**AP Statistics Exam Tips**

The following strategies were developed by faculty consultants to help you on exam day:

* The Multiple Choice Section is worth 50% of your overall grade. You are given 90 minutes to answer 40 questions.
* There is no penalty for incorrect answers.
* Before beginning to solve the free-response questions, it is a good idea to read all 6 questions to determine which ones you feel most prepared to answer.
* The first 5 questions are shorter and should take 10-15 minutes each. The 6th and final question is called the investigative task. It is worth 25% of the free response section and usually takes 25-30 minutes to complete. The question usually has a “flow” (meaning the parts are connected) and almost always asks the students to do something new. Do not save this question until the end of the exam, as you will be too tired and rushed to think creatively. A good strategy is to complete question 1, then question 6, then the remaining 4 questions.
* Show **all** your work; partial credit is given for partial solutions to problems. If the answer is not correct, you are not likely to receive credit for correct thinking if the person scoring the examination does not see evidence of this process on paper. If you do work that you think is incorrect, simply put an "X" through it, instead of spending time erasing it completely.
* Organize your answers as clearly and neatly as possible, showing the steps you took to reach your solution. If the faculty consultants cannot easily follow your reasoning, you are less likely to receive credit for it.
* You should **not** use the "scattershot" approach: i.e., write a bunch of equations hoping that the correct one will be among them so that you can get partial credit. In such cases, faculty consultants may well deduct points for the extraneous or incorrect information.
* Communication is very important. Make sure the faculty consultant knows what you are doing and why. Explain your reasoning. When asked to choose between several options, give reasons for your choice AND reasons why you did not choose the others.
* Do not use statistical vocabulary unless you use it correctly. Define all symbols, draw pictures, etc. Never just give a numerical answer without showing how you found it and why.
* Do not rely on calculator syntax. If you write down calculator syntax, clearly label each number.
* When you are asked to compare two distributions, use explicit comparison phrases such as “higher than” or “approximately the same as.” Lists of characteristics do not count as a comparison.
* Do not give 2 different solutions to a problem. The worst one will be graded.
* Answer all questions in the context of the problem.
* If the question asks you to use results from previous parts of the question, make sure you explicitly refer to them in your answer.
* If you cannot get an answer for an early part of a question but need it for a later part, make up a value or carefully explain what you would do if you knew the answer.
* Space on the exam is not suggestive of the desired length of an answer. The best answers are usually quite succinct. There is no need for “extra fluff” on an AP Statistics exam.
* Don’t automatically enter data into your calculator before reading the entire question. In most cases, you will not need to enter the data.
* Use words like “approximately” liberally, especially with the word “Normal.”
* Bring a watch to help pace yourself. Bring an extra calculator, or at least extra batteries and an extra pencil.
* You will be provided formulas and tables (normal, t, chi-square) on both sections.
* Do NOT bring a cell phone or any other communication device.
* You may not use rulers, white-out or highlighters.
* You may not discuss the multiple choice questions (ever) and may not discuss the free response questions until they are released on AP Central (not all free response questions will be released).
* You may not have any programs on your calculator except those which upgrade its capabilities to match newer calculators. For example, you may have a program to do inverse-t but not one that lists conditions.