

Advanced Placement Computer Science Workshop

APCS Examination Free Response Reading

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AP Computer Science Workshop

APCS Exams: Free Response Grading

- One week in June at Clemson University, SC
- Three days before the reading
 - Leaders examine sample responses and design, apply, and refine scoring standards (rubrics)
 - Questions are scored 0 to 9 (or -)
- Readers (faculty consultants) arrive and grade the exams
- Score Setting at ETS
 - Combine free response and multiple choice scores to produce AP score of 1 to 5
- “Equator” multiple choice questions measure difficulty of exam

APCS Free Response Grading

- Grading the exams
 - Readers indicate question grading preferences
 - Short Orientation
 - Readers apply rubric to “training packs” of 10-20 pre-selected answers, comparing and discussing results with question leaders
 - Readers grade two “split packs” of 25 exams with a partner, comparing and discussing results, move on to individual packs
 - Difficult cases are “starred” and referred to question leaders
 - Readers continue to grade packs of exams all day, every day, all week long
 - Question leaders and readers “backread” each pack of exams, reviewing starred questions and spot-checking others

Exam Strategies

- Practice with similar formats and environments
 - Acorn Book published exams
 - Commercially published review books
- Write something – points are given for “attempts”
- First answer of two not erased and is read
- “Semi-colons” aren’t an issue (semantics vs. syntax) – READERS ARE NOT COMPILERS!
- Students should know correct use of { } and indentation
- Need to know GridWorld and Java API subset
- KEEP IT SIMPLE!!

Why should I become a AP Reader?

- You meet lots of energetic people from around the world who have same academic interests as you – lots of ideas shared
- It provides a behind the scenes look at how the grading process works
- Gives you a feeling of “involvement” in the AP program
- You earn 47 hours of professional development units (for CA 5 year credential renewal)
- ...and get paid for it...
- Lots of informal professional development activities at night
- Is a week of FUN!!

Becoming an AP Reader

- Go to:
 - <http://www.apcentralcollegeboard.com>