

AP English Literature 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	55	1 hour	45%	55, one each, no penalty for wrong answers
II: Poetry analysis essay				6 points
II: Prose fiction analysis essay				6 points
II: Literary argument essay				6 points
II: free response total	3	2 hours	55%	18
Total		3 hours	100%	composite as a percentage

The worksheet

1. Multiple choice correct (out of 55):

2. Line 1 / 55 x 45 = multiple-choice share (%):

3a. Poetry analysis essay (out of 6):

3b. Prose fiction analysis essay (out of 6):

3c. Literary 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	70% and up	38 of 55 multiple choice and 13 of 18 free response	Extremely well qualified
4	58% to 69%	32 of 55 multiple choice and 10 of 18 free response	Well qualified
3	46% to 57%	25 of 55 multiple choice and 8 of 18 free response	Qualified
2	34% to 45%	19 of 55 multiple choice and 6 of 18 free response	Possibly qualified
1	under 34%		No recommendation

Worked example: 41 of 55 multiple choice and free-response scores of 4, 4, 4 (12 of 18) give a composite of 70.2%, 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 416,531 students	16.2%	26.9%	31.0%	15.9%	10.0%	74.2%	3.24

What the free-response questions ask

- [] Poetry analysis: one poem; the essay reads how the poet's choices (imagery, structure, shifts, figurative language) build the speaker's complex attitude or the poem's meaning
- [] Prose fiction analysis: one passage of fiction or drama; the essay explains how the author's choices (narration, characterisation, setting, contrast) convey a complex character or relationship
- [] Literary argument: a concept or element in a work of the student's choice from the list of about 40 or another work of literary merit; the essay argues an interpretation of the whole work, not a summary

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

- [] A thesis that identifies a theme without a claim about how the text builds it, which scores 0 on Row A
- [] Plot summary in place of analysis: the 'evidence' retells what happens; Row B wants the choice the writer made and what it does
- [] Quotations dropped in without commentary, or a device named ('the poet uses enjambment') with no account of its effect
- [] The literary argument essay on a work the student half-remembers, so the evidence is vague and the argument generic
- [] No complexity: the essay argues one simple reading when the passage contains a tension or a shift, which is where Row C is earned

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 57%	3	the free response: every lost point is a specific missing thing on the rubric; fix the pattern, not the question
58% to 69%	4	timing and the hardest question type; a full timed paper every two weeks
70% and up	5	keep it: a timed paper every two weeks and the questions that score under 70 percent

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