AP Exams *What? When? Where? How? Why? Or…Why not?*

What are AP exams?

AP exams are college-level subject tests typically administered upon the completion of AP courses. The exams are held once each year in May. More detailed information **About APs** is available on the College Board website.

How do I register for AP exams?

1. Email the names of the exams you want to take to the College Office at **college@putneyschool.org**
2. Receive a Join Code for each exam
3. Login to your College Board account (or create a College Board account if you don't have one) and enter the Join Codes you received

Is there a deadline to register for AP exams?

Yes.

November 13 is the regular registration deadline; if you register after November 13, you will incur a $40 late fee for each exam.

March 12 is the late registration deadline.

How much do AP exams cost? How do I pay for them?

Exams ordered before November 13	$99 per exam
Exams ordered between November 13 and March 12	$139 per exam
Unused Exams (ordered but never taken)	$40 per exam

After the AP exams are over, the College Board sends The Putney School an itemized bill, at which point your student account will be charged your specific testing fees.

Where and when are the AP exams held?

Exams are held on campus in May. Exact **Test Dates & Times** for each exam can be found on the College Board website.

Why does The Putney School offer AP exams without AP courses?

At Putney, we try to facilitate our students in the pursuit of their individual academic goals in any reasonable ways we can. This includes arranging AP exams for students interested in taking them.

Until recently, choosing *not* to take AP exams rarely had many practical implications for our students because the exams are not prerequisite for admission into even the most prestigious US schools and Subject Tests met the admissions requirements at many colleges and universities abroad. This changed in 2021, when the College Board discontinued Subject Tests. Without that option, students at non-AP schools in the United States now have fewer ways to meet the entrance requirements at schools outside of North America.

Don't students need to take AP courses to do well on AP exams?

The short answer is *yes*.

The slightly longer answer is *not always*.

The purpose of AP exams is to assess students' understanding and retention of the content of AP courses. In schools with AP programs, students take AP courses during the year and then sit the AP exams for those courses in May. The courses are preparation for the exams. The exams are the culmination of the courses. They function together by design.

> Could a bilingual Putney student who speaks Spanish fluently do well on the Spanish exam without taking AP Spanish as a course? *Probably*.
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> Could a Putney student learning Spanish in Putney Spanish classes rather than AP Spanish courses do well on the AP Spanish exam? That is a harder question to answer because there are always exceptions, but...*probably not*.

There are ways for students who don't attend schools with AP courses to prepare for the exams if there is a compelling reason to do so. As students at a non-AP school only you and your family can decide if taking AP exams as a Putney student is worth the time and effort outside of school that you would need to spend on self-study, online courses, or local summer courses.

It sounds like you're saying I might have fewer options for higher education because I attend a school that doesn't offer AP courses!

The short answer is: *You still have options*.

The slightly longer answer is: *You need to contact the College Office and arrange a meeting with Dan Raffety, Director of College Counseling, as soon as possible. Do you know which specific college or university outside the United States you want to attend? Do you want to apply to multiple colleges and universities in a specific country? Set up a meeting with Dan Raffety to discuss your post-secondary educational goals and options now.*