WeTeach_APCSA Pacing Guide

The time required for any student, teacher, or overall class, to complete any course, especially this one, is largely dependent on the current knowledge base and learning abilities of all involved. To declare effective and absolute any accurate time schedule is to discount all variables inherent in a course like this. That said, below is a "recommended" pacing guide, to be considered a starting point for any planning, but not a "rule of law" to be followed precisely.

As stated in the syllabus, this course was designed for 120 days of instruction, aligned with the maximum recommended number of days as defined in the Course Exam Description.

Beginning on page 22 of the Fall 2019 version of the CED, the number of class periods (a class period is defined as approximately 45 minutes in duration) recommended for each unit is suggested as follows:

1. 8 – 10 class periods
2. 13 – 15 class periods
3. 11 – 13 class periods
4. 14 – 16 class periods
5. 12 – 14 class periods
6. 6 – 8 class periods
7. 10 – 12 class periods
8. 10 – 12 class periods
9. 13 – 15 class periods
10. 3 – 5 class periods

The range of total class periods is from 100 to 120 days. Following a typical school calendar starting in mid-August using the maximum number of class periods, assuming one class period per school day, the approximate pacing for this course would be as follows:

1. August, last half
2. September, first three weeks
3. Late September through mid October
4. Mid October through mid November
5. Mid November through early December
6. December through winter break
7. January, first two weeks
8. Mid January through early February
9. Rest of February
10. March through spring break

After Spring Break would be about 6 weeks of final prep time for the AP Exams, usually scheduled for the first couple of weeks in May. There are plenty of opportunities for further practice through the AP Classroom resources, as well as numerous other third-party practice materials.

It is most important to state that the above recommended schedule is merely a suggestion. The CS teacher must always make adjustments to slow down, give more time, or even omit certain aspects of the course if necessary, especially as students encounter difficulties along the way. It is more important to learn well as many aspects of this course as possible rather than attempt to "squeeze it all in" with anything less than a mastery level achieved.