AP Chemistry: For the May 2015 Exam Administration and Beyond

Exam Content

The AP Chemistry Exam consists of two sections: multiple choice and free response. Both sections include questions that assess the students' understanding of the big ideas, enduring understandings, and essential knowledge, and how they can be applied through the science practices (see Course and Exam Description for more details). These may include questions on the use of modeling to explain chemistry principles, the use of mathematical processes to explain concepts, making predictions and justifying phenomena, experimental design, and manipulation and interpretation of data.

The exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and includes both a 90-minute multiple-choice section and a 105-minute free-response section. The multiple-choice section accounts for half of each student's exam grade, and the free-response section accounts for the other half.

You will be allowed to use a scientific calculator on the entire free-response section of the exam. Additionally, you will be supplied with a periodic table of the elements and a formula and constants chart to use on both the multiple-choice and free-response sections.

Section I: Multiple-Choice Section

Section I consists of 60 multiple-choice questions, either as discrete questions or question sets, that represent the knowledge and science practices outlined in the *AP Chemistry Curriculum Framework*, which students should understand and be able to apply. Question sets are a new type of question: They provide a stimulus or a set of data and a series of related questions.

Section II: Free-Response Section

Section II contains two types of free-response questions (short and long), and each student will have a total of 105 minutes to complete all of the questions. This section also contains questions pertaining to experimental design, analysis of authentic lab data and observations to identify patterns or explain phenomena, creating or analyzing atomic and molecular views to explain observations, articulating and then translating between representations, and following a logical/analytical pathway to solve a problem.

Beginning with the May 2014 administration of the AP Chemistry Exam, multiple-choice questions will contain four answer options, rather than five. This change will save students valuable time without altering the rigor of the exam in any way. A student's total score on the multiple choice section is based on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions.

AP Chemistry Exam Format

Section I		
Question Type	**Number of Questions**	**Timing**
Multiple Choice	60 (only 50 counted), 1 pt each	90 minutes
Section II		
Long Free Response	3, 10 pts each	105 minutes
Short Free Response	4, 4 pts each	

NOTE that a scaling factor (x 1.087) is applied to the points on the free response, so that each section of the test is worth 50 points, for a total of 100 points.

On the Free Response, you will find the following question types:

- Experimental design
- Analysis of authentic lab data and observations to identify patterns or explain phenomena
- Creating or analyzing atomic and molecular views to explain observations
- Articulating and then translating between representations
- Following a logical/analytical pathway to solve a problem