

Exam Overview

The AP Macroeconomics Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours and 10 minutes long and includes 60 multiple-choice questions and 3 free-response questions. Starting with the 2022–23 school year (spring 2023 exam), a four-function calculator is allowed on both sections of the exam. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice questions	60	66.65%	70 minutes
II	Free-response questions	3	33.35%	60 minutes (includes a 10-minute reading period)

Question 1: Long (10 points)
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Question 2: Short (5 points)
.....
Question 3: Short (5 points)

The exam assesses content from the four big ideas for the course:

Big Idea 1: Economic Measurements

Big Idea 2: Markets

Big Idea 3: Macroeconomic Models

Big Idea 4: Macroeconomic Policies

How Student Learning Is Assessed on the AP Exam

The AP Economics skills are assessed on the AP Exam as detailed below.

Section I: Multiple-Choice

Skill Categories	Multiple-Choice Questions	Numerical Analysis
<i>1: Principles and Models</i>	<p>30–40% of the multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to define economic principles and models.</p> <p>Students will need to describe and compare economic concepts, principles, and models. Additionally, students will need to identify economic concepts, principles, or models illustrated by an example.</p>	<p>Skill Categories 1, 2, and 3 all include skills that require analyzing numbers or performing calculations to identify economic concepts, principles, or models (Skill 1.C), to interpret outcomes (Skill 2.C), and to determine the effects of changes (Skill 3.C).</p>
<i>2: Interpretation</i>	<p>25–32% of the multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to explain given economic outcomes.</p> <p>Students will need to explain how a specific economic outcome occurs, given one or more contributing variables, or what action(s) should be taken in order to achieve a specific economic outcome.</p>	<p>16–20% of total multiple-choice questions will include analyzing numbers or performing calculations.</p>
<i>3: Manipulation</i>	<p>30–40% of the multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to determine outcomes of specific economic situations.</p> <p>Students will need to use economic concepts, principles, or models to determine the outcome of an economic situation or determine the effects of one or more changes on other economic markets.</p>	
<i>4: Graphing and Visuals</i>	<p>Skill Category 4 is not assessed in multiple-choice questions since it requires students to draw a graph or visual representation, which can only be assessed on the free-response section of the exam. However, students will be expected to answer multiple-choice questions in which a graph or visual representation is provided.</p>	

Section II: Free-Response

All four skill categories will be assessed in the three free-response questions, through four distinct types of tasks:

Make assertions about economic concepts, principles, models, outcomes, and/or effects:

This task assesses skills in categories 1, 2, and 3 and accounts for 10–20% of total points in the free-response section.

Explain economic concepts, principles, models, outcomes and/or effects: This task assesses skills in categories 1, 2, and 3 and accounts for 25–35% of total points in the free-response section.

Perform numerical analysis: This task assesses student ability to make assertions that require numerical analysis or to perform calculations. This task assesses skills in categories 1, 2, or 3 and accounts for 10–25% of total points in the free-response section.

Create graphs or visual representations: This task assesses Skill Category 4 (Graphing and Visuals) and accounts for 30–50% of total points in the free-response section. This task requires students to do the following:

- Draw an accurately labeled graph or visual to represent an economic model or market (Skill 4.A)
- Demonstrate understanding of a specific economic situation on the accurately labeled graph or visual (Skill 4.B)
- Demonstrate the effect of a change in an economic situation on an accurately labeled graph or visual (Skill 4.C)