

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP World Languages and Cultures Program

The AP World Languages and Cultures program features eight courses and exams and includes the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish (both Language and Literature courses).

In today's global community, competence in more than one language is an essential part of communication and cultural understanding. Study of another language not only provides individuals with the ability to express thoughts and ideas for their own purposes, but also provides them with access to perspectives and knowledge that is only available through the language and culture. The proficiencies acquired through the study of languages and literatures endow language learners with cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that carry over into many other areas of their academic studies. The three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational), defined in the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*, and described in more detail in the *ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners*, are foundational to the AP World Languages and Cultures courses.

AP Italian Language and Culture Course Overview

The AP Italian Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Italian Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Italian.

The AP Italian Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

PREREQUISITE

There are no prerequisites; however, students are typically in their fourth year of high-school-level study. In the case of native or heritage speakers, there may be a different course of study leading to this course.

Course Themes

The AP Italian Language and Culture course is structured around six themes:

- Beauty and Aesthetics
- Contemporary Life
- Families and Communities
- Global Challenges
- Personal and Public Identities
- Science and Technology

Themes facilitate the integration of language, content, and culture and promote the use of the language in a variety of contexts.

The themes may be combined, as they are interrelated.

World Languages and Cultures Learning Objectives

The AP Italian Language and Culture course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency at the Intermediate to Pre-Advanced range in each of the three modes of communication described in the *ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners*.

Students are expected to

- Engage in spoken interpersonal communication;
- Engage in written interpersonal communication;
- Synthesize information from a variety of authentic audio, visual, and audiovisual resources;
- Synthesize information from a variety of authentic written and print resources;
- Plan, produce, and present spoken presentational communications; and
- Plan and produce written presentational communications.

AP Italian Language and Culture Exam Structure

AP ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM: 3 HOURS

Assessment Overview

Exam questions are based on the six learning objectives and assess all themes. As much as possible, students read and listen to authentic texts from the Italian-speaking world throughout the exam.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice | 66–74 Questions | ~ 80 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Part A: 30–34 Questions

- Interpretive Communication: Audio Texts

Part B: 36–40 Questions

- Interpretive Communication: Print Texts
-

Section II: Free Response | 8 Prompts | ~ 85 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Interpersonal Writing: Email Reply (1 prompt)
- Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (1 prompt)
- Interpersonal Speaking: Simulated Conversation (5 prompts)
- Presentational Speaking: Cultural Comparison (1 prompt)

EXAM QUESTION TYPES

Note: On the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam, all directions, questions, and texts are presented in Italian.

Multiple-Choice Section

Part A:

Audio Texts

Students respond to a variety of audio materials*, including:

- Conversations
- Announcements
- Instructions
- Advertisements
- News Reports

Part B:

Print Texts

Students respond to questions based on a variety of print materials, including:

- Journalistic Texts
- Literary Texts
- Announcements
- Advertisements
- Tables
- Charts

*Note: All audio materials in this section of the exam are played once.

Free-Response Section

Interpersonal Writing: Email Reply (15 minutes)

Students read and respond to an email message.

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (55 minutes: 15 minutes to examine texts and 40 minutes to write)

Students examine three authentic texts (article, table or graphic, audio text), then have 40 minutes to organize and write a persuasive essay in response to a prompt. In their essay they must present and defend their own viewpoint using information from all three sources. The audio source for the persuasive essay is played twice.

Interpersonal Speaking: Simulated Conversation (2 minutes 40 seconds: 1 minute to preview and 20 seconds each for five prompts)

Students have one minute to preview a conversation, including an outline of each turn in the conversation, and then respond to five prompts.

Presentational Speaking: Cultural Comparison (6 minutes: 4 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes to present)

Students respond to a prompt by giving a presentation in which they compare cultural features of their own community to those found in an area of the Italian-speaking world with which they are familiar.