AP Human Geography Exam Information

**Part I: Multiple Choice (50%)**

60 minutes

75 questions

**Part II: Free-Response (50%)**

75 minutes

3 questions

\*There is no Document-Based Question (DBQ) on the AP Human Geography Exam.

As for all AP courses, students receive a final grade of 1 – 5 on the APHG Exam.

5 Extremely well qualified

4 Well qualified

3 Qualified (passing)

 2 Possibly qualified

1 No recommendation

**Multiple Choice Information:**

* Read the question slowly. Every word in the stem is important. Skipping one word could change the question’s intent and meaning completely. Underlining or circling key words may be helpful.
* Eliminate bad choices. Read through all of the answers and cross off the ones that are sure to be incorrect. Go through all of the choices before determining an answer.
* To guess or not to guess. Scoring on the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam is probably different than it is in the classroom. Answering a question correctly gives you one point. If you answer a question incorrectly, you lose one-fourth of a point. Leaving the question blank results in no points gained or lost. If you have eliminated two or three of the choices, then it is a good idea for them to try to answer the question; statistically speaking, they have a better chance of getting the answer correct.
* Skipping questions. Sometimes students are stumped by a question or know that if they had some extra time they could work through the correct response. In this situation, skip the question, mark it with a dash or a circle and return to it after answering the rest of the questions.
* Think critically, think geographically. This is an AP Human Geography Exam. The questions test your knowledge of geography. Apply geographic concepts when answering questions, to ask, “What is the geographic reasoning behind this question?” At the beginning of the school year, this is might be difficult for you to do; but as you start to understand the concepts, you will start to think more critically, more geographically.
* No. 2 pencil. Make sure you have several number two pencils for the exam. Try to get them in the habit of remembering to do this for your exams during the year.

**Free Response Information:**

* This is not an essay. Many students are under the false impression that they must write an introduction, body, and conclusion. *This is not true!* There is no need to restate the question. There is no need for an introduction. Students need to read the question and to proceed directly to answering all of its parts.
* Each question has a multiple-step format. Most free-response questions are in a multiple- step format with parts (a), (b), (c), and so on. When students are attempting to answer part (a), have them write *A* in the exam booklet and proceed to answer the question. When students have moved on to part (b), tell them to follow the same procedure. To make it easy for the AP Readers, skipping a line in between parts is acceptable. Some students have also been taught to reserve one page in the exam booklet for one part of a question. Again, this is an acceptable strategy so long as students have clearly marked which question and part they are answering.
* Read completely and prepare before writing. Many teenagers like to rush into writing without thinking things through completely. This tendency toward haste is only exacerbated when the pressure of time is added to the equation.
* Read all three questions first. Take 15 minutes to read through each of the questions, underline the key words, and prepare a basic outline or jot down main ideas for each question before you start writing. By spending time in the beginning with all of the questions, you will be able to transition more easily as they finish writing one question and begin another. Also, if you run out of time, you can at least jot down your notes from the beginning. Finally, this prepares you to think about the question on which you may need to spend more time. Some questions have visual prompts: maps, charts, or photographs.
* Underline key words. As you are dissecting a question, identify the most important word(s) in the question. Be alert for the following words and phrases:

• Numbers: “Identify THREE things”

• Geographic Regions: “In SOUTHEAST ASIA”

• Action Verbs: “Briefly IDENTIFY” or “DESCRIBE using two examples”

* Use a pen – blue or black ink only.
* Write legibly. If the grader can’t read it, it is wrong.