

To AP or not to AP?

*All data is from a survey sent out through Canvas from March 28 - April 8. We received 130 responses

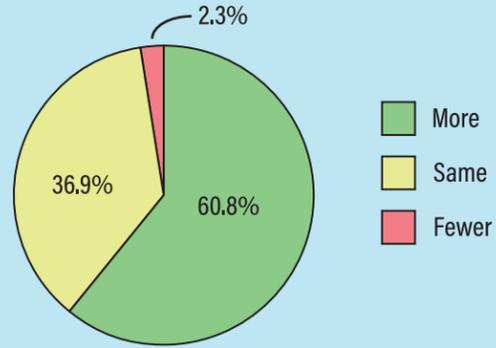
Do you think APs are useful in the real world?



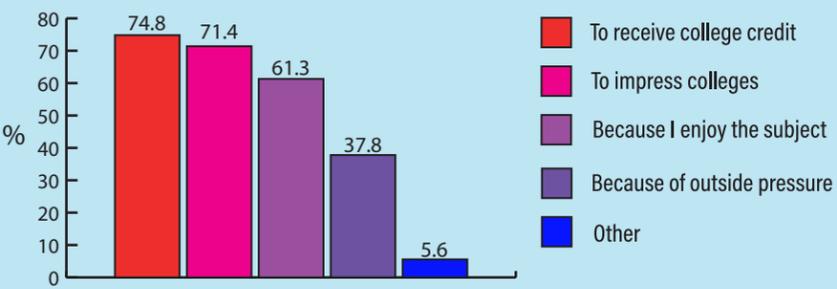
Kaesha Marantz,
junior

"Depends on what you go in to. If all goes well for me, I'm going to go into STEM. APUSH will have some measure on my life because I am a citizen of the world and it's important for me to understand what's going on. But AP Chemistry would have a greater impact of my life. I would say, especially at the high school level, these things do have an impact on your life just because they're so basic and so fundamental that we're always going to keep using them."

Do you think the high school should offer more, fewer or the same number of AP classes as it currently does?



If you have taken (or are planning to take) at least one AP exam, what were your reasons for doing so?



Why does the social studies department not offer more APs?



Gary Shiffman,
Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

"When we think about senior year, if we offered nothing but AP courses, there would be a substantial number of students who would have nothing to take in social studies. That is not acceptable. So we have courses on a variety of topics, with a variety of levels, and a variety of ways for learning. We have two APs [for senior year], could we tolerate 3? Yes, maybe. But the students are diverse and we want to have a diverse offering."

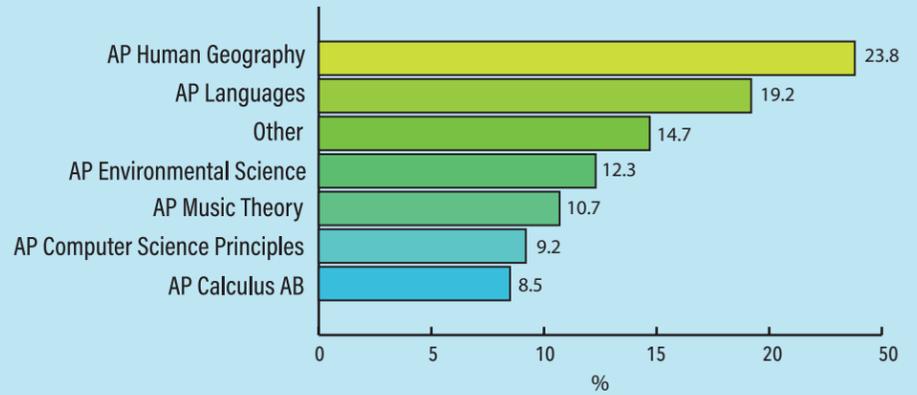
Why does the high school not offer AP English?



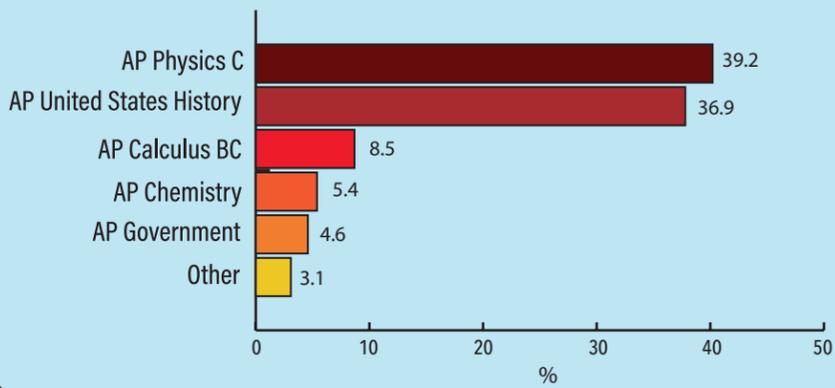
Mary Burchenal,
English Curriculum Coordinator

"Selective colleges say, 'what we expect of you is that you take the most rigorous course available in the various subject areas.' Because they say that, some students feel like they don't really have a choice. If that's what colleges want, I have to take AP, and I can't take creative writing or American Studies or something else that might actually really interest me. I think it would cut down on students' ability to pursue their passion in English, which is what we increasingly want students to be able to do."

What do you think is the easiest AP class offered at the high school?



What do you think is the hardest AP class offered at the high school?



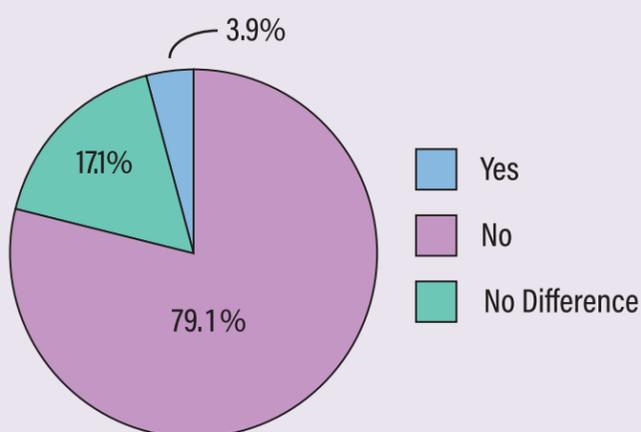
Do you think AP classes inhibit learning because they "teach to the test"?



Alexia Thomas,
Associate Dean & AP Coordinator

"The courses are taught to model after the exam and the content on the exam so the courses are absolutely test-driven. I think teachers do their best to have autonomy and be creative, but it does limit in terms of how much exploration and investigative work you can do. That's why they've developed a lot of other senior courses that really can kind of offer different subjects and different interests for students because the AP courses really don't."

Next year, the College Board has changed the registration deadline for AP exams to be in the fall (it is currently in late winter). Do you think this is a good idea?



"I disagree with that decision. I know quite a few people who dropped out after first semester, especially senior year. They need more time to think these through, because they can say, 'No, I don't want to take this', but then realize 'Oh yes, I do, because my college that I didn't know about at the time does take these credits.'"

- Ellie Sloane, senior



"They are doing that to make sure students register for the test and then commit to taking that test in the spring. But they're also starting to have more test prep materials linked to you. So their goal is to help students who may not have the resources that we have at Brookline High School. So I think there's a good purpose in that regard."

- Ed Wisner, Science Curriculum Coordinator