

AP English Language and Composition score calculator: the worksheet and the conversion table (May 2027 format)

How the exam is scored

Section	Questions	Time	Share	Points
I: multiple choice	45	1 hour	45%	45, one each, no penalty for wrong answers
II: Synthesis essay				6 points
II: Rhetorical analysis essay				6 points
II: Argument essay				6 points
II: free response total	3	2 hours 15 minutes, including a 15-minute reading period	55%	18
Total		3 hours 15 minutes	100%	composite as a percentage

The worksheet

1. Multiple choice correct (out of 45):

2. Line 1 / 45 x 45 = multiple-choice share (%):

3a. Synthesis essay (out of 6):

3b. Rhetorical analysis essay (out of 6):

3c. Argument essay (out of 6):

4. Free-response total (out of 18):

5. Line 4 / 18 x 55 = 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	72% and up	32 of 45 multiple choice and 13 of 18 free response	Extremely well qualified
4	61% to 71%	27 of 45 multiple choice and 11 of 18 free response	Well qualified
3	48% to 60%	22 of 45 multiple choice and 9 of 18 free response	Qualified
2	36% to 47%	16 of 45 multiple choice and 6 of 18 free response	Possibly qualified
1	under 36%		No recommendation

Worked example: 33 of 45 multiple choice and free-response scores of 4, 4, 4 (12 of 18) give a composite of 69.7%, a 4 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 616,294 students	13.4%	28.0%	32.8%	16.1%	9.7%	74.3%	3.19

What the free-response questions ask

- [] Synthesis: six sources on one topic, including a visual or a table; the essay argues a position and cites at least three of them, with the sources used as evidence for the writer's own line of reasoning rather than summarised
- [] Rhetorical analysis: one nonfiction passage; the essay explains how the writer's choices (diction, structure, appeals, comparison) build the argument for the audience and purpose
- [] Argument: a short prompt, often a quotation; the essay takes a defensible position and supports it with specific evidence from reading, observation or experience

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

- [] Row A: a thesis that restates the prompt or only announces the topic, which scores 0 and usually caps Row B at 2 because there is no line of reasoning to support
- [] Row B: evidence quoted and then left without commentary that says how it supports the claim; the 4 needs consistent, specific commentary on every piece
- [] Synthesis: fewer than three sources cited, or the sources summarised one after another instead of used in an argument
- [] Rhetorical analysis: a list of devices ('the author uses ethos, pathos and logos') with no explanation of what each choice does to the reader
- [] Row C: a 'sophistication' sentence added at the end; the point is for argument that is complex throughout, not a flourish

From a practice composite to the exam

Practice composite	Likely score now	What moves it most
under 48%	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
48% to 60%	3	the free response: every lost point is a specific missing thing on the rubric; fix the pattern, not the question
61% to 71%	4	timing and the hardest question type; a full timed paper every two weeks
72% and up	5	keep it: a timed paper every two weeks and the questions that score under 70 percent

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