

AP United States Government and Politics score calculator: the worksheet and the conversion table (May 2027 format)

How the exam is scored

Section	Questions	Time	Share	Points
I: multiple choice	55	1 hour 20 minutes	50%	55, one each, no penalty for wrong answers
II: Concept application				3 points
II: Quantitative analysis				4 points
II: SCOTUS comparison				4 points
II: Argument essay				6 points
II: free response total	4	1 hour 40 minutes	50%	17
Total		3 hours	100%	composite as a percentage

The worksheet

1. Multiple choice correct (out of 55):

2. Line 1 / 55 x 50 = multiple-choice share (%):

3a. Concept application (out of 3):

3b. Quantitative analysis (out of 4):

3c. SCOTUS comparison (out of 4):

3d. Argument essay (out of 6):

4. Free-response total (out of 17):

5. Line 4 / 17 x 50 = free-response share (%):

6. Composite = line 2 + line 5 (%):

The conversion table (estimates; the College Board sets the real cut points after each exam)

AP score	Composite	For example	Means
5	71% and up	39 of 55 multiple choice and 12 of 17 free response	Extremely well qualified
4	59% to 70%	32 of 55 multiple choice and 10 of 17 free response	Well qualified
3	46% to 58%	25 of 55 multiple choice and 8 of 17 free response	Qualified
2	35% to 45%	19 of 55 multiple choice and 6 of 17 free response	Possibly qualified
1	under 35%		No recommendation

Worked example: 41 of 55 multiple choice and free-response scores of 2, 3, 3, 4 (12 of 17) give a composite of 72.6%, a 5 on the table. A composite within three points of a cut is on the line, not over it.

What the scores say, where the points are lost, and the plan

The May 2025 results (College Board)

Score	5	4	3	2	1	3 or higher	Mean
Share of 387,973 students	23.7%	24.8%	23.2%	18.4%	9.9%	71.7%	3.34

What the free-response questions ask

- [] Concept application (3 points): a political scenario; describe and explain how an institution, behaviour or process would respond, then apply a concept to the new situation
- [] Quantitative analysis (4 points): a table, graph, map or infographic; identify a trend, describe a pattern or draw a conclusion, then explain how the data relates to a political principle or process
- [] SCOTUS comparison (4 points): a non-required Supreme Court case described in the question, compared with one of the required cases; identify the shared constitutional clause, explain how the required case's reasoning applies, and describe an interaction with another branch or with the public
- [] Argument essay (6 points): a claim or thesis defended with evidence from at least one of the required foundational documents and a second piece of evidence, with reasoning and a response to an opposing view

Where the points are lost: tick the ones that are yours

- [] The argument essay without a foundational document as evidence, which loses two of the six points at once
- [] 'Describe' answered with a definition and 'explain' answered with a description; the explain points need a because
- [] Quantitative analysis: the trend identified but not connected to the political concept the question names
- [] SCOTUS comparison: the required case named but its holding or reasoning not stated, so the comparison has nothing to compare
- [] Multiple-choice sets: the stimulus skimmed; the questions test what the passage or graph actually says, not the topic in general

From a practice composite to the exam

Practice composite	Likely score now	What moves it most
under 46%	1 or 2	content first: the units with the most multiple-choice misses, then one free-response question a week marked to the scoring guidelines
46% to 58%	3	the free response: every lost point is a specific missing thing on the rubric; fix the pattern, not the question
59% to 70%	4	timing and the hardest question type; a full timed paper every two weeks
71% and up	5	keep it: a timed paper every two weeks and the questions that score under 70 percent

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