

AP: ABSOLUTELY

tips to survive the ap tests this spring

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It is coming, and it is almost here. The monster that has been hanging over us. It inches closer and closer to devouring us everyday; slowly suffocating us. What is this monster, you may ask? It is Advanced Placement testing.

Contrary to common belief, the AP tests held in the spring of every school year are not the monsters that many students make them out to be. In fact, taking the exams can be very beneficial toward earning college credits and saving money for college. But to be able to do well on these tests, proper preparation is required. From group studying to reading AP guidebooks, it is critical to study and retain as much information as possible to succeed and gain college credit from AP tests.

US History AP teacher, Craig Self actively encourages students to take the AP test.

"Everybody should prepare to take [the AP tests]," Self said. "I think the [AP] curriculum gives a much better, broader understanding of subjects than typical high school curriculum."

As senior Kyle Meche



A student marks answers on a testing Scranton. Photo provided by: Indian Institute of Technology Indore

has experienced and seen, students must have a full understanding of the material they learned in class in order to succeed on the AP tests.

"On my first [AP tests], I waited too long

year [students] don't [completely] absorb the content in class. They [go] from one test to another. They need to make sure they learn it and don't [just] regurgitate it."

material covered during the year. World History AP teacher, Sarah Jones, provides other places for students to go for extra help.

"There are a lot of really good [World History AP] sites," Jones said. "We use Getafive.com which has this guy who does video

tutorials and you can take little quizzes."

English IV AP teacher, Beverly Bell, encourages students to go beyond the Internet and work in

school to find help. Even sports and Cy-Fair ISD can help prepare for the tests.

"The Houston Rockets offer a free basketball game and AP prep test session," Bell said. "I believe our district offers test prep help."

It is widely accepted that test preparation is an important part of succeeding on the AP exams, but what happens right before the test is equally important.

"Get a good night's sleep; not just the night before, but an extra hour or two, three nights before," Self said. "If you drink caffeine, don't drink any for three or four days before the test and have only a minimal amount on the day of the

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test."

Even with all the preparation prior to the test, the time during is critical and what happens on the exam can make or break a student's results.

"Make sure you know how much you need to spend on each

problem and keep a steady pace," Meche said. "If you don't know [an answer], skip it and come back."

Time management is a huge part of doing well on the AP test along with staying calm during it.

"Deep breathing is very good; in through the nose and out through the mouth," Jones said. "Maybe a little

meditation; getting your mind right."

From test to test, many students continuously make similar mistakes

courses.

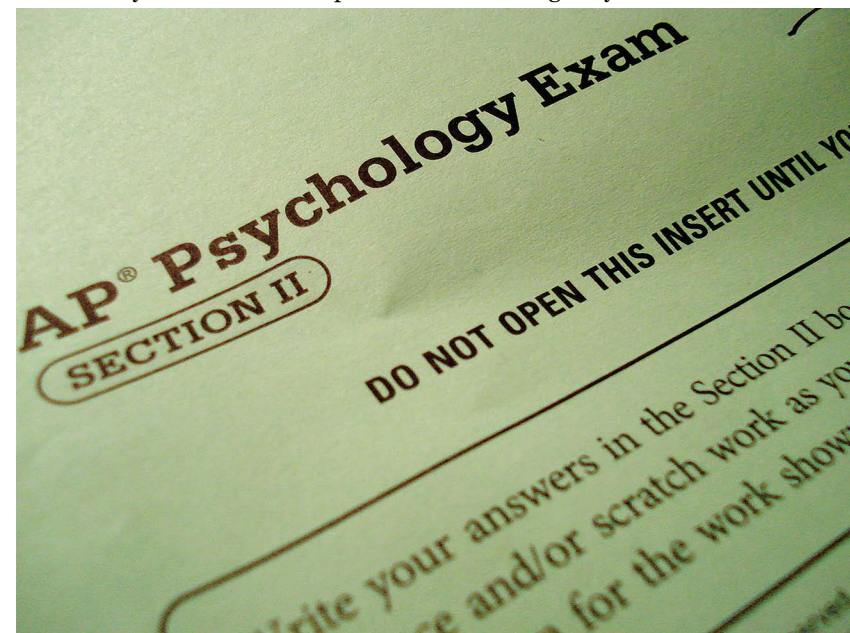
"Taking the course in general is preparing you for college before you get there," Self said. "The test itself is the frosting and you want to get credit for your efforts."

With the results coming out in July, many students will be left

waiting for a long time for their scores. Some might not be the best, but it will not be the end of the world.

"I am a survivor of the 1 on an AP test," Jones said. "I went to college, I got a job, I have dogs and a house, so it's not life or death. Use it as a good experience and try not to put so much pressure on yourself." ☑

"I am a survivor of the 1 on an AP test."
-WHAP teacher Sarah Jones



A copy of Section II of the Psychology AP test. Photo provided by: Wikimedia

Cy Woods Last Year...

864 students took the AP test



37.7% test takers were juniors



1,876 AP tests administered



76.5% scored 3 or higher

Average score 3.2

378 students took 1 AP test

2 students took 4 AP tests

Average 2.17 AP tests per test taker

