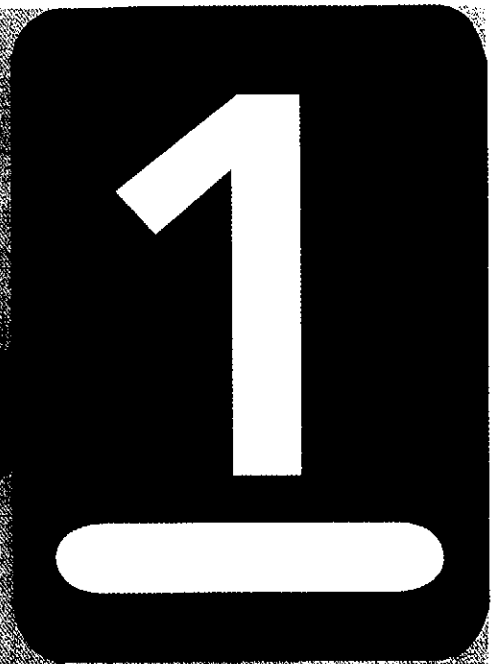


**STEP**

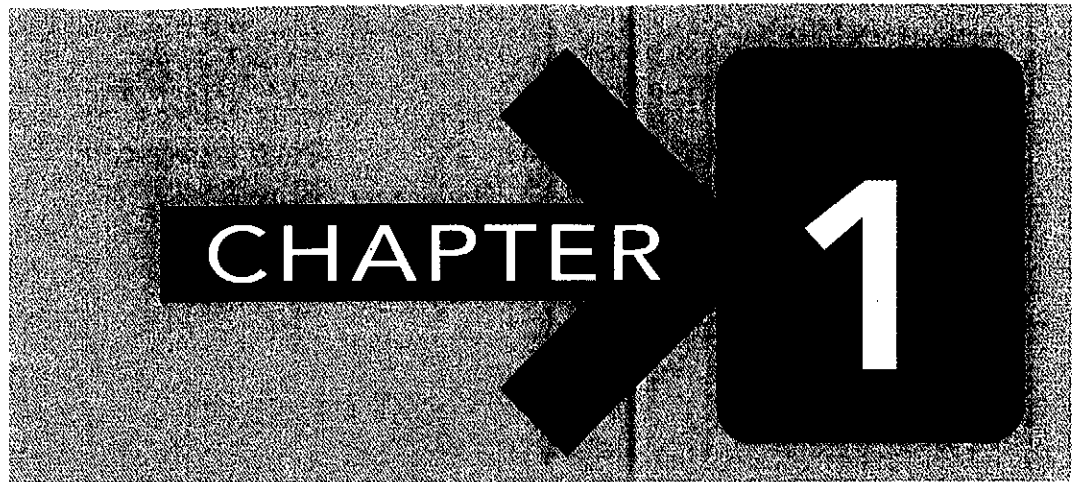


**1**

# Set Up Your Study Program

**CHAPTER 1** What You Need to Know About the AP Human Geography Exam

**CHAPTER 2** How to Plan Your Time



# What You Need to Know About the AP Human Geography Exam

## IN THIS CHAPTER

**Summary:** Learn background information on the AP Human Geography program, the AP Human Geography exam, and how the exam is scored. Learn about the two types of test questions, the topics tested, and test-taking tips.



### Key Ideas

- ❶ Many colleges and universities award credit for exam scores of 3 and above; others give credit only for exam scores of 4 or 5.
- ❷ Multiple-choice questions reflect content areas based on the seven major themes of AP Human Geography.
- ❸ Free-response essay questions require synthesis and application of two or more topics from the seven major themes of AP Human Geography.

## The Basics

### What Is the Advanced Placement Program?

In 1955 the College Board introduced the Advanced Placement program to give high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. The AP program now serves over 2.3 million enterprising high school students. Thirty different AP courses are now offered with AP exams administered every May. The first AP Human Geography exam was given in 2001, and the number of students successfully taking this exam has

exponentially expanded. The AP exam is offered in many subjects in social studies besides human geography, including European history, world history, US history, US government and politics, comparative government, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and psychology.

### Who Writes and Scores the AP Human Geography Exam?

The AP Human Geography exam is written by high school, college, and university instructors who actually teach introductory-level human geography in their schools. A committee called the Test Development Committee meets to select and refine exam questions. The questions are finally field-tested before they are included on the AP Human Geography exam. Multiple-choice questions on the AP Human Geography exam are scored electronically; the free-response questions are scored by a group of high school, college, and university instructors, who meet in a central location in June following the May administration of the exam. Each reader, as these instructors are called, is carefully checked and evaluated during the entire scoring process (called a reading) to ensure accuracy and consistency of scoring. In this way, each AP Human Geography test-taker is guaranteed a fair exam scoring process.

## About the AP Human Geography Exam



KEY IDEA

### What Should You Study for the AP Human Geography Exam?

The exam tests your knowledge of the seven major themes of human geography—(1) geographical concepts and skills, (2) population, (3) culture, (4) the political organization of space, (5) agricultural and rural land use, (6) industrialization and economic development, and (7) cities and urban development. This guide will help you review the main ideas, models, terms, and concepts you will need to know to score well on the exam.

### What Kind of Questions Will You Be Asked on the AP Human Geography Exam?

The exam consists of two sections—multiple-choice and free-response questions (FRQs). There are 75 multiple-choice questions in Section I of the exam and three free-response questions in Section II of the exam. Each of these two sections accounts for half of your exam grade. You should expect to interpret maps, graphs, charts, photographs, and tables on both sections of the exam.

### How Long Do You Have to Answer the Questions?

The exam is timed, and you will be given 60 minutes to answer the 75 multiple-choice questions in Section I and 75 minutes to answer the three free-response questions in Section II. There will be a 5-minute break between exam sections. In Chapters 3 and 4 of this book, you'll find some tips on how to pace yourself on both sections so you have enough time to attempt all the questions.

### What Should You Study for the Exam?

The test questions will be divided among the different topics in the following percentages:

Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives	5–10 percent
Population	13–17 percent
Cultural Patterns and Processes	13–17 percent
Political Organization of Space	13–17 percent
Agriculture and Land Use	13–17 percent
Industrialization and Economic Development	13–17 percent
Cities and Urban Land Use	13–17 percent

## How Is the Exam Scored?

### Multiple-Choice Section

There are 75 multiple-choice questions on the first section of the exam. Beginning with the 2011 AP Human Geography exam, your score is based on the total number of multiple-choice questions you answer correctly. That means that you should definitely take a guess and try not to leave any answers blank! Your goal is to get as many correct answers as possible. There is no longer any penalty for guessing as was the case in previous years. Try to get at least 50 of the 75 multiple-choice answers correct—that will help give you a score of 4 or 5 on the exam.

### Free-Response Questions

The three free-response essay questions on the exam will be worth from 6 to 12 points each. You will not know how many points each question is worth, however. Your goal is to *read very carefully* each word in each sentence of the questions and answer the questions completely and in detail. When the essays are scored, the readers will look for specific concepts, explanations, and descriptions in your answer. If you do not give the correct information, you will not receive points. If you give the correct information in excellent detail, you will receive the maximum points allowed for that part of the essay question. A “somewhat correct but not quite complete” response will earn you a smaller number of points. The reader grading your exam will add up your points. The total points you earned on all three essays need to add up to at least 60 percent of the total available points for you to earn a 4 or a 5 on the overall exam.

## What Does Your Exam Score Mean?

The results of both multiple-choice section and the free-response section are combined and the total raw score is converted to a composite score from 1 to 5 on the Advanced Placement 5-point scale below. When you receive your exam score in early July, it will be a number from 1 to 5. These scores mean:

- 5—Extremely well qualified
- 4—Well qualified
- 3—Qualified
- 2—Possibly qualified
- 1—No recommendation

## How Do You Get Credit at a College for a Good Score?

Check with the admissions offices of the colleges and universities you are interested in attending and ask for their policy regarding awarding of credit for the AP Human Geography exam. Most colleges also post this information on their Web sites. The chances are very good that a score of 4 or 5 will provide either introductory geography or general education credit and save you the time and expense of taking those credits at a much higher cost! Your freshman year will be very busy, and you will want to save your time for classes that are in your major course of study. If you earned a score of 3 on the exam, do not despair! Many schools also give credit for a 3 so be sure and check! Even if you don't earn credit, the experience of doing college-level work while still in high school is very valuable. It helps freshman students adjust more quickly to the increased rigors of a heavier college course load.

### How Do You Register for the Exam?

Your high school will register you and administer the exam. Check with your AP Human Geography teacher or guidance counselor to make sure you are registered to take it in May.

If you are being homeschooled, you will need to find a local high school that is willing to proctor the exam for you. Your parents will need to contact the local school guidance counselor or principal and make the necessary arrangements. Do this early—preferably in January, so you do not miss the sign-up deadline in March. The high school does *not* have to actually teach AP Human Geography in order to allow you to take the exam there. Anyone who administers *any* AP exam at the school can proctor it for you!

### What Is the Cost to Take the Exam?

The cost of the 2011 AP exam is \$87; the fee usually increases a little each year. Pay the fee when you register to take the exam. If you live in Florida or Texas, your school will cover the cost of the exam for you. Other states and school districts may also offer assistance with fees, so please ask! If needed, ask your school guidance counselor if there is financial assistance available to help you pay for the exam.

### What Should You Bring to the Exam?

You should bring the following items:

1. Number-two pencils—several sharp ones to fill in the multiple-choice bubbles on the score sheet.
2. An eraser.
3. Pens (blue or black ink only) for the free-response essay section. They do not smear like pencils. Do not use gel pens, as they smear.
4. Bring a watch so you can plan your exam time in case there is no wall clock in the exam room. No beeper alarms are permitted, however!
5. Bring a government-issued or school ID and your social security number for exam entrance and registration purposes.
6. Bring a warm garment such as sweatshirt or sweater in case the exam room is chilly.
7. Bring a snack, bottle of water, and required medications. You will have a short 5-minute break.

These items cannot be brought to the exam:

1. Cell phones or any electronic device (unless approved for exam-taking purposes).
2. Books, highlighters, rulers, correction fluid, or any other office supplies.
3. Calculators.
4. Portable music players and devices.
5. Timers or other devices that beep.

### When Will You Get Your Score?

In early July, your exam score will be mailed to you, your school, and the college(s) you selected. You can call 1-888-308-0013 in late June and receive your score early for a small fee if you just cannot wait! If you call, you will need to provide your social security number and AP number.

## **How Can You Get in Touch with the Advanced Placement Program?**

If you would like additional information on AP Human Geography or want to register for the exam, contact:

AP Services

Educational Testing Service

P.O. Box 6671

Princeton, NJ 08541-6671

Phone: (609) 771-7300 *or* (877) 274-6474

E-mail: [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org)

Web site: [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html)

*or* [www.apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.com).

# CHAPTER

# 2

## How to Plan Your Time

### IN THIS CHAPTER

**Summary:** Your review for the AP Human Geography exam depends on your study habits and how much time you have to review before the exam.

#### KEY IDEA

#### Key Idea

✦ Choose the study plan that is best suited to your needs!

### Three Approaches to Preparing for the AP Human Geography Exam

The type of exam-review program you choose to use is up to you. No one knows you better than you! Think about how you study, how much time you have to review for the exam, and what you like and dislike doing. Look over the following three study plans and find the one that will suit your study habits and time frame best. Don't hesitate to adapt any of these plans specifically to your needs.

**You're a full-school-year prep student if:**

1. You really love human geography.
2. You plan to major in geography in college.
3. You like to get things done and never put off doing your work.
4. You make an outline, a to-do list, or a schedule to plan your work.
5. You must be prepared for this exam—it is imperative!
6. You totally agree that “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail!”

If this is you, choose **Plan A!**

**You're a one-semester prep student if:**

1. Human geography is kind of interesting to you.
2. Most of the time you plan your work in advance.
3. You like to know what to expect, but don't get too shook up by surprises.
4. You are never late for appointments.
5. You want to do well on the test but feel that starting to review too early wouldn't help you much. At the same time, you don't like to leave things to the last minute.

If this fits you, consider **Plan B.**

**You're a six-week prep student if:**

1. Human geography interests you a bit.
2. You thrive on tight deadlines.
3. You work well under pressure.
4. You feel adequately prepared already for the exam.
5. You don't mind surprises and don't feel a lot of pressure to do well on the test.
6. This planning approach has worked for you well in the past.

If this planning approach describes you, consider **Plan C.**

Check out the following calendars for plans A, B, and C. One of these plans will fit your time frame and learning style. Once you choose a review plan, commit to it and follow through!



## Plan A: You Have a Year to Review

Check off the activities as you complete them.

### SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

- Decide which review plan you need.
- Read Chapter 1 of this book.
- Check out the diagnostic test in Chapter 3 to get a feel for what is expected of you on the AP Human Geography exam.
- Go to the College Board's AP Web site. Check it out and become informed.
- Begin to study the Step Four section of this guide.
- Read some of the books on the suggested reading list in the back of this guide.
- Familiarize yourself with this book as a resource to prepare for the exam.

### NOVEMBER

- Read Chapter 5 of this guide to begin to prepare for the free-response questions on the AP Human Geography exam.
- Keep reading the books on the suggested reading list at the back of this guide.
- Read and study the human geography review sections of this book that match the subjects you are studying in your AP class.
- Learn and review maps and locations using the review games and activities in the list at the back of this guide.

### DECEMBER

- Review the human geography sections in this guide that match what you have already covered in class.
- Keep reading the suggested books on the reading list for valuable background information for the exam.
- Keep practicing map interpretation skills using the Web sites and review activities listed at the back of this guide.

### JANUARY

- Choose two essay questions at the end of each chapter in your AP Human Geography textbook that you have covered so far this year. Close your book and give yourself 20 minutes to write accurate and thorough short essays to answer the questions.
- Join a study group of fellow students to review for the AP exam (or start such a group yourself!).
- Keep reading books and magazines about the world and human geography.

- Study the sections in this guide that correspond to the material you are currently covering in class.
- Spend an hour or two each week practicing map interpretation and review games and activities.

### FEBRUARY–MARCH

- Write essays for the free-response questions from the diagnostic test in Chapter 3.
- Continue reviewing content from Chapters 6 through 12 in this book.
- Read Chapter 4 on the multiple-choice section.
- Take the multiple-choice section in the diagnostic test.
- Review the list of models and their creators at the back of this guide.

### APRIL

- Take Practice Test 1 (Chapter 13) in the first week of April.
- Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. What topics are you unclear about? What don't you really understand?
- Go back and study the chapters with topics you didn't completely understand to improve your knowledge.
- Review the key terms for Chapters 6 through 12 in this guide to review key concepts, theories, and content.
- Scan the glossary at the back of this guide. Make sure you understand and can use each term correctly.

### FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY—YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

- List concepts, theories, and terms you are unsure of and ask your teacher to explain them.
- Take Practice Test 2 (Chapter 14).
- How did you do? Where is there room for improvement? What concepts are still unclear?
- Review concepts, etc. in your book and in this guide that are still unclear to you.
- On the day before the exam, stop reviewing and do something fun! Of course, go to bed early and try to get a good night's sleep.
- Walk into the examination room with a confident smile on your face! You *will* do well! You had a plan, and you followed it.

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## Plan B: You Have One Semester to Review

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Check off the activities as you complete them.

### JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Read Chapters 1, 4, and 5 of this guide very carefully.
- Take the diagnostic test.
- Read and study the parts of this review guide that relate to material you have already covered in class.
- Read one or two books from the suggested reading list at the back of this guide.
- Go to at least one of the Web sites suggested for map review in this guide. Spend an hour or two each week playing map interpretation and review games and activities.

### MARCH

- Review the human geography content sections in this guide that cover the material you have already studied in class.
- Ask your fellow students to form a study group with you to review for the exam. Meet weekly or at least twice a month.
- In your study group, practice writing essays to respond to the free-response questions on the AP Human Geography exam.

### APRIL

- Take Practice Test 1 (Chapter 13) during the first week of April.
- Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. What do you know well? What was unclear?

- Study the concepts and content areas in which you need more knowledge.
- Review the key terms in each chapter of this guide to review.

### FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY—YOU'RE PRACTICALLY DONE!

- Ask your teacher for explanations of any concepts or models that you are still unclear on.
- Review the concepts, vocabulary, models, etc., in your book and in this guide that are still unclear to you.
- Take Practice Test 2 (Chapter 14).
- Score your answers and find where you made mistakes. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. What topics are you unclear about? What don't you really understand?
- On the day before the exam, stop reviewing and do something fun! Of course, go to bed early and try to get a good night's sleep.
- Walk into the examination room with a confident smile on your face! You *will* do well! You had a plan, and you followed it.

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## Plan C: You Have Six Weeks to Review

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Check off the activities as you complete them.

### APRIL

- Read Chapters 1, 4, and 5 of this guide.
- Take the diagnostic test (Chapter 3).
- Review areas you are weak in.
- Read *all* the human geography review chapters in this guide (Chapters 6 through 12).
- Take Practice Test 1 (Chapter 13).
- Score your exam and analyze your mistakes.
- Form a weekly review group with your friends.
- Review the glossary and make sure you understand all the terms.

### MAY

- Complete Practice Test 2 (Chapter 14).
- Score your exam and analyze your mistakes.

- Read any remaining human geography review chapters in this guide that you have not covered.
- Review Step Three (Chapters 4 and 5) regarding strategies for multiple-choice and free-response essay questions.
- Go to at least one of the Web sites suggested for map review in this guide. Spend an hour or two each week playing map interpretation and review games and activities.
- On the day before the exam, stop reviewing and do something fun! Go to bed early!
- Walk into the examination room with a confident smile on your face! You *will* do well! You had a plan, and you followed it.