AP Exam Info

Goals for the next two weeks:

- Review
- Fill in gaps
- Become more comfortable doing very challenging problems

Expectations for the next two weeks:

- Get homework done the night it is assigned
- Complete any reading assignments on time
- Push yourself on the review problems as if they were on the exam—don't just leave hard questions blank and count on someone else to explain the problem later; you need to get used to giving your best shot on these problems (see the third goal above)
- Use the resources that are available to you (book, notes, review sheets, etc.) when you are stuck on a problem instead of waiting for others to explain the problem to you
- Be a positive contributor to class—we can accomplish much more as a group than as individuals if we all work towards the goals above

Daily Quizzes:

- Two problems covering material from the chapter(s) assigned to review from the previous day
- Work done independently
- 10 minutes right at the beginning of class
- Won't get extra time if you're tardy
- If you're absent you'll have to take the quiz on your own time
- Each quiz worth 5 points in the homework section

Format of the AP Statistics Exam

Part I   Multiple Choice
- 40 questions
- 90 minutes (average of 2 minutes 15 seconds per question)
- Add 1 point for each correct answer
- No points are deducted for incorrect answers and no points are awarded for unanswered questions
- 50% of overall grade for exam

Break

Part 2   Free Response
- 5 "open-ended questions" (regular free-response)
- 1 "investigative task"
- 90 minutes total—recommendation: spend 65 minutes on 5 open-ended questions (average of 13 minutes each) and 25 minutes on investigative task
- 50% of overall grade for exam (each open-ended question is 7.5% of overall grade, investigative task is 12.5% of overall grade)

Simple Things Students Can Do To Improve Their AP Exam Scores

1. Read the problem carefully, and make sure that you understand the question that is asked. Then answer the question(s)!
Suggestion: Circle or highlight key words and phrases. That will help you focus on exactly what the question is asking.
Suggestion: When you finish writing your answer, re-read the question to make sure you haven't forgotten something important.

2. Write your answers completely but concisely. Don't feel like you need to fill up the white space provided for your answer. Nail it and move on.
Suggestion: Long, rambling paragraphs suggest that the test-taker is using a shotgun approach to cover up a gap in knowledge.

3. Don't provide parallel solutions. If multiple solutions are provided, the worst or most egregious solution will be the one that is graded.
Suggestion: If you see two paths, pick the one that you think is most likely to be correct, and discard the other.

4. Beware of careless use of language. Even if your calculations are correct, weak communication can cost you points.
Suggestion: Distinguish between sample and population; data and model; lurking variable and confounding variable; r and r^2; etc. Know what technical terms mean, and use these terms correctly.

5. A computation or calculator routine will rarely provide a complete response. Be able to write simple English and/or mathematical sentences that convey understanding.
Suggestion: Practice writing narratives for past homework problems, and have them critiqued by your teacher or a fellow student.

6. Know the steps for performing inference.
- hypotheses
- assumptions or conditions
- identify test (confidence interval) and calculate correctly
- conclusions in context
Suggestion: Learn the different forms for hypotheses, memorize conditions/assumptions for various inference procedures, and practice solving inference problems.

7. Understand strengths and weaknesses of different experimental designs.
Suggestion: Study examples of completely randomized design, paired design, matched pairs design, and block designs.

8. Remember that a simulation can always be used to answer a probability question, as long as it is correct and you explain it adequately.
Suggestion: Practice setting up and running simulations on your TI-83/89.

9. Be able to interpret generic computer output.
Suggestion: Practice reconstructing the least-squares regression line equation from a regression analysis printout. Identify and interpret the other numbers.

Best wishes, and good luck to all of you!

Dan Yates