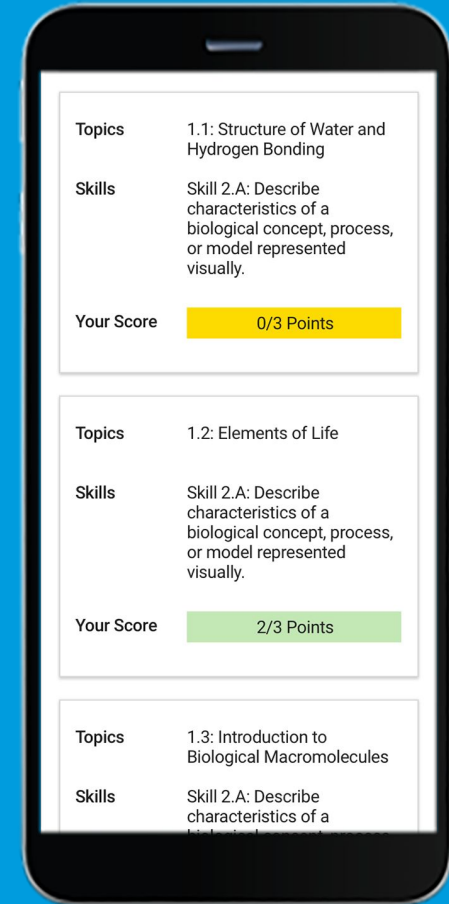
# Topic Questions

- Topic questions provide students with practice applying the content and skills for each topic within a unit.
- Topic questions give teachers and students just-in-time feedback and insights into student misunderstandings.
- Students can complete these quick checks for understanding from their cell phone, a tablet, or computer.
- Responses give students and their teachers insights into how they're progressing in the course.



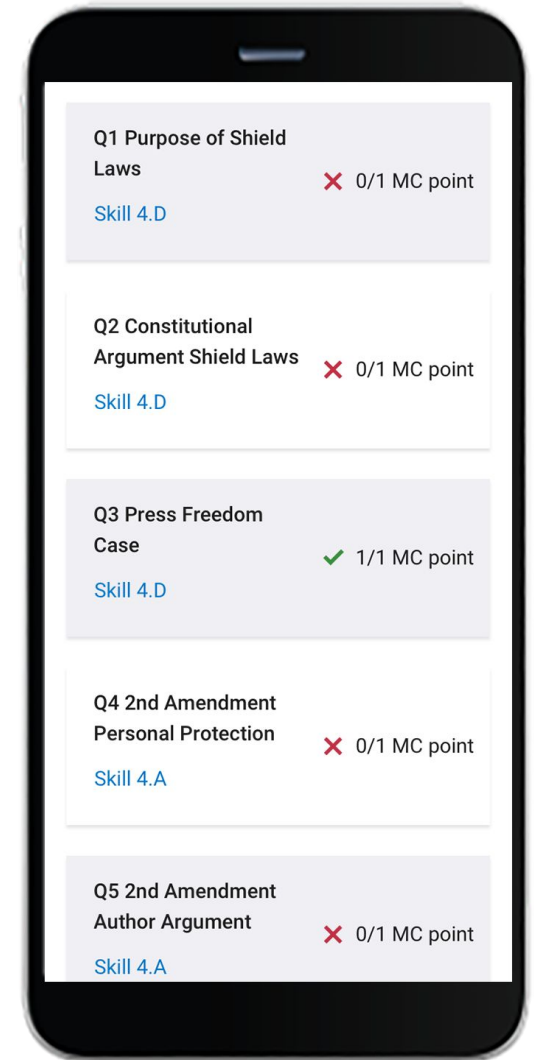
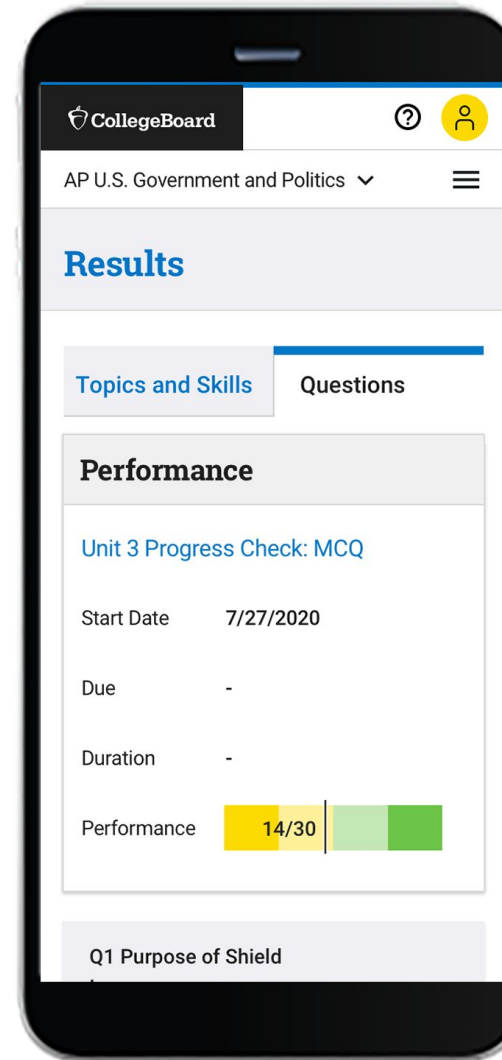
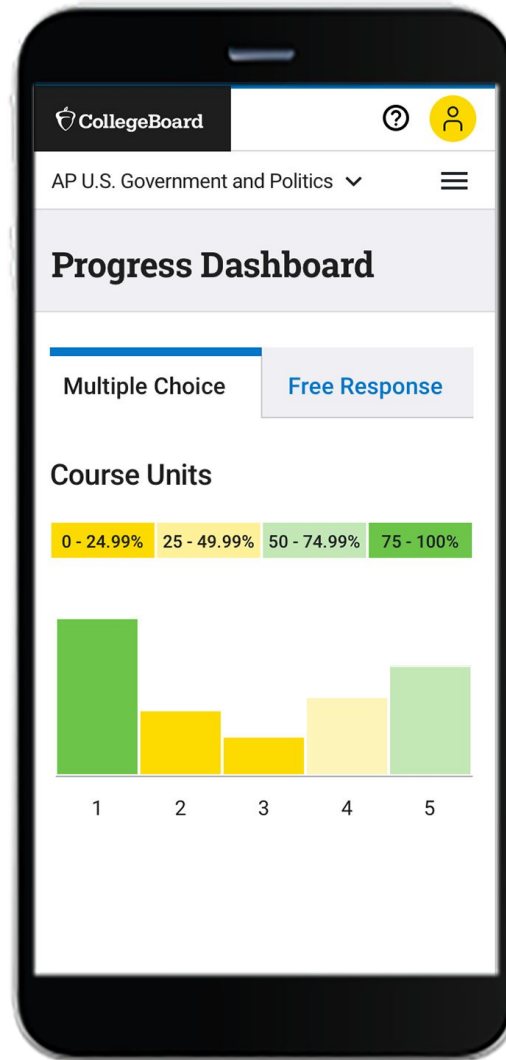
# Personal Progress Checks

- Real-time feedback on the topics and skills in each unit as the teacher unlocks progress checks
- Formative assessments of college-level knowledge and skills designed to:
  - gauge student progress over time
  - highlight areas of strength
  - identify areas students need to work on or get support for
- Personal Progress Checks are assigned at the end of each unit, after students have learned the unit's topics and skills



# Student Progress Dashboard

- Enables students to view their progress unit by unit
- Allows students to celebrate successes and focus on areas of growth





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# AP Exams

# About AP Exams



- Standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course
- Administered by schools worldwide every year in the spring
- Most AP courses have an end-of-year paper and pencil exam, but a few courses have different ways to assess what you've learned—for example, AP Art and Design students submit a portfolio of work for scoring
- Most AP Exams are 2–3 hours long.
  - The first part of the exam usually consists of multiple-choice questions.
  - The second part of the exam usually consists of free-response questions.
- Created and scored by teams of AP teachers and college professors



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# The Reality of AP

# Myths and Facts About AP

**Myth #1 – AP courses are for students who always get good grades.**

**Reality** – You don't need to be top of your class to be an AP student, but you'll want to be prepared for the AP course you choose. AP courses ask that you come willing to do your best work.

**Myth #4 – Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.**

**Reality** – Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.

**Myth #2 – AP courses are too hard and stressful.**

**Reality** – AP classes can be challenging, but that doesn't mean you're not up to the task. If you're willing to work hard and if you're prepared academically, you should be able to succeed in an AP course.

**Myth #5 – I'm not sure AP is for me. How do I know if I'm ready?**

**Reality** – If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself—talk to a teacher or counselor.

**Myth #3 – I don't think I'll score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.**

**Reality** – Many colleges grant credit, placement, or both based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

**Myth #6 – The final step in your AP journey is taking the AP Exam.**

**Reality** – Every year that you take AP Exams, you can send one score report for free to the college, university, or scholarship organization of your choice. Be sure to take this important last step.

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# Next Steps



- Find a school that offers AP courses
- Review AP courses offered by the school
- Decide which AP courses are right for you:
  - What subjects do you enjoy most?
  - Which subjects do you excel in?
  - Have you completed the course prerequisites?
- Talk to your teachers and counselor.
- Talk to other students who have taken AP courses
- Select available AP courses





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Nova Scotia Schools which offer AP courses



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# Nova Scotia Schools which offer AP courses

- [Chignecto Central Region](#)
  - North Nova High School
- [Annapolis Valley Region](#)
  - North East Kings Education Centre
- [Halifax Region](#)
  - Lockview High School
  - Bayview High School
  - J.L. Ilsley High School
  - Dartmouth High School
  - Auburn High School
  - Millwood High School
- [South Shore Region](#)
  - New Germany High School
  - Forest Heights High School