
2021 AP[®] Chinese Language and Culture

Exam Overview

AP[®]

CollegeBoard

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This is an overview of the AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam. This presentation will provide you with a preview of the question types and directions screens that you'll see on exam day.

The exam is administered in school on school-owned computers through an exam application. On exam day, you will follow directions spoken by the proctor. During various parts of the exam, you will also read on the screen, listen through a headset, type using the keyboard, and speak into a microphone. Read the information on the screens carefully.

Exam Format

The exam will take approximately two hours and 15 minutes to complete. The exam has two sections. This includes a 10-minute break between Sections I and II.

Section I consists of multiple-choice content.

- Part A: Listening
- Part B: Reading

Section II, the free-response section, requires you to produce written and spoken responses.

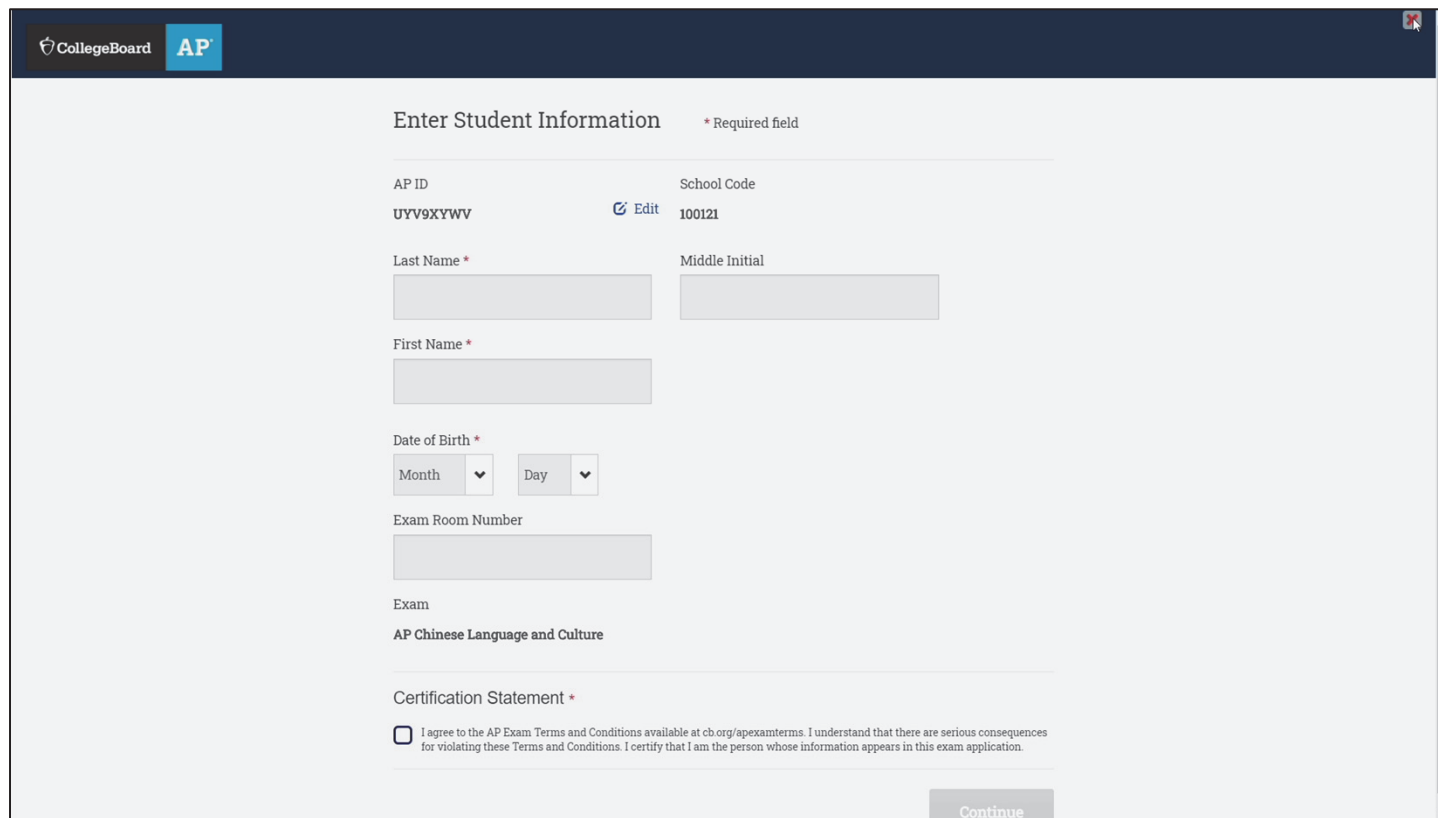
- Part A: Writing
- Part B: Speaking

About This Presentation

- This overview does not present an entire exam but does include questions that represent the various parts of the regular exam.
- The screen images in this presentation are from the practice exam, which is available through the exam application. Some screen images in this presentation include an Exit Part button, but this button will not appear in the regular exam.
- This presentation includes screens where some details, such as references to the number of questions or administration time, refer to the practice exam and do not match the regular exam.

The following image shows the Enter Student Information screen that you'll complete in place of an answer sheet on exam day.

At the start of the exam, students need to acknowledge they have read and agreed to the AP Exam Terms and Conditions.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Enter Student Information" with a red asterisk indicating required fields. The form is set for the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam. It includes fields for AP ID (UYV9XYWV), School Code (100121), Last Name, Middle Initial, First Name, Date of Birth (Month and Day dropdowns), and Exam Room Number. At the bottom, there is a "Certification Statement" section with a checkbox for agreement to the AP Exam Terms and Conditions. A "Continue" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

CollegeBoard AP

Enter Student Information * Required field

AP ID: UYV9XYWV [Edit](#) School Code: 100121

Last Name * Middle Initial

First Name *

Date of Birth *
Month Day

Exam Room Number

Exam
AP Chinese Language and Culture

Certification Statement *

I agree to the AP Exam Terms and Conditions available at [cb.org/apexamterms](https://collegeboard.org/apexamterms). I understand that there are serious consequences for violating these Terms and Conditions. I certify that I am the person whose information appears in this exam application.

Continue

General Directions

The table in the "At a Glance" section that follows provides an overview of the exam, showing the number of questions and amount of time for each part and the contribution of each part to the final AP score. The first section of the exam contains several listening tasks and reading tasks, which test your ability to use Chinese in the interpersonal and interpretive modes of communication. In this multiple-choice section, select one answer choice by selecting an oval or anywhere on the answer choice. To change an answer, select a different answer choice. To leave a question unanswered after you have selected an answer, select the selected answer choice again to deselect it. The total score on the multiple-choice section is based only on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions. The second section of the exam contains 4 free-response tasks, which test your ability to use Chinese in the interpersonal and presentational modes of communication. You will type your responses for the writing tasks, and your responses for the speaking tasks will be recorded. Various tasks in the exam will also test your knowledge of Chinese culture.

You have some choices for reading and writing in Chinese. The display and input options you select will have no effect on your score. Chinese text on the screen can be displayed in simplified characters or in traditional characters, and you may toggle between the two versions if necessary. When typing your responses in the Writing part of the exam, you may choose from the following 3 input methods: Pinyin Simplified, Pinyin Traditional, and Bopomofo.

The proctor should have provided you with scratch paper and a pencil, which you may use to take notes and to organize your responses. You must return the scratch paper and pencil to the proctor at the end of the exam.

At a Glance

The following table summarizes the exam format. The total time listed for each section takes into account time for reading directions, moving from question to question, etc. As a result, the estimated time for each section may be greater than the sum of the estimated times for each part.

Note: The directions throughout the exam regarding timing for specific questions reflect the standard timing. If you have been approved for extended time, the adjusted timing for applicable parts of the exam will be reflected accurately on the clock that appears on the screen.

At the beginning of the exam, you should read the General Directions carefully (continued on next page).



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At a Glance

The following table summarizes the exam format. The total time listed for each section takes into account time for reading directions, moving from question to question, etc. As a result, the estimated time for each section may be greater than the sum of the estimated times for each part.

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Section	Question or Task Type	Number of Questions or Tasks	Percent of Total Score	Approximate Time
Multiple Choice		Approximately 70 Questions	50%	1 hour, 30 minutes
Part A: Listening	Rejoinders	10–15	10%	10 minutes
	Listening Selections	15–20	15%	10 minutes
Part B: Reading	Reading Selections	35–40	25%	1 hour
Free Response		4 Tasks	50%	45 minutes
Part A: Writing	Story Narration	1 question	15%	15 minutes
	E-Mail Response	1 question	10%	15 minutes
Part B: Speaking	Conversation	6 questions	10%	4 minutes
	Cultural Presentation	1 question	15%	7 minutes

There may also be survey questions, which do not affect your score.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Hardware Check

Before the exam begins, we will check the headset and microphone volumes. Please make sure your headset is on and your microphone is placed in front of your mouth.



Select **Continue** to go on.

Before the first part of the exam, you will check that your headset and microphone are working properly.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP', and buttons for 'Exit Part', 'Volume', and 'Continue'. Below the bar, the word 'Listening' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Listening Part Directions' and contains the following text:

Listening Part Directions

You will answer two types of questions: rejoinders and questions based on listening selections.

For all the tasks, you will have a specific amount of response time. A clock at the top of the screen will show you how much time is remaining to respond. The clock will not count down while you are listening. The clock will count down only while you are answering questions.

When the response time has ended, you will automatically go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The multiple-choice section begins with Part A: Listening.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' on the left, and 'Exit Part', 'Volume', and 'Continue' buttons on the right. Below the bar, the word 'Listening' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Listening Part Directions: Rejoinders' and contains the following text:

You will hear several short conversations or parts of conversations followed by four choices, designated A, B, C, and D. Choose the one that continues or completes the conversation in a logical and culturally appropriate manner. You will have 5 seconds to answer each question.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Part A: Listening— Rejoinders

After hearing each short conversation or parts of a conversation, you should choose the most logical and culturally appropriate response to continue or complete the exchange.

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Listening | Question 1 of 12

You will hear the first part of a conversation, and then four possible responses, labeled A through D. After you have heard all four possible responses, select your choice.

0:09 / 0:24
You may play this audio 1 time.

A

B

C

D

An audio progress bar appears whenever you hear audio material through your headset.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' on the left, and 'Exit Part', 'Volume', and 'Continue' buttons on the right. Below the navigation bar, the word 'Listening' is displayed in a light blue header. The main content area is titled 'Listening Part Directions: Selections' and contains the following text:

You will listen to several selections in Chinese. For each selection, you will be told whether it will be played once or twice. You may take notes as you listen. Your notes will not be graded. After listening to each selection, you will see questions in English. For each question, choose the response that is best according to the selection. You will have 12 seconds to answer each question.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Part A: Listening— Listening Selections

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Exit Part Volume

Listening

Voice message
Selection plays two times.

1:28 / 1:29
You may play this audio 1 time.

The image shows a screenshot of a digital listening interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' on the left, and 'Exit Part' and 'Volume' controls on the right. Below the header, the word 'Listening' is displayed. The main content area contains a 'Voice message' player. The player has a title 'Voice message' and a subtitle 'Selection plays two times.' Below this is a dark grey audio player control bar. On the left of the bar is a 'No use' icon (a red circle with a slash over a play button). To its right is a progress bar, and further right is the time '1:28 / 1:29'. Below the time, it says 'You may play this audio 1 time.'

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Listening | Question 6 of 12 Show Time

Exit Part Volume

What is the purpose of the message?

- To arrange a medical appointment
- To ask for directions to the hospital
- To cancel a previous engagement
- To recommend a movie

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Exit Part Mark Review Help Back Next Continue

Reading

Reading Part Directions

You will read several selections in Chinese. Each selection is accompanied by a number of questions in English. For each question, choose the response that is best according to the selection.

Wherever Chinese text appears for you to read, it can be displayed either in simplified characters or in traditional characters, and you may toggle between the two versions if necessary.

You will have **10 minutes** to answer all the questions. A clock on the screen will indicate how much time is remaining.

You can move to the next question by selecting **Next**. You can skip questions or go back to them later as long as there is time remaining. If you want to return to previous questions, select **Back**.

For later review, you can mark a question by selecting **Mark**, which will place a check mark in the Marked column on the review screen for that question. Selecting **Mark** again will remove the check mark. A question will remain marked until you unmark it, even if you change the answer.

You can select **Review** at any time, and the review screen will indicate which questions you have answered and which you have not answered. The Marked column indicates all questions you have marked for review. From the review screen, you may go directly to any question.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The multiple-choice section continues with Part B: Reading.

During the Reading part, you may access the **Help** screens.

NOTE: The clock does not stop when viewing the **Help** screens. The more time you spend on **Help**, the less time you have to answer questions.

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Return

Testing Tools | How to Answer | How to Scroll | General Directions | Part Directions | Show Time

Testing Tools

	After you answer a question, select Next . You may still return to the question and change your answer after selecting Next .
	Selecting Back will take you to the previous screen or question.
	Selecting Exit Part will skip ahead to the next part. The Exit Part button will not appear in the regular exam.
	Selecting Help will bring you to Help. From Help you can get information on different topics by selecting one of the tabs on the screen. You are now in Help.
	Selecting Review will allow you to access the Review screen. The Review screen lists all of the questions in the reading part and their status. The Status column indicates if a question has been answered, not answered, or not encountered. The Mark column shows all questions you have marked for review. The question you were on last is selected and highlighted when you enter the Review screen.
	Selecting Mark will place a check mark on the Review screen next to the questions you may want to review again. Selecting Mark again will remove the check mark. A question will remain marked until you unmark it, even if you change the answer.

Select **Return** to go on.

This is an example of a **Help** screen.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.

CollegeBoard AP

Switch to Traditional Exit Part Mark Review Help Back Next

Reading | Question 1 of 5 Show Time

Questions 1 through 3.

Read this note.

小明:

你好!听说期末考一结束你就回家了,昨天才回来。你可能还不知道学校前天发了通知,告诉我们学校图书馆的开放时间有些变动。早上开馆的时间提前了半个小时,晚上闭馆的时间推迟了半个小时,周末也一样。这对我们写毕业论文很有利。今天下午我再给你打电话,商量一下晚上去图书馆查资料的事。

张宏

8月29日

Why does Zhang Hong assume that Xiao Ming does not know about the new library schedule?

- Xiao Ming has been preoccupied with writing his thesis.
- Xiao Ming has been doing an off-campus research project.
- Xiao Ming had gone home for the post-exam break.
- Xiao Ming just returned from a trip abroad.

Throughout the exam, whenever Chinese text is displayed for you to read (e.g., each selection in the Reading part and one selection in the Writing part), you can use a button to toggle between the text in **traditional** or **simplified** characters.

The screenshot displays the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP', and several buttons: 'Switch to Traditional', 'Exit Part', 'Mark', 'Review', 'Help', 'Back', and 'Next'. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Reading | Question 4 of 5' and 'Show Time' are visible. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the text 'Read this public sign.' followed by a box containing the Chinese text '报章期刊阅毕后请放回原处'. The right column contains the question 'Where would the sign most likely appear?' followed by four radio button options: 'In a department store', 'In a park', 'At a newsstand', and 'In a library'. A blue arrow points from the 'Review' button in the navigation bar to the right-hand side of the page.

During the Reading part, selecting the **Review** option will allow you to review the status of each question.

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Return ← Go to Question ⌂

Reading | Question 4 of 5 Show Time ⌚

Review

This page presents information about questions in the current section. You may sort the questions by **Number**, **Status**, and **Marked**. The question you were on is selected and highlighted by default. Questions you have encountered have a status of **Answered** or **Not Answered**. Questions you have not encountered have a status of **Not Encountered**. Marked questions are indicated with a ✓.

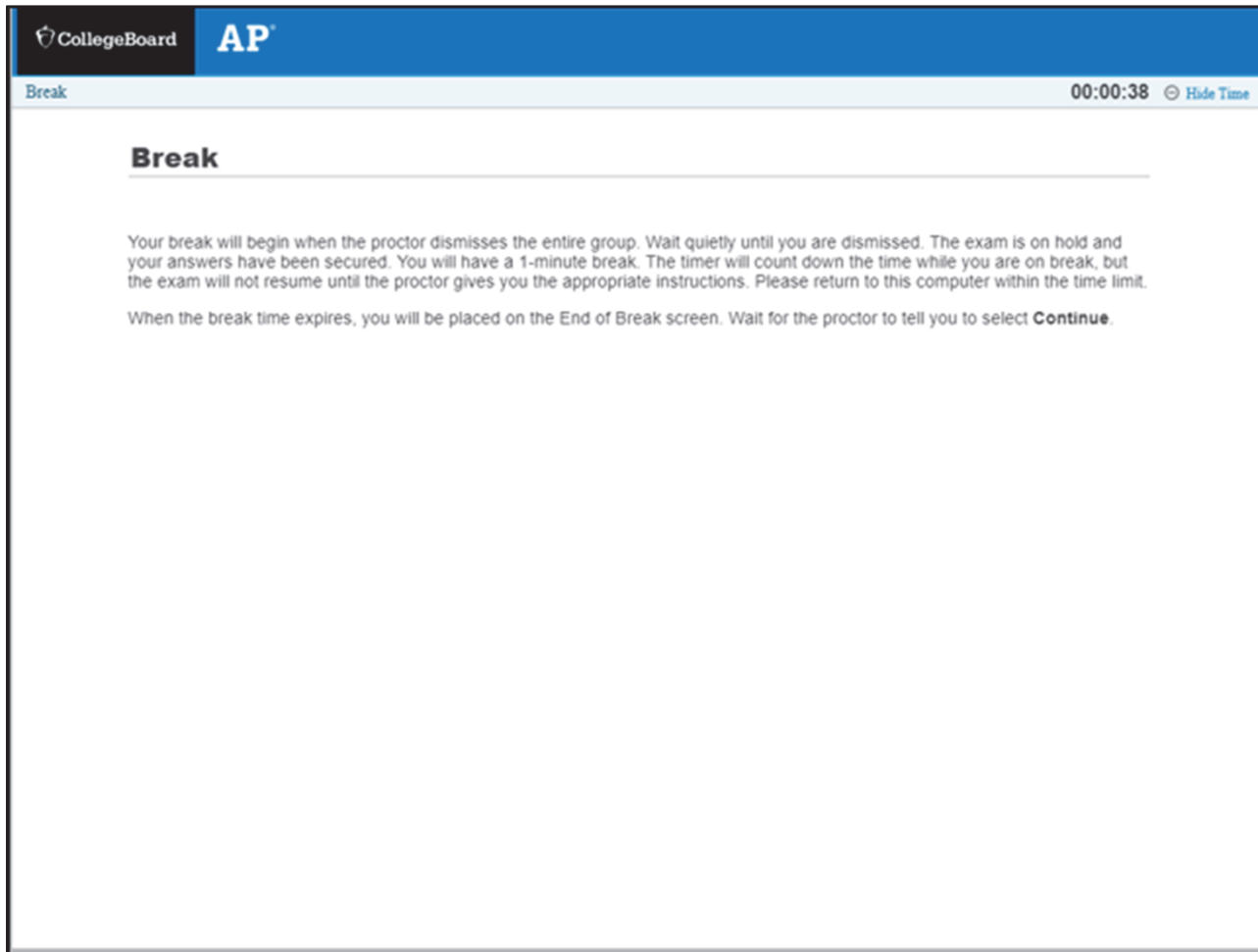
To return to the question you were on, select **Return**. To go to a different question, select that question and select **Go to Question**. You will be unable to go to questions that have a status of **Not Encountered**.

5 Questions Sorted by Number in Ascending Order

Question ^	Description	Status	Marked
1	Why does Zhang Hong assume that Xiao Ming does not know	Not Answered	
2	How does Zhang Hong feel about the schedule change?	Not Answered	
3	How does the new library schedule differ from the old one?	Not Answered	
4	Where would the sign most likely appear?	Not Answered	
5	What is the purpose of the sign?	Not Encountered	

This is the **Review** screen, which allows you to check the status of each question.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.



There will be a 10-minute break between the multiple-choice and free-response sections.

You must wait for the proctor's instructions before beginning the break.

After the break, you must wait for the proctor's instructions before resuming the exam.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP', and buttons for 'Exit Part', 'Help', and 'Continue'. Below the bar, the word 'Writing' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Writing Part Directions' and contains the following text:

Writing Part Directions

You will be asked to perform two writing tasks in Chinese. In each case, you will be asked to write for a specific purpose and to a specific person. You should write in as complete and as culturally appropriate a manner as possible, taking into account the purpose and the person described.

Wherever Chinese text appears for you to read, it can be displayed either in simplified characters or in traditional characters, and you may toggle between the two versions if necessary.

In this part of the exam, you can choose your desired input method for typing your responses in Chinese by selecting **Pinyin Simplified**, **Pinyin Traditional**, or **Bopomofo** from the drop-down list.

A clock at the top of the screen will show you how much time is remaining to write your response.

When the response time has ended, you will automatically go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The free-response section begins with Part A: Writing.

During the Writing part, you may access the **Help** screens.

NOTE: The clock does not stop when viewing the **Help** screens. The more time you spend on **Help**, the less time you have to answer questions.

CollegeBoard AP

Return
←

Testing Tools | How to Answer | How to Scroll | General Directions | Part Directions | Show

Writing Tools Information

Following is an overview of the writing tools and keyboard keys available to you during the exam. These tools and keys will help you write your essay.

Tools:

Cut—To delete something you have typed or cut it out in order to paste it elsewhere:

- select the text
- select **Cut**

Paste—To put text in a different location:

- select the text
- select **Cut**
- go to the spot where you want to place the text
- select **Paste**
- **Note:** You can only **Cut** and **Paste** within a response to a question, not between responses to different questions.

Undo—select **Undo** to reverse or cancel your last action. Each time you select **Undo**, it reverses one more action.

Redo—select **Redo** to reverse the action of the **Undo** command. Each time you select **Redo**, it reverses one more **Undo** command.

Character Count—Select **Hide Character Count** to remove the character count. Select **Show Character Count** to show the character count.

Input Method—You can choose your desired input method for typing your responses in Chinese by selecting **Pinyin Simplified**, **Pinyin Traditional**, or **Bopomofo** from the drop-down list.

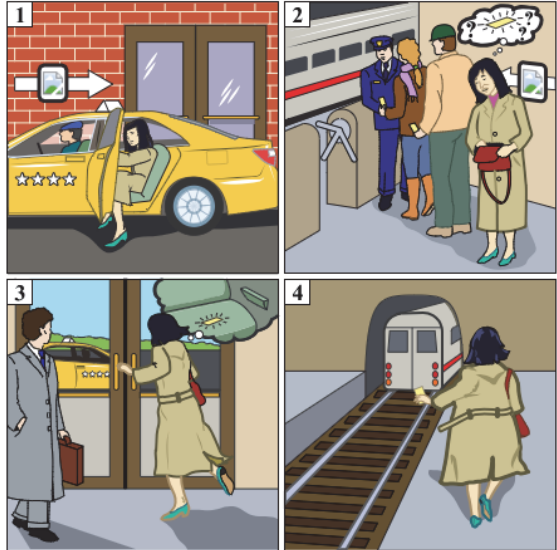
This is an example of a **Help** screen.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.

CollegeBoard AP Writing | Question 1 of 2 Show Time

Directions: In this task, you will be asked to write in Chinese for a specific purpose and to a specific person. You should write in as complete and culturally appropriate a manner as possible, taking into account the purpose and the person described.

The four pictures present a story. Imagine you are writing the story to a friend. Narrate a complete story as suggested by the pictures. Give your story a beginning, a middle, and an end.



Cut Paste Undo Redo Pinyin Simplified Hide Character Count 0

In the Writing parts of the exam, you can choose your desired input method for typing responses in Chinese by selecting **Pinyin Simplified**, **Pinyin Traditional**, or **Bopomofo** from the drop-down list.

The screenshot shows the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' on the left, and 'Switch to Traditional', 'Exit Part', and 'Help' buttons on the right. Below the header, the text 'Writing | Question 2 of 2' is visible. The main content area contains the following text:

Directions: In this task, you will be asked to write in Chinese for a specific purpose and to a specific person. You should write in as complete and culturally appropriate a manner as possible, taking into account the purpose and the person described.

Read this e-mail from a friend and then write a response.

发件人: 王明华
邮件主题: 申请美国大学

因为申请到美国上大学的资料在一个月内都得寄出, 所以这几个星期忙得不得了。没想到申请美国大学的手续这么复杂, 跟中国的情况完全不一样。在中国只要通过入学考试就行了。你在美国读书, 一定比我更了解申请美国大学的要求, 有什么好主意可以分享? 跟其他的申请资料来比较, 申请入学的作文有多重要? 请尽快告诉我一些信息。

On the right side of the writing area, there is a toolbar with buttons for 'Cut', 'Paste', 'Undo', 'Redo', 'Pinyin Simplified', and 'Hide Character Count 0'. A blue arrow points from the 'Pinyin Simplified' button to the text on the right. Another blue arrow points from the 'Switch to Traditional' button in the top header to the text on the right.

You can toggle to display the e-mail in **simplified** characters or **traditional** characters. (Your typed response will appear in **simplified** characters or in **traditional** characters according to which option you selected from the drop-down menu.)

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP' text, and three buttons: 'Exit Part' (with a mobile phone icon), 'Volume' (with a speaker icon), and 'Continue' (with a right arrow icon). Below the navigation bar, the word 'Speaking' is displayed in a light blue header. The main content area is titled 'Speaking Part Directions' and contains the following text:

Speaking Part Directions

You will participate in a simulated conversation and make a presentation.

For the presentation, you will have a specific amount of preparation time. During the preparation time, a clock will show you how much time is remaining.

For both tasks, you will have a specific amount of response time. During the response time, a clock will show you how much time is remaining.

When the response time has ended, you will automatically go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

Your cue to start speaking will always be this tone.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The free-response section continues with Part B: Speaking.

Before beginning this part, you will perform another headset and microphone check.

You should record your responses at a normal speaking level.

Speaking

Speaking Part Directions: Conversation

You will participate in a simulated conversation. Each time it is your turn to speak, you will have 20 seconds to record. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible.

There will be six times when it is your turn to speak.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Directions: You will participate in a simulated conversation. You will hear a series of 6 questions or statements; after each question or statement, you will hear a tone signifying that it is your turn to speak. You will have 20 seconds to record each response. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible. When you are ready to begin, select the Continue button.

You will have a conversation with Huang Lihua, an interviewer, about your application for a scholarship to study in China.

▶ Play 0:00 / 0:05
You may no longer play this audio.

RESPONSE TIME

 00:00:20

Speaking

Speaking Part Directions: Cultural Presentation

You will be asked to speak in Chinese on a specific topic. Imagine you are making an oral presentation to your Chinese class. First, you will read and hear the topic for your presentation. You will have 4 minutes to prepare your presentation. Then you will have 2 minutes to record your presentation. Your presentation should be as complete as possible.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Directions: You will be asked to speak in Chinese on a specific topic. Imagine you are making an oral presentation to your Chinese class. First, you will hear and read the topic for your presentation. The time you will have to prepare your presentation is indicated on the clock. You will then have 2 minutes to record your presentation. Your presentation should be as complete as possible.

Choose ONE Chinese food that is associated with a particular holiday (moon cake, *zongzi*, etc.). In your presentation, describe this food that is associated with a particular holiday and explain its significance.

▶ Play 0:00 / 0:17

You may no longer play this audio.

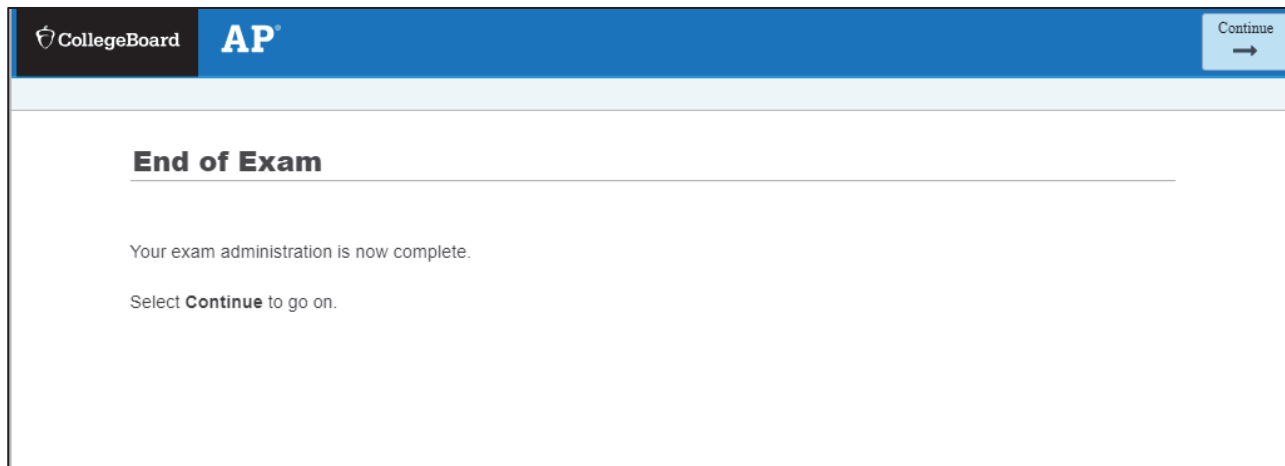
Preparation Time: 4 Minutes

Response Time: 2 Minutes

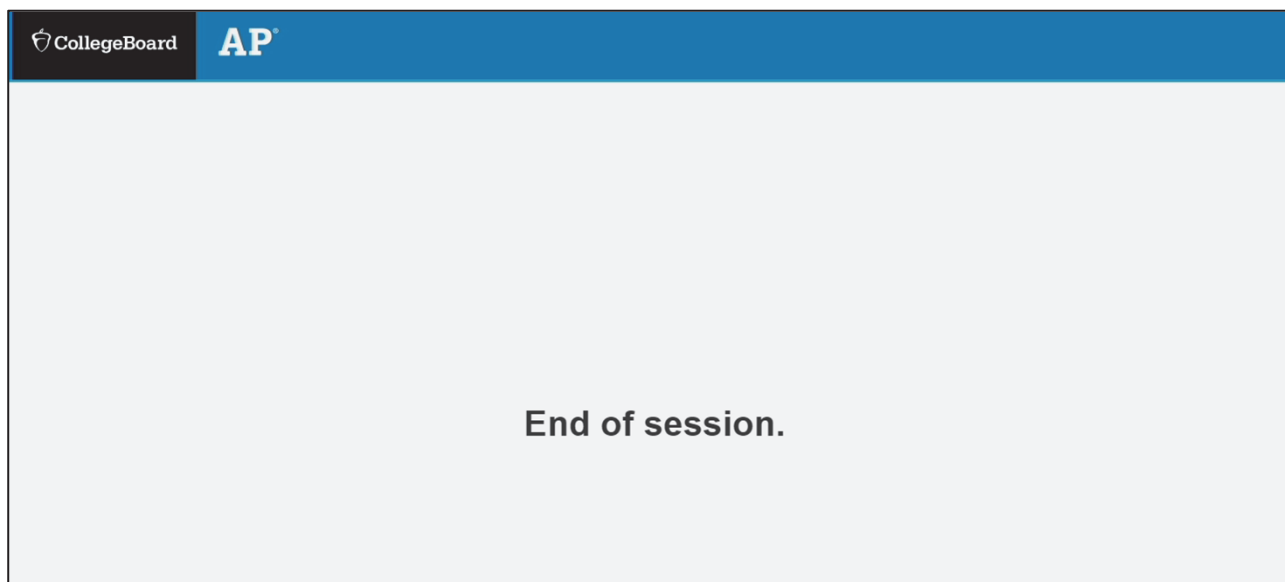
PREPARATION TIME



00:04:00



At the end of the exam, you'll click **Continue** on the **End of Exam** screen. Next, the **End of Session** screen will appear for a few seconds before the exam application closes.



After the exam, do not touch the computer.

Sit quietly and wait for the proctor to dismiss all students at the same time.

If you'd like more information about the AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam or the AP Exam administration, refer to the following resources:

- The AP coordinator of the school where you will be testing can provide you with more information about the exam schedule, what to bring on exam day, and any pre-exam-day activities.
- Visit the AP Chinese Language and Culture pages at apstudents.org/courses to see the complete course description as well as free-response questions and scoring guidelines from last year's exam.
- Read the AP Exam Terms and Conditions at cb.org/apexamterms.