

# Course at a Glance

## Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP Physics 1 course components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with approximate weighting and suggested pacing. Please note, pacing is based on 45-minute class periods, meeting five days each week for a full academic year.
- Progression of topics within each unit.
- Spiraling of the big ideas and science practices across units.

## Teach

### PRACTICES/SKILL CATEGORIES

Science practices spiral throughout the course.

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Modeling               | <b>4</b> Experimental Methods |
| <b>2</b> Mathematical Routines  | <b>5</b> Data Analysis        |
| <b>3</b> Scientific Questioning | <b>6</b> Argumentation        |
|                                 | <b>7</b> Making Connections   |

**+** Indicates 3 or more science practices for a given topic. The individual topic page will show all the science practices.

### BIG IDEAS

Big ideas spiral across topics and units.

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SYS</b> 1-Systems            | <b>CHA</b> 4-Change       |
| <b>FLD</b> 2-Fields             | <b>CON</b> 5-Conservation |
| <b>INT</b> 3-Force Interactions | <b>WAV</b> 6-Waves        |

## Assess

Assign the Personal Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Personal Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from these checks shows students the areas where they need to focus.

**UNIT**  
**1**

**Kinematics**

**~16–19** Class Periods    **10–16%** AP Exam Weighting

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>INT</b><br><b>+</b> | <b>1.1 Position, Velocity, and Acceleration</b> |
| <b>CHA</b><br><b>+</b> | <b>1.2 Representations of Motion</b>            |

**UNIT**  
**2**

**Dynamics**

**~19–22** Class Periods    **12–18%** AP Exam Weighting

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SYS</b><br><b>1</b><br><b>7</b> | <b>2.1 Systems</b>                                   |
| <b>FLD</b><br><b>2</b><br><b>7</b> | <b>2.2 The Gravitational Field</b>                   |
| <b>INT</b><br><b>6</b>             | <b>2.3 Contact Forces</b>                            |
| <b>SYS</b><br><b>4</b>             | <b>2.4 Newton's First Law</b>                        |
| <b>INT</b><br><b>+</b>             | <b>2.5 Newton's Third Law and Free-Body Diagrams</b> |
| <b>INT</b><br><b>+</b>             | <b>2.6 Newton's Second Law</b>                       |
| <b>CHA</b><br><b>+</b>             | <b>2.7 Applications of Newton's Second Law</b>       |

### Personal Progress Check 1

- Multiple-choice: ~15 questions**  
**Free-response: 2 questions**
- Experimental Design
  - Paragraph Argument Short Answer

### Personal Progress Check 2

- Multiple-choice: ~40 questions**  
**Free-response: 2 questions**
- Quantitative/Qualitative Translation
  - Short Answer

**UNIT  
3**

**Circular Motion  
and Gravitation**

**~7–9** Class Periods **4–6%** AP Exam Weighting

- FLD** 3.1 Vector Fields
- INT** 3.2 Fundamental Forces
- INT** 3.3 Gravitational and Electric Forces
- FLD** 3.4 Gravitational Field/Acceleration Due to Gravity on Different Planets
- SYS** 3.5 Inertial vs. Gravitational Mass
- CHA** 3.6 Centripetal Acceleration and Centripetal Force
- INT** 3.7 Free-Body Diagrams for Objects in Uniform Circular Motion
- INT** 3.8 Applications of Circular Motion and Gravitation

**Personal Progress Check 3**

- Multiple-choice: ~40 questions**  
**Free-response: 2 questions**
- Experimental Design
  - Paragraph Argument Short Answer

**UNIT  
4**

**Energy**

**~19–22** Class Periods **16–24%** AP Exam Weighting

- CON** 4.1 Open and Closed Systems: Energy
- INT** 4.2 Work and Mechanical Energy
- CON** 4.3 Conservation of Energy, the Work-Energy Principle, and Power

**Personal Progress Check 4**

- Multiple-choice: ~30 questions**  
**Free-response: 2 questions**
- Quantitative/Qualitative Translation
  - Short Answer

**UNIT  
5**

**Momentum**

**~12–15** Class Periods **10–16%** AP Exam Weighting

- INT** 5.1 Momentum and Impulse
- CHA** 5.2 Representations of Changes in Momentum
- CON** 5.3 Open and Closed Systems: Momentum
- CON** 5.4 Conservation of Linear Momentum

**Personal Progress Check 5**

- Multiple-choice: ~35 questions**  
**Free-response: 2 questions**
- Experimental Design
  - Paragraph Argument Short Answer

**UNIT  
6****Simple Harmonic Motion****~2–5**Class  
Periods**2–4%**AP Exam  
Weighting**INT**

+

**6.1** Period of Simple Harmonic Oscillators**CON**

+

**6.2** Energy of a Simple Harmonic Oscillator**UNIT  
7****Torque and Rotational Motion****~12–17**Class  
Periods**10–16%**AP Exam  
Weighting**INT**1  
2**7.1** Rotational Kinematics**INT**

+

**7.2** Torque and Angular Acceleration**CHA**

+

**7.3** Angular Momentum and Torque**CHA**

+

**7.4** Conservation of Angular Momentum**UNIT  
8****Electric Charge and Electric Force****~3–5**Class  
Periods**4–6%**AP Exam  
Weighting**CON**6  
7**8.1** Conservation of Charge**SYS**

+

**8.2** Electric Charge**INT**

+

**8.3** Electric Force**Personal Progress Check 6****Multiple-choice: ~20 questions****Free-response: 2 questions**

- Experimental Design
- Short Answer

**Personal Progress Check 7****Multiple-choice: ~40 questions****Free-response: 2 questions**

- Quantitative/Qualitative Translation
- Paragraph Argument Short Answer

**Personal Progress Check 8****Multiple-choice: ~15 questions****Free-response: 2 questions**

- Quantitative/Qualitative Translation
- Paragraph Argument Short Answer

**UNIT  
9****DC Circuits****~9–12** Class  
Periods**6–8%** AP Exam  
Weighting**SYS**  
6  
7**9.1 Definition of a Circuit****SYS**  
4**9.2 Resistivity****CON**  
+**9.3 Ohm's Law, Kirchhoff's Loop Rule (Resistors in Series and Parallel)****CON**  
+**9.4 Kirchhoff's Junction Rule, Ohm's Law (Resistors in Series and Parallel)****UNIT  
10****Mechanical  
Waves and Sound****~11–14** Class  
Periods**12–16%** AP Exam  
Weighting**WAV**  
+**10.1 Properties of Waves****WAV**  
+**10.2 Periodic Waves****WAV**  
+**10.3 Interference and Superposition (Waves in Tubes and on Strings)****Personal Progress Check 9****Multiple-choice: ~30 questions****Free-response: 2 questions**

- Experimental Design
- Short Answer

**Personal Progress Check 10****Multiple-choice: ~30 questions****Free-response: 2 questions**

- Quantitative/Qualitative Translation
- Paragraph Argument Short Answer