

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based score calculator: the worksheet and the conversion table (May 2027 format)

How the exam is scored

Section	Questions	Time	Share	Points
I: multiple choice	42	85 minutes	50%	42, one each, no penalty for wrong answers
II: Mathematical routines				10 points
II: Translation between representations				12 points
II: Experimental design and analysis				10 points
II: Qualitative/quantitative translation				8 points
II: free response total	4	95 minutes	50%	40
Total		3 hours	100%	composite as a percentage

Changed for 2027: For the May 2025 and 2026 exams Section I had 40 questions in 80 minutes and Section II 100 minutes; from May 2027 Section I is 42 questions in 85 minutes and Section II 95 minutes. The four free-response question types and their points are unchanged, so the 2025 and 2026 released questions are exact practice.

The worksheet

1. Multiple choice correct (out of 42):

2. Line 1 / 42 x 50 = multiple-choice share (%):

3a. Mathematical routines (out of 10):

3b. Translation between representations (out of 12):

3c. Experimental design and analysis (out of 10):

3d. Qualitative/quantitative translation (out of 8):

4. Free-response total (out of 40):

5. Line 4 / 40 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	67% and up	28 of 42 multiple choice and 27 of 40 free response	Extremely well qualified
4	53% to 66%	22 of 42 multiple choice and 21 of 40 free response	Well qualified
3	40% to 52%	17 of 42 multiple choice and 16 of 40 free response	Qualified
2	28% to 39%	12 of 42 multiple choice and 11 of 40 free response	Possibly qualified
1	under 28%		No recommendation

Worked example: 31 of 42 multiple choice and free-response scores of 7, 9, 7, 6 (29 of 40) give a composite of 73.2%, 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 174,401 students	19.8%	24.7%	22.9%	13.4%	19.2%	67.3%	3.12

What the free-response questions ask

- [] Mathematical routines (10 points): a multi-step calculation from a scenario, with a derivation in symbols before numbers
- [] Translation between representations (12 points): the same situation in words, a diagram, a graph and an equation; draw the free-body diagram, sketch the graph, write the expression, and say how they agree
- [] Experimental design and analysis (10 points): design a procedure to measure a quantity, list the equipment, say what to graph and how the slope gives the answer, and analyse given data
- [] Qualitative/quantitative translation (8 points): a claim about a physical situation; argue it in words from a principle, then show the equation supports the argument

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

- [] A free-body diagram with a force that does not exist ('the force of motion') or with forces drawn from the wrong point
- [] The derivation skipped: numbers substituted before the symbolic expression is written, so the method points are lost even when the answer is right
- [] Experimental design: a procedure with no stated measurement of one of the variables, or 'repeat and average' as the whole analysis
- [] The paragraph-length argument written as a list of equations, or as a paragraph with no physics principle named
- [] Energy and momentum conservation applied where a non-conservative force or an external force breaks them

From a practice composite to the exam

Practice composite	Likely score now	What moves it most
under 40%	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
40% to 52%	3	the free response: every lost point is a specific missing thing on the rubric; fix the pattern, not the question
53% to 66%	4	timing and the hardest question type; a full timed paper every two weeks
67% and up	5	keep it: a timed paper every two weeks and the questions that score under 70 percent

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