



ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS

H0002A : Grading

rev. 2005 0830

OVERVIEW

The class will be graded on a total-points system. That is, every graded implement will have a point total. Your grade for the quarter will be simply the percentage of points received out of total points available. Although your transcript will reflect AP points, internally I do not indicate AP points.

The total-points system is intended to increase my flexibility in the pacing and weighting of assignments. However, most will conform to the chart below.

Mechanism	Expected usual point value	Expected Number per Semester	Expected total points	Expected % of grade
Tests	150	6	750	45.5
Presentation	100	1	100	5.1
Quizzes	15	12	180	9.1
Labs	50	7	350	17.7
Problem Sets	45	10	450	22.7

TESTS

- Tests are intended to prepare you for the AP exam and thus are drawn from actual AP exams of the past.
- All tests will be graded on a modified AP scale.
- Tests will take an entire class period and cover the current topic plus all previous topics.
- Tests will be announced at least three days in advance ... expect one every two or three weeks.
- Tests come in two flavors, like the AP exam itself:

Multiple Choice	Free Response
∞ Five choices are presented.	∞ Open-ended problems.
∞ Each question generally concerns one topic or idea.	∞ Each question generally involves several topics or ideas.
∞ No calculators or equation sheets	∞ Calculator allowed; equation sheet provided.
∞ No partial credit.	∞ Partial credit awarded.
∞ Each problem is worth one point.	∞ Each problem is worth 15 points.
∞ Wrong answers penalized at $\frac{1}{4}$ point each.	∞ Wrong answers not penalized or rewarded.

Test / Problem Set Equivalency Table

Test Percentage	Problem Set Percentage	AP Grade	Hun Grade
-	0	-	0
0	25	1	45
11.5	35	1.5	55
23.0	40	2	63
30.0	45	2.5	69
37.5	55	3	76
44.5	65	3.5	81
51.0	75	4	83.5
58.5	82	4.5	85.5
65.5	86	5	88.5
78.0	90	5+	91.5
91.0	94	5+	95
100.0	100	5+	100

Quizzes

- ∞ Quizzes are intended to assess your working knowledge of the current topic.
- ∞ Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Expect slightly less than one a week.
- ∞ Quizzes will take no more than fifteen minutes of class time.
- ∞ Quizzes will each be of one of the following types:
 - Four multiple choice questions.
 - One free response question from an AP exam.
 - One problem from a previous problem set.
- ∞ At the end of the semester, your quiz scores will be summed and converted to a Hun scale score via the table above (using the "test" column).

LABS

Physics is an experimental science. In addition, in recent years, the AP Physics committee has increasingly emphasized laboratory skills.

- You will receive a detailed handout on lab work, including a rubric for evaluation.
- For each lab, you will be expected to hand in a typed, professional report. You will generally have a week to complete this report. Each student will be expected to design and implement one lab per semester. Details will follow.
- You will be allowed to work in pairs or triples on lab projects, but each person must submit his/her own lab report.

PROBLEM SETS

- Physics is a problem-solving science. In fact, more than a collection of particular facts, Physics is a habit of mind, a manner of viewing the world and tackling the questions it raises. As such, the problems assigned from the textbook constitute an extremely vital part of your learning.
- Problems are instructional as well as evaluatory. Translation: **If you can't do the problems, you don't know the Physics.** While there will likely be isolated problems whose solution eludes you, consistent difficulty with the problem sets will be an indication of deeper issues. As such, if a problem set is uniformly frustrating, please see me before it is due.
- The exact rubric for evaluating Problem Sets appears on a separate handout.