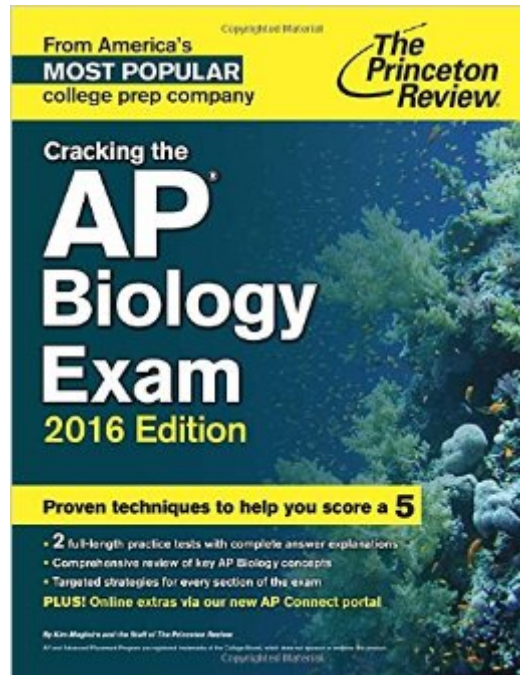


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# Cracking The AP Biology Exam, 2016 Edition (College Test Preparation)



## Synopsis

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO HELP SCORE A PERFECT 5. Equip yourself to ace the AP Biology Exam with The Princeton Review's comprehensive study guideâ€”including 2 full-length practice tests, thorough content reviews, access to our AP Connect online portal, and targeted strategies for every section of the exam. We don't have to tell you how tough AP Biology isâ€”or how important a stellar score on the AP Exam can be to your chances of getting into a top college of your choice. Written by Princeton Review experts who know their way around Bio, *Cracking the AP Biology Exam* will give you:

- Techniques That Actually Work.â€¢ Tried-and-true strategies to help you avoid traps and beat the test
- Tips for pacing yourself and guessing logically
- Essential tactics to help you work smarter, not harder

Everything You Need to Know to Help Achieve a High Score.â€¢ Comprehensive content review for all test topics- Up-to-date information on the 2016 AP Biology Exam
- Engaging activities to help you critically assess your progress
- Access to AP Connect, our online portal for helpful pre-college information and exam updates

Practice Your Way to Excellence.â€¢ 2 full-length practice tests with detailed answer explanations- Practice drills at the end of each content chapter
- Lists of key terms in every content chapter to help focus your studying

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## Customer Reviews

I'm an AP Chemistry teacher who has taken the time to purchase and compare the various test prep books for this exam. I started out by looking at the ratings, and I only ordered test prep books that

had an average rating of at least four stars. That left me with three books for AP Chem. The 5 steps book, the AP Chem for Dummies book, and the Princeton Review. I admit I bought the 2012 version of all three; they generally don't change much from year to year and I feel comfortable extrapolating the 2013 rating from the 2012 editions (which were much cheaper bought used on my teacher salary!) Of the three, I find the Princeton Review book to be the best overall. They do a good job of mirroring actual AP Chemistry exam questions, and I detected no lapses in the content coverage. What's even better, though, is the authors of this book made a conscious effort to exclude things that you just don't need to know. The biggest problems with the 5 steps and the Dummies books was that there was just too much stuff. You're buying a review book to help you pass the exam, and learning anything beyond that is not useful in a test prep book, generally. The 5 steps book also had really bad practice questions, while the Dummies book wasn't particularly user friendly when it came to the formatting. The only weakness the Princeton Review book had is that it really is, at its core, a supplemental text. There's not a great deal of time spent on actually teaching the material (more worked-out examples would have been nice). The bones are quite good, but I really feel like it's best used as a companion to a full-on AP Chemistry course. The provided tests are well written and mirror the AP exam content nicely, and in my opinion that's one of the best things you can get out of any test prep book. So, even though the book is not perfect, I'm giving it five stars because it is significantly better than the competition and that's what really matters here. Oh, and as an aside, even though I bought mine used I wouldn't necessarily recommend a student do so. The "used" part of my book meant it came with lots of circled answers and writing pretty much everywhere. In any case, this is the book I will recommend to my students for the 2013 exam. One thing to be aware of, though, is that the AP Chemistry content is undergoing a pretty big shift effective 2014. So, if you're reading this review anytime past May 2013, it is outdated and I wouldn't necessarily assume that the new guide will be modified to match the new content. As I mentioned earlier in my review, a lot of times the authors of books like this will simply print essentially the same book year after year, and I've found that sometimes they can get frightfully out of date (Kaplan is a notable offender in this regard). That being said, the folks at the Princeton Review might be all over the new content, and it will certainly be the first test prep book I review come 2014 to see if they managed to keep their book current.

After looking at several different brands of review books for this past year when I took AP World History, I decided on this one. It was more concise than other review books (more big picture, some detail but not as much) and it was recommended by both my teacher and other students. I like it

because it focused on the big ideas instead of tiny little details. This was so helpful because if you only know lots of small details, they may not even be on the test. If you understand the big picture that connects all those details, you'll do a lot better because it will help you on the essay section (which I was most scared about) and help you figure out detail-oriented multiple choice questions. I bought the 2011 Edition of this book, and I'm sure the 2012 one is only better. The author has a sense of humor and explains in normal, everyday talk to simplify what the textbook says. The practice tests are very helpful because they're harder than the actual exam was, so if you can work through them you'll be really prepared for the exam. I got a 5 on the AP world exam, and I know I would not have been able to do it without this book. I learned a lot in class, but this book helped pull it all together. I only wish I had bought it earlier because I think it would have been loads of help to prepare me for each unit test throughout the year (there are 5 units) as well as the actual exam. If you're taking AP world, GET THIS BOOK! you won't be sorry!

**THE COURSE/EXAM:**World History AP, or WHAP, is a college level world history class that tests a student's ability to connect the fundamentals of history under principals such as culture, economy, and political aspects. Students will be required to do conceptual and analytical thinking to link different civilizations with one another. The purpose of this course is not to memorize dates and history, but rather to understand how all civilizations can be linked with TRENDS. You will be required to understand these trends in both the multiple choice and free response portion of the exam, unlike APUSH(AP US History), which requires a great deal of information retention. At the end of the year, you will take the WHAP exam to determine your knowledge in the class. The exam is composed of 70 multiple choice questions worth 50% of the grade and 3 essays worth 50% of the grade together. The multiple choice questions test aspects of cultures and your knowledge of remembering their differences and similarities, such as How did \_\_\_\_\_ differ from \_\_\_\_\_ economically? The free response part has 3 essays: a Document Based Question, a Change over Time Question, and a Compare/Contrast Question. With each essay, you can score from a 0-9, which is based on a rubric I will post below. Getting a 5 on the exam means earning about 70-100% of the maximum allotted points, while a 4 is around 50-70%.

**PRINCETON REVIEW:**My world history textbook was an absolute PAIN to read. As a result, I decided to purchase this book to supplement the overall experience for the class. And it helped: significantly. The book starts off with more info about the WHAP test, such as what to expect and how to answer questions. Its key strategy is Process of Elimination, and it will provide examples to help explain how best to use it. **ONE THING THAT HAS CHANGED AS OF 2011 IS THAT THERE IS NO MORE GUESSING PENALTY FOR**

THE TEST, SO FEEL FREE TO GUESS WITHOUT PENALTY. The huge chunk in the middle is like a secondary textbook, more on this later. The last part of the book contains 2 AP full length tests, in which I suggest you use one for a diagnostic and the second to test your skills. If a WORLD HISTORY book makes me actually enjoy reading it, it's obviously going to stick in my head better. And that is the magic of this book. Don't expect huge lengthy paragraphs on certain chapters; rather, information you will actually need for the test. The book is sprinkled with some comical effects that make it much more easier to understand. Also, there are small information boxes that let you connect places to places, the main focus I mentioned above. I highly recommended knowing these boxes like the back of your hand; you WILL need them for the exam. The tests are probably the closest to College Board AP style as you will see in a reference book. Rather than asking for straight facts like some books I know, Princeton's uses an analytical basis for its questions just like the AP. Furthermore, there is an answer key at the end with useful explanations about the answers as well. In fact, the Princeton Review's tests are very close, if not HARDER, than the real test, so they are very valuable. I suggest saving them till the 2 weeks before the exam, when you are reviewing this book. There are no primary resources in the book and no example essays, but I will remedy the 2nd part at least with a link below. Though the book does give guidelines on how to write the essays, it would be nicer to see actual ones along with commentaries. The lack of primary resources isn't that significant, but still noteworthy, as there are often questions in the multiple choice over historical documents. One question I've been asked several times is if it is a good textbook replacement. Honestly, for the class itself, it's not enough. As stated above, the book will work wonders if you supplement it with a few notes of your own, but this shouldn't be your ONLY resource if you want to make an A in the class. I used online outlines to complement this book, and as a result got the A. What does this book work best as? A refresher. I can promise that nearing the time for the AP, I forgot many important details from the first semester. Thankfully though, this book let me recall names I had forgotten, such as Mamluk and the Hellenistic Era. It's good (actually, amazing) for the AP, as the AP doesn't require that much detail, but your teacher will most likely incorporate details this book won't cover. This book is truly not the best for super essays, but decent for good (5 or 6/9) essays. When I took the essays for the actual exam, I can just say that I felt a little screwed. A 8 or 9/9 essay requires a LOT more detail than the book provides. For example, one of the 2010 essays was to describe changes over time in African religion systems. The book briefly covered this, but it was only about 1/2 page of info. YOU WILL NEED MORE FOR A BETTER ESSAY (more significantly so as it is 50% of the grade), so please do not rely on this book single-handedly. The book will do wonders for preparing you for the MC portion of the AP. Compared

to other prep books, this will at least ensure you a 3 or 4; the others about a 2 or 3. However, that one point difference to a 4 or 5 will require some action on your part, and I shall help you out by providing a few links below. The reason I am giving this book a 5 is because it was the only review book I used, and it, along with a few external notes, ensured me a 5 on the exam. And if I can get a 5, you can too!

**ADVICE AND EXTERNAL LINKS:** If taking this class at school- \*Make sure to follow along what your teacher says. If you don't have a good teacher, I highly suggest look at online presentations. \*Add additional notes to the book that you may find helpful. Now remember.

**SPECIFIC Dates**(you MUST at least know the basic time period)/**REALLY MINOR** details are not at all necessary for this class, so don't waste time doing so. \*It's important to understand the **CHANGES OVER TIME** in a society(Such as China) and **COMPARING AND CONTRASTING** two different societies (such as the Mongols and the Byzantines). I highly recommend creating a visual table for each of the societies involved in a time period on the basis of their customs, foreign policy, etc. etc. \*Don't take the practice exams until the few weeks before the exam. They are extremely valuable. When the time comes, time yourself accordingly and make sure to look at the explanations for why you got something right or wrong. Do you see any patterns in the questions you missed? If so, you may want to review the section in either your textbook or PR book. \*Hate the textbook and don't want to use it?! I know! Me neither! I used online outlines of the textbook, and it, along with this book, made my life a lot easier! \*Look at some of the tips below. If you are self-studying this course- \*Read the textbook part of the book at least 2 or 3 times. Make sure to read the commentaries, they are break-or-make what you will see on the AP questions. \*Take some textbook quizzes at the website mentioned below (they are pretty close to AP level). Review the questions you got wrong and understand why you got them wrong. \*Take one practice test, and see how you do. Analyze the ones you got wrong. See any patterns? Review that chapter again in the book. If you guessed on any question, put a mark on it, so that your patterns aren't flawed. Repeat for Practice Test II. \*As you don't have a teacher to guide you on how to write the essays, I suggest this course of action. First, print out the grading rubric for all 3 essays so that you know how points are given and what you need to put on the essay. **ENGLISH GRAMMAR IS NOT IMPORTANT**(please do write it in English though!) and neither is spelling; don't waste precious time on that. Take a look at some of the free response questions at the website below, and practice them. Do you see any prompt that might be tricky for you? If you see many of these, you need another information supplement. Find some outlines online and review them. If you only have trouble with a few, review what your PR says. \*Start early, not the week before the exam, to ensure a 4 or 5. **General Advice for Exam-** \*Don't be scared to BS(for the lack of a better word..). Essay graders can't penalize

inaccuracy, so if you have NO IDEA what your essay is talking about, make it along rather than leaving it blank. Of course, use common sense please. Drawing a superman logo doesn't count as an essay, and neither does THIS IS SPARTAAAA.\*FEEL FREE TO GUESS ON QUESTIONS YOU DON'T KNOW. THE GUESSING PENALTY HAS BEEN REMOVED STARTING THIS YEAR.\*Bring a watch with you on test day to maintain a solid amount of time for each essay- around 40 minutes for each one.LINKS: Please remove the spaces in the links1st Link- All of the released Free Response Questions from previous exams. If you look to the right of them, you will see SAMPLES AND COMMENTARY, in which you can actually view EXAMPLE essays to those prompts along with the score they received, and why they received it. This is just as important as this book, so PLEASE do not ignore these. On the same link you can also view 30 ACTUAL multiple choice questions along with their answers. Also- for each year there is a SCORING GUIDELINE which you can use to grade your essays based on the 9 point system.[...]2nd Link- Textbook AP Styled practice exams[http://college.cengage.com/history/world/buliet/earth\\_peoples/2e/students/ace/index.html](http://college.cengage.com/history/world/buliet/earth_peoples/2e/students/ace/index.html)3rd Link- Online Outlines/ More practice questions/ General Help. AMAZING WEBSITE which is quite nicely written compared to the textbook's flowery language.[...]

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