

Teaching AP Classes at Home

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Colleges Want: AP Test Scores

Since homeschoolers often don't have official transcripts when they apply to college, many admissions officers rely on test scores.

Having AP test scores could be a boost to your child's application, since prepping for AP classes at home demonstrates dedication and determination.

Demystifying Advanced Placement

AP is an official, trademarked title.

Anyone can prep for an AP test, no class required.

College Board *wants* students to take AP tests

They make it easy to prepare.

This is something any homeschooler can do!

Advantages of taking AP tests:

- Demonstrates mastery
- Builds academic portfolio
- Offers a clear goal
- Universally recognized accomplishment
- Excellent cost-to-credit ratio
- Accelerates child's capacity
- Prepares for University-level work load
- Simplifies College Admission
- Gives good focus for daily, monthly and weekly plans
- Work is rigorous, but rewarding

Disadvantages of AP tests:

- No flexibility on timing or material
- Colleges vary widely in credit offered (rejected by some)
- Graded on a curve
- Requires coordination to schedule the test

Resources

The College Board wants students to take AP tests and resources are abundantly available.

- Example Syllabus with textbook recommendations
- Other AP Teachers online
- AP Prep Books
- "Summer Reading"
- aphomeschoolers.com
- HomeschoolingInThePresentTense.com

What if I don't personally know the material for the course?

You might feel intimidated and unqualified to teach an AP class.

- Learn along with (or one step ahead of) the student
- Have the student learn independently
- Arrange a professional to be a mentor
- Encourage them to self-study

Registration for AP Exams

- Sign up through your local public school system. Pay the \$94 exam fee directly to the host school.
- Deadline for registration: November 15th (but many schools begin to order exams by the first of October, so it's a good idea to reach out in early September)
- Late registration available for a fee.
- AP tests are offered the first two weeks of May each year.

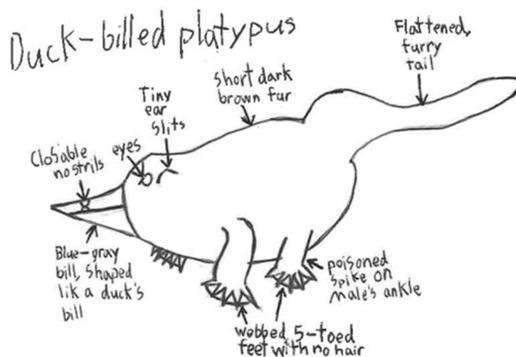
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/exam-calendar>

How do I know if my child is ready for AP tests?

Any high school age student can take an AP test. In some cases, 8th grade students can also qualify to take a test, but your local school district might have restrictions. AP doesn't set out formal age requirements for the exam. However, test scores are only valid for four years. If the student is applying to a university and needs scores more than 4 years old, there is a fee of \$25 per test score.

How Can We Begin?

Outline: "course and exam description"
Develop Personal Accountability Plan



What is stopping you?

- Child doesn't want to learn it
- Child doesn't want to learn it from me (parent-child relationship is strained)
- Child isn't prepared
- Not sure of first step (or second step!)
- Parent doesn't feel qualified
- Parent lacks resources
- Parent lacks motivation
- Parent or Child lacks mentor
- Rebounding from a previous failure
- Lacking social support
- Feeling isolated with the problem

Start with an Overview

Look at the main ideas of the course. What will be the primary topics? What is the structure of the test? What are the essays and multiple choice questions? You can find this information on College Board's site. Also visit the Wikipedia page about the test and look at the score distribution. Some tests have much lower pass rates than others, and some tests have varied a lot through the years. Also, some tests are intended to be covered in only one semester.

Begin with a MOOC

Try a free online course. You might consider taking it quickly. Watch all the videos, but don't let yourself get bogged down. Let it be a "first pass" through the material.

Read for Pleasure

Instead of starting with a textbook, look for books on this topic that people read just for fun. Or, watch a movie about the topic.

Personalize the Timeline

Learn at your own speed. Take two years to finish a course. Or, begin over the summer.

Find Online Videos

Many teachers post tutorials about the material. If you get stuck, you can find answers for specific topic courses on youtube or Stack Overflow.

Keep Going

You will need temerity.
You will need stamina.
You will get tired and despondent.

You are going to want to quit, no matter how much you value the topic now.

Build momentum: make it *easy* to continue.