

Description of the AP Test

...we have evidence that students who complete AP and the AP test are more likely to succeed at the University. Thus our greatest weight is placed on the AP tests with 3-5 scores, then AP classes and Honors classes which are basically treated the same without corroboration of the test.

-Rae Lee Siporin, Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools

Before describing the actual exam, we must take a moment to emphasize two items.

- First, colleges regard the AP test as an excellent indicator of college readiness. Students who pass the exam are usually ranked ahead of students who do not, and students who take the exam and do not pass it are still ranked above students who do not take the exam at all. For students hoping to get into top ranked colleges, passing the AP exam is very helpful; therefore, we insist that all students take the exam and prepare for it with absolute focus.
- Second, colleges would rather see students take the AP exam and fail than see them not take the exam at all. In the statement above one can see that students who take the exam and fail are ranked ahead of students in an Honors class. Failing the AP exam is not the end of the world and does not devalue a student's progress or potential for college work. We do not want a student to choose not to take this course simply because he or she is scared of failing the test.
- Finally, we try to strike a delicate balance between applying the right amount of pressure to help students go into the exam well prepared, and demystifying the test so students do not get too stressed out over the results.

Here is what the AP exam consists of:

Approximately three hours total time:

- One hour to read 4-5 extremely difficult prose passages and answer 50-60 critical analysis multiple choice questions.
- A little over two hours to complete three multi-paragraph essays. Essay prompts range from synthesis to persuasive free response questions to style analysis questions on rich passages of prose.

Summer Reading Study Guide

The summer reading assignment is worth 3% of the first semester grade.

Students will take objective tests on the reading. You should also be prepared to write a thematic analytical essay. You may check out the novel from the library before the end of this school year or you may purchase it at any bookstore. While your annotations will not be graded, they will help you on the essay and in the class discussions. Please use sticky notes if you are using a library copy.

The Jungle Upton Sinclair

Historical Background	Themes	Literary Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chicago stockyards 1900's• Industrialization• Immigrant experience• Roots of labor unions• Capitalism v. Socialism v. Communism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual v. society• The disadvantages of a capitalistic society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jurgis as a naïf character• Allusion• Flashback• In media res• Foreshadowing• Irony• <i>The Jungle</i> as a muckraking novel• Symbolism• imagery