

TIPS FOR THE AP EXAM

Listening Section

1. You may take notes in your test booklet as you wish, but be careful not to write so much that you miss what is being said.
2. If you hear a word that you do not know, do not panic. Listen to everything and try to work around what you do not recognize.
3. In the interviews, note names, dates, and places as you listen. They may be helpful in answering the questions.

Reading Section

1. Watch for distracters. They will look attractive to you; if they do not, they would not serve their purpose. Read everything carefully and avoid jumping at an “obvious” choice. It will usually be wrong.
2. The spelling of a word will not be wrong. This test will not have misspelled words in its choices.
3. There will be no “nonsensical” words in the choices. The test will not offer you made-up words that do not exist.
4. You will neither be asked to make a value judgment as to whether something is good or bad, nor will you be responsible for current events. Your questions and choices will deal with cultural, historical, literary topics, etc. in Spanish.

Writing Section

1. Accent marks **ARE** important! Misused accent marks make your total response incorrect – if you spell an irregular subjunctive verb correctly but miss the accent, you receive no credit. [This is for the fill-in section only].
2. Guess! There is no added penalty for an incorrect answer on this section. There is no reason to leave a fill-in item blank.
3. Read the directions! (Preferably well in advance of the exam) You should know the format and what is expected before taking the exam.
4. If they call for a one-word answer, do not answer with two words! Watch for items like -car, -gar, -zar verbs.
5. Keep in mind that the 200-word composition represents 22.5% of your total score. It is the single most important item on the test.
6. Study the rubric and be familiar with what readers will be looking for.

Speaking Section

1. In the directed responses, be sure that you speak to the question or topic.
2. Avoid responses like “no sé” or “no entendí.”
3. If you do not completely understand the question, speak to what you think you understood. Silence is worse than an answer that may not fit.
4. In the picture sequence, be creative and add humor as you can. Name a place, a city, a country. Use dialog and idiomatic phrases (especially complex verbs).
5. During your two minutes of “thinking time,” jot down notes, verbs, idioms, and key words that you will use. If you do not know a key word, you should plan to talk your way around it. Focus on what you can say, not on what you cannot.
6. Study the rubrics and know how your speech will be evaluated.