

AP Exam Tips – Environmental Science

Multiple Choice Hints

One hundred questions – use #2 pencil

Scoring 55-70% on multiple choice, with good essays, will earn you a 3

Scoring 70-85% on multiple choice, with very good essays, will earn you a 4

Scoring 85-100% on multiple choice, with excellent essays, will earn you a 5

Always guess! Score = # correct (no longer do they take off ¼ for wrong answer)

Essay Hints

Four questions – use black ball point pen

one document reading (ex. Read this article and explain X),

one evaluation of data set (ex. Interpret this data chart and explain Y),

two synthesis of base knowledge (ex. Design an experiment to test Z)

Read the question! Read the question! Read the question!

Write an essay. Answer in sentence form, NO points awarded for lists/outlines

Only write on the pink section that will be graded, don't worry about the green sheet that is returned to the school

If asked to describe three things, for example, only the first three answers provided will be graded – don't waste time putting down extra answers

Show every step in calculations, no calculators allowed.

Be specific, no penalties for wrong statement, only positive points for correct one

No points for rewording the question.

Pay close attention to verbs in the question (describe, compare, graph, calculate)

Define and/or explain any terms you use; just throwing in buzzwords doesn't work

Don't use acronyms

Answer the question parts in the order called for and label them "a", "b", etc., as they are labeled in the question. It is best not to skip around.

Write clearly and neatly. Points cannot be awarded if handwriting is illegible.

Be sure to include the obvious (ex. light is necessary for photosynthesis). No detail is too small.

If questions ask you to indicate the relationship between two or more concepts and you do not know the relationship, at least tell what you do know about them individually

The test is written to be hard. The national average for the essay section will be about 50% correct. It is very likely that you will not know everything. This is expected, but it is likely that you do know something about each essay, so relax and do the best you can. Write thorough answers.

If you are asked to design an experiment, be sure to:

Identify hypothesis, independent variable(s), dependent variable(s)

describe methods in detail, describe how data will be collected and analyzed

If you are asked to graph, be sure to:

Set up the independent variable on the x-axis and the dependent variable on the y-axis, marking the axes in equal increments, label axes and title

Spelling does not count, however, very poor spelling and grammar hurt your chances

Make an effort on every question. Don't Quit.

Know major laws, soil triangle, tropo/strato ozone, wastewater treatment, age structure diagrams, bioaccumulation, nutrient cycles, natural selection, biomes, point/nonpoint source pollution, renewable/nonrenewable energy sources, biodiversity, and every thing else about environmental science! **Get a good night sleep and eat a healthy snack before the test.** Good Luck!

Check out http://www.sciencrush.net/files/EnviroDownloads1st/APES_Exam_Review.pdf for a complete breakdown of question topics