

# AP Environmental Science

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“The goal of AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. In order to do this, the course will cover the following topics.” (quote from the CollegeBoard AP Environmental Science Course Description)

- **Earth Systems and Resources** – earth science concepts; the atmosphere; global water resources and use; soil and soil dynamics
- **The Living World** – ecosystem structure; energy flow; ecosystem diversity; natural ecosystem change; natural biogeochemical cycles
- **Population** – population biology concepts; human population
- **Land and Water Use** – agriculture; forestry; rangelands; mining; other land use; fishing; global economics
- **Energy Resources and Consumption** – energy concepts; energy consumption; fossil fuel resources and use; nuclear energy; hydroelectric power; energy conservation; renewable energy
- **Pollution** – pollution types, impacts on the environment and human health; economic impacts
- **Global Change** – stratospheric ozone; global warming; loss of biodiversity

## Grading Policy:

Tests/Projects :	45%
Lab Activities:	30%
Quizzes/Homework:	25%

**Retest Policy:** All quizzes and FRQs assigned for homework may be retaken/redone. Tests will be graded using the NMSI grading scale (which includes a built-in curve) so there will be no retakes of tests.

**Required Materials:** notebook paper, notebook binder, 3x5” index cards, pencils and or pens (blue or black only for tests and other assignments)

**Strongly Suggested Materials:** The Princeton Review “*Cracking the AP Environmental Science Exam*”, and *The Cartoon Guide to the Environment* by Larry Gonick and Alice Outwater.

**Final Exam:** There will be a final exam that will count as 20% of your overall grade. This exam will be a 100-question AP-type multiple choice exam with 4 free response questions.

**Tutoring:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 to 4:45; other days by special request

## The AP Exam

The AP exam of Environmental Science will be held on **Monday, May 1 at 8:00 am**. **Plan on taking this exam.** *Per CCS policy, any student who does not take the AP exam will have their final grade in the AP course reduced by one letter grade.*

The AP Environmental Science Exam is 3 hours long. The 90-minute multiple-choice section (60% of the AP grade) consists of 100 questions that cover the student’s breadth of knowledge and understanding of environmental science. Thought-provoking problems and questions based on fundamental ideas from environmental science are included along with questions based on the recall of basic facts and major concepts.

The 90-minute free-response section emphasizes the application of principles in greater depth. In this section, students must organize answers to broad questions, thereby demonstrating reasoning and analytical skills, as well as the ability to synthesize material from several sources into cogent and coherent essays. There will be four free-response questions (FRQs) which make up 40% of the AP grade.

- 1 data-set question
- 1 document-based question, and
- 2 synthesis and evaluation questions

## Classroom Procedures:

1. Sharpen pencils before class begins (before the tardy bell).
2. Sit in your assigned seat.
3. The aisles must be kept clear, so place all bookbags and purses either under your seat, on top of a box/carton, or on top of a lab table.
4. Lab tables must be cleared of all excess materials (bookbags and purses) before beginning a lab.
5. Begin the warm-up or review as soon as you get seated.
6. The day and date will always be printed on the top right corner of the white board.
7. Dates of upcoming tests, quizzes, and projects will be printed below the date.
8. The daily learning objective will be printed on the top left corner of the white board.
9. *Unless otherwise notified, any classwork that is not finished in class becomes homework and is due at the beginning of the next class period.*
10. Turn-in work procedure:
  - a. All assignments will be logged in with the student signature and date of turn-in.
  - b. Bring the work to Ms. Stewart after the bell rings at the beginning of class.
  - c. Sign in on the appropriate page of the logbook.
  - d. Ms. Stewart will secure the turned-in work in the locked Big Blue Box.
  - e. *On days where there is a substitute teacher:*
    - Hold onto your classwork until Ms. Stewart is back in class to collect it.
    - If the substitute teacher gives you a test or quiz, you will turn it in to the substitute teacher and sign beside your name on the class roster. He/she will then place the turned in test or quiz in the locked Big Blue Box.
11. Quiet signal: “Give me five” will be the quiet signal.
12. Nose blowing procedure: Tissues and hand sanitizer is found on the table next to the door. Stay in that corner of the room to blow your nose. No one is to go outside the room to blow their nose.
13. Bathroom passes: You will have **8 bathroom passes** for the **semester**. Use them wisely as there will not be any extras later on. If you go to the restroom during the break between classes, be back on time or earn a tardy pass.
14. Lockers: No one will be allowed to go to their locker once the tardy bell has rung. Once again, be on time or earn a tardy pass.
15. Water: You may bring a water bottle to class. Fill it up before class. Do not ask to go to the water fountain during class.
16. Passes: You must have a signed pass to leave the room for *any* reason.
17. Late work: Grades will be reduced by one letter grade (10 points) for each day an assignment is turned in late.