AP Computer Science Principles Assessment Overview for Students

The AP Computer Science Principles course has three assessments, consisting of two performance tasks and an end-of-course AP Exam. All three assessments are summative and will be used to calculate a final AP score (using the 1–5 scale) for AP Computer Science Principles.

Assessment	Timing	Percentage of Total AP Score
Explore Performance Task	8 hours	16%
Create Performance Task	12 hours	24%
End-of-Course Exam	2 hours	60%

Students who are completing the AP Computer Science Principles course in a nontraditional classroom situation (e.g., online, homeschool, independent study) should consult a school-based AP Coordinator for instructions on taking the AP Exam and submitting work for the performance tasks.

Investigation and Citation

The through-course performance tasks require you to create computational artifacts. A computational artifact is a visualization, a graphic, a video, a program, or an audio recording that you create using a computer. For the Create performance task, you will develop a computer program and for the Explore performance task, you will create a computational artifact of your choosing to represent or illustrate the intended purpose, function, or effect of a computing innovation using any computational tool(s) you wish.

In creating your computational artifact, you can create your own original work, including video, music, text, images, graphs, and program code. If you use external work to integrate into your computational artifact, you must acknowledge, attribute, and/or cite sources and include a bibliography with your submission. External work that should be acknowledged include video, music, text, images, graphs, and program code that are used in the creation of your computational artifacts.

AP Computer Science Principles Policy on Plagiarism

A student who fails to acknowledge (i.e., through citation, through attribution, by reference, and/or through acknowledgment in a bibliographic entry) the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else will receive a score of 0 on that performance task.

To the best of their ability, teachers will ensure that students understand ethical use and acknowledgment of the ideas and work of others as well as the consequences of plagiarism. The student's individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited. A computational artifact without acknowledgment of the media used in the creation of the computational artifact, and program code segment(s) written by someone else used in a program without appropriate acknowledgment, are all considered plagiarized work.

Programming Language Requirements

AP Computer Science Principles is language agnostic. This means that there is no specific language requirement. When completing the Create – Applications from Ideas performance task for this course, you are allowed to select a language you feel is most appropriate to meet the requirements of the task. When selecting a language or program, you should review the requirements section of the performance task to ensure that your program will be sophisticated enough to implement mathematical and logical concepts, create abstractions, and implement algorithms.

Peer-to-Peer Collaboration

Collaboration is only allowed on designated sub-components of the Create performance task.

For the Explore – Impact of Computing Innovations performance task, collaboration of any kind is not allowed.

For the Create – Applications from Ideas performance task, you are encouraged to collaborate on the development of their program with another student in your class. Collaboration is not allowed during the creation of the video or when answering the written responses.

Students completing AP Computer Science Principles in a nontraditional classroom situation (e.g., online, homeschool, independent study) are encouraged to collaborate with another student peer when completing the Create performance task.

Preparing for the Through-Course Performance Tasks

The following guidelines are meant to help you be successful on the performance tasks as well as to clarify or address any questions you may have regarding the process of completing these tasks.

Prior to your teacher administering the performance tasks, you should:

▸ obtain content knowledge and skills that will help you succeed on the performance tasks;

▸ practice either an entire performance task or individual prompts of the tasks;

▸ review the scoring guidelines, found on AP Central, to understand how your work will be assessed;

▸ examine examples of performance task found on AP Central of submissions at high, medium, and low levels. If you select a computing innovation that is represented in one of the examples, or that was discussed in class, you must find new sources and submit original responses to avoid. You cannot submit any work from practice performance tasks.

▸ pay attention to the instructions concerning the size of the files to be uploaded; the computational artifact for the Explore performance task and the video for the Create performance task individually cannot exceed 30MB.

▸ ensure you know the proper way to evaluate and appropriately cite a source, including program code; any program code which has not been written by you must be cited and credit given to the author;

▸ understand the level of detail expected in writing your responses by examining the scoring guidelines and high level samples found on AP Central;

▸ understand that you may not revise your work once you have submitted your work as final to the AP Digital Portfolio; and

▸ be aware that the scoring process that occurs in the AP Reading may be different from the scoring process that occurs in your classroom; the AP score that you receive may be different than your classroom grade.