

AP Environmental Science: Updates for 2019-20

- To bring you and your students new classroom resources and supports, we're making updates to AP[®] Environmental Science for the 2019-20 school year.
- These updates will give you a clearer sense of the content and skills that will be tested on the AP Exam. They'll also ensure that the exam format remains consistent from year to year.
- You won't need to update your syllabus in the AP Course Audit. You'll simply need to acknowledge the updates on your AP Course Audit form.
- Starting in August, you'll need to complete a simple digital activation process to access the new resources and help your students register for their exams.

Course Updates

AP Environmental Science has been updated for the 2019-20 school year to make things clearer for you and your students, reduce scope, and better align with college-level expectations.

Course and exam information is now clearly presented in a course and exam description (CED).

- Currently, a course description booklet—a very general overview of course content, with a topic outline—is available to help you plan your instruction.
- Starting in late May 2019, you'll have access to a **course and exam description (CED)** that clearly outlines all required course content and defines how that content will be assessed on the exam.

The CED organizes the course into nine commonly taught units.

- This series of units represents a sequence that is found in widely adopted college textbooks and that many AP Environmental Science teachers have told us they follow:
 - ♦ **Unit 1:** The Living World: Ecosystems
 - ♦ **Unit 2:** The Living World: Biodiversity
 - ♦ **Unit 3:** Populations
 - ♦ **Unit 4:** Earth Systems and Resources
 - ♦ **Unit 5:** Land and Water Use
 - ♦ **Unit 6:** Energy Resources and Consumption
 - ♦ **Unit 7:** Atmospheric Pollution
 - ♦ **Unit 8:** Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution
 - ♦ **Unit 9:** Global Change
- By organizing the course content and skills into units, we're able to give you and your students free formative assessments—personal progress checks—that you can assign throughout the year to measure student progress.

- We want to respect your time and expertise by providing a road map you can modify and adapt to your local priorities and preferences. You can choose to follow this suggestion for how content can be sequenced and paced. As always, you'll have the flexibility to organize the course content as you like.

The CED defines specific learning objectives and skills for students.

- Now, specific learning objectives are included in the course framework so that it's clear for you and your students exactly what they should be able to do.

- Each learning objective is clearly connected to specific course content in the form of essential knowledge statements. With this kind of specificity, you and your students will know **how** that content will be assessed on the AP Exam.
- The framework also outlines specific science practices that AP Environmental Science students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think and act like environmental scientists. For example, students will design labs, propose solutions to environmental problems, and work with quantitative and qualitative data.
- Throughout the CED, you'll find thoughtful suggestions for pairing course content with these skills.

Exam Updates

Starting in the 2019-20 school year:

- The specific types of questions on the AP Environmental Science Exam will stay consistent every year so that you and your students know what to expect on exam day.
- The number of free-response questions will be reduced from four to three. Each free-response question will continue to have 10 points.
- The number of multiple-choice questions will be reduced from 100 to 80.
- A new type of multiple-choice question will ask students to analyze texts.
- For the first time, students taking the AP Environmental Science Exam will be permitted to use a graphing calculator on both sections of the exam.

Exam Updates

Currently (2019 Exam)

SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE

100 Questions | 1 Hour, 30 Minutes | 60% of Exam Score

- Currently, the multiple-choice section doesn't include any text-based stimulus.
- Each question has five options.

Starting with the 2020 Exam

SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE

80 Questions | 1 Hour, 30 Minutes | 60% of Exam Score

- **New question type analyzing texts:** Five questions will assess students' ability to evaluate sources of information with a text-based stimulus.
- Questions will now place equal emphasis on the analysis of quantitative data and data in the form of models and representations.
- Each question will have **four** options.

Exam Updates (continued)

Currently (2019 Exam)

SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE

4 Questions | 1 Hour, 30 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

Question types currently vary in the skills they assess:

- 1 data set question
- 1 document-based question
- 2 synthesis and evaluation questions

Starting with the 2020 Exam

SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE

3 Questions | 1 Hour, 10 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

The three free-response question types will now remain the same from year to year:

- Question 1 will ask students to design and analyze an investigation.
- Question 2 will ask students to analyze an environmental problem and propose a solution using models and representations.
- Question 3 will ask students to analyze an environmental problem and propose a solution using calculations.

You'll find complete details about the updated AP Environmental Science course and exam in the CED, available on AP Central® in late May 2019.

Print copies of the CED will be available in easy-to-use, customizable binders in June 2019.

Preorder your free copy at collegeboard.org/CED.

Visit collegeboard.org/APEnviro2019 for the most up-to-date information, including:

- A video overview of the AP Environmental Science updates;
- More information about the new resources;
- A detailed timeline of what you can expect and when; and
- A video preview of the CED and unit guides.