



Writing a Free Response Essay For the APES Exam

APES Exam format and pacing

100 multiple choice questions (90minutes)
4 free response questions (90 minutes)
 2-synthesis and evaluation
 1 document based question
 1 data set question

54 seconds
per multiple choice question

22 minutes
per free response question

What is a Free Response?

- A “Free Response” is a scientific essay that addresses a very specific and scientific topic.
 - Each essay will have 4-6 points to address
 - Each essay is worth a total of 10 points each
 - Questions will be:
 - 1 - based on an article
 - 2 - synthesis...explaining or combining knowledge from various concepts
 - 1 - data or math based

You don't need to ACE this part of the test...earn as many points as you can.

AP Environmental Science
2008 Free-Response Questions Scoring Statistics

Question	Mean	Number of Points Possible
1	4.10	10
2	2.26	10
3	4.60	10
4	5.81	10

Read the Question First

- Read the question thoroughly before you begin to write. The question components may be related

Review of Commands

- **Compare**

- Point out similarities, to examine 2 or more objects and consider the likenesses.

- **Contrast**

- Point out differences, to examine 2 or more objects and consider the differences

- **List**

- Short concise sentences

- **Explain**

- Tell how to do, tell the meaning or, or why...give reasons for

- **Describe**

- 2 -3 sentences with vocabulary and examples

- **Discuss**

- To consider from various points of view...show your reasoning

- **Define**

- Give a meaning for a word or phrase

Free Response is a different kind of question

- Do NOT write a free response like you would an english or history paper.
 - APES Free Responses are scientific.
 - State a fact, support it with evidence and connect all the dots.
 - Remember the 3 “E’s”
 - EXPLAIN
 - ELABORATE
 - EXAMPLES

Identify key words

- This will help you focus on the main idea of challenging questions.
- If you do not know the definition of a word, use your context clues and root words to determine the most likely definition.
 - Ex.hydro- means water

Essay Grading

- Each essay that you write has a rubric to follow.
 - Each FRQ is worth 10 points
 - Try to determine how many points each section is worth out of the 10 total points.
 - Try to earn as many of those points as you can.

Organize your thoughts before you write

- Spend some time organizing your responses to short-answer and essay questions. You'll reduce the time you need to revise.
- In the margin of the question, jot down the first ideas that come to you.
 - Answers to essay questions are only graded if they are within the space provided. You will NOT get credit for any answer that isn't on your response page

Outline your response

- You do not have time for a full outline. Organize your thoughts and jot down key phrases or terms you will need to include.
 - Do not write out a full outline.
 - Your essay does NOT need an introduction statement, body and conclusion statement.

Answer each section of the question in order and clearly label the section.

- Each question will have multiple parts. Separate each section with a new paragraph. Label each section or separate each section with a space.
 - You cannot answer a question by referring to an earlier response
- Do the easiest one first so as not run short on time, and to answer whatever you can on all questions.

Do NOT restate the question.

- The question is very clearly written. You are simply giving a response to the question. Answer the question as if you were having a conversation with someone about the subject matter.
- Restating the question wastes time.

Write legibly!

- If the reader cannot read your handwriting, you cannot be awarded points. Even if you had a perfect response!
- Write in black ink. This is a college board requirement.
- If you wrote something that you need to change, simply mark through it with a pen. You are not graded on neatness.
- It is recommended that you skip a few lines between responses to allow room to add info later if you think of it/have time.

Use complete sentences!!!

- The directions on the FRQ portion of the AP exam tells you to “write in prose” which means complete sentences.
- If you do not write in complete sentences, your responses will NOT be graded. Bullet points are NOT complete sentences.

Fully explain

- Leave nothing to the readers imagination (pretend that you are teaching your parents to use their cell phones- assume they know nothing).
- Don't be afraid to state the simple and obvious. You get credit for knowing that stuff too. 😊

Connect the Dots!

- You must connect the action with the reaction in a logical sequence.
 - Action → Reaction or Affect → Effect
- Fill in the blanks for these scenarios:
 - Officer Hilbish came into the room . . . Three students got into his police cruiser.
 - I ordered a steak for dinner . . . The mean global temperature raised 1°C in 2009.

Use all of the time you're given

- If you finish early, don't stop.
- Use the extra time to proofread and edit your answers.
 - You will be given 22 minutes for each essay.

The Math component

- Show **all** your work; partial credit is given for partial solutions to problems.
- You will be awarded points for the correct answer and a logical approach.
 - If the answer is not correct, you are not likely to receive credit for correct thinking if the person scoring the examination does not see evidence of this process on paper.
 - If you do work that you think is incorrect, simply put an "X" through it, instead of spending time erasing it completely

A number is meaningless . . .

- Remember ALL of your units. A number is meaningless without the units.
- When you are setting up the problem and especially in your answer, carry all of the units.

GOOD LUCK!!

**Nothing is cooler
than APES!**

