

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS GRADING POLICY

The grading policy for this course is very straight forward. Each task which is performed is assigned a point value. Typical point values for these tasks are:

<b>TESTS</b>	<b>50 to 100 pts each</b>
<b>LAB REPORTS</b>	<b>20 to 50 pts each</b>
<b>QUIZZES</b>	<b>10 to 50 pts each</b>
<b>HOMEWORK</b>	<b>5 to 20 pts each</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>0 to 10 pts each quarter</b>

Based on these point assignment values, each marking period's grade will be consist of APPROXIMATELY 40% TESTS and QUIZZES, 30% LABWORK, 30% HOMEWORK, and 0% PARTICIPATION.

At the end of each marking period, the total points accumulated by each student is divided by the total points possible for the term. This quotient is then converted to a grade according to the following scale set out by the Freehold Regional High School District Board of Education.

<b>A+ 97-100</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>	<b>D+ 67-69</b>
<b>A 94-96</b>	<b>B 84-86</b>	<b>C 74-76</b>	<b>D 65-67</b>
<b>A- 90-93</b>	<b>B- 80-83</b>	<b>C- 70-73</b>	<b>E 0-65</b>

With this grading system, each student can determine his/her minimum grade at any time during the marking period with the exception of the participation grade which will be assigned at the end of the marking period.

In addition to the above, any student who satisfactorily completes and submits ALL work ON TIME and demonstrates SINCERE effort will receive a passing grade for the corresponding marking period! (But note that according to district policy, D's for 3 or fewer marking periods is NOT sufficient to pass the course!)

**Grading for each of the tasks will be based on the following criteria;**

1. **TESTS** - Generally each test will have a point value of 50 to 100 points and there will usually be 2 or 3 tests during each marking period [except the 4th marking period]. Calculators are permitted on all tests. Answers to all the problems on the test should include the given, appropriate equations, substituting the given into the equations (including labels or units), and the answer CIRCLED. If you are absent on the day of a test ONLY, you will be expected to take that test on the day of your return to school. Likewise, if you are absent up to two days before a test, you will be expected to take the test when you return to school. If you are absent 3 or more days prior to a test, the makeup test must be taken within 2 weeks of your return to school. Special consideration will be given to extended illnesses.

2. **LAB REPORTS** - Lab reports will generally be worth between 20 and 50 points, depending on difficulty, with most labs being worth 30 points. Lab reports will be due one week after the completion of the experiment. A late lab report will be automatically penalized **5 points** for each day the report is late. A lab report is considered late if it is given to me after I collect the reports in class (even if it's one minute after class-collection). The format of the reports will be as follows; purpose, apparatus, procedure, background theory, data and results, and conclusion. **YOUR LAB REPORT SHOULD FOLLOW THIS ORDER OF THE SECTIONS.** See below for more detailed information concerning this format.

OBJECTIVES-What the lab is trying to accomplish, show, demonstrate, or teach.

APPARATUS-This is to include a complete list of all equipment that is to be used in the lab.

PROCEDURE-This is to include a brief summary of the steps to perform this lab. Copying the lab procedure provided by the teacher is tedious, time-consuming, and not only not necessary, but discouraged by this teacher.

BACKGROUND THEORY-Here you are to include all general equations, formulas, definitions, concepts, etc. that are necessary to complete the lab. However, providing simply a list of these necessary components is **NOT** acceptable. The components should be developed in a discussion that is in paragraph format.

DATA/RESULTS-This section must include all observations, information, data that is organized (many times tabular form is most desirable), calculations with all work shown, graphs, etc. This is to be the "what happened" section of your lab report.

CONCLUSIONS-The conclusions are simply **answers to the objectives using APPOPRIATE data for support of those answers.** Included in this section may be the answers to some or all of the following questions: How close are your results to the accepted values (percent error)? What reasons would account for your error? What could have been done to correct the error(s) and improve your lab results?

QUESTIONS-These will be found at the end of your lab and are to be answered with complete sentences in proper English.

Note-The first three sections are **USUALLY** assigned a value of three points each, while the fourth and sixth sections are **USUALLY** worth five points apiece. The data section has point values that vary with each lab.

3. **HOMEWORK** - Homework will be checked regularly and all homework is expected to be kept in an orderly notebook so that individual assignments can be conveniently submitted as required. It is expected that all homework be done carefully and neatly so as to indicate sincere effort. All homework assignments should include the given, appropriate equations, substituting the given into the equations (including labels or units), and the answer **CIRCLED** for each problem assigned. Each homework assignment that is checked or collected will be graded based on completeness and upon an indication of sincere effort. Late homework will be accepted only in the case of excused absence. If three or more homework assignments are missed during a marking period, the grade for that marking period will be an incomplete!

4. **QUIZZES** - Quizzes will usually be announced. Answers for all problems should include the given, appropriate equations, substituting the given into the equations (including labels or units), and the answer **CIRCLED**. If you are absent on the day of a quiz **ONLY**, you will be expected to take that quiz on the day of your return to school. Likewise, if you are absent up to two days before a quiz, you will be expected to take the quiz when you return to school. If you are absent 3 or more days prior to the quiz, the makeup quiz must be taken within 2 weeks of your return to school. Special consideration will be given to extended illnesses.
5. **PARTICIPATION** - Participation and effort during the marking period will be used to discriminate grades which are on the edge between two grades. Up to 10 points may be awarded to students who: show significant improvement in performance, actively participate in class discussion, demonstrate extra effort in solving difficult problems (such as using source materials beyond the normal textbook), and work enthusiastically in the lab.

Keep in mind that the biggest obstacle facing most students in this course is the absence of completed lab reports and/or homework assignments. It is important that you always keep up with the work because much of what is done later in the course depends on those topics covered at the beginning of the school year. In any case, one of the primary goals of this course is to prepare you for the Physics B Advanced Placement Examination and this tests requires that you retain most of what you learn throughout the school year (as well as remembering what you learned last year!). If you find yourself falling behind, try to seek out help as soon as possible. I will usually be available on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 AM. However, you must notify me ahead of time of your intentions to come in for extra help on a given Wednesday (I will not come in early if nobody asks me ahead of time).

Likewise, attendance in this class is very important. Much of what I cover in class will not be explained thoroughly in the text and it may be difficult to make up all the missed work.

Please retain returned assignments in a personal file. If there is a discrepancy in your grade, it will be **YOUR** responsibility to provide those materials on your behalf.

ONE FINAL NOTE! Since this is “Advanced Placement Physics” and since the AP test is, therefore, a primary consideration, it is expected that all students in this class put forth a sincere effort with respect to review and preparation for the AP Examination. Review for the AP test will be included on class tests and in homework throughout the year and will be a part of the overall grading for the course! My goal throughout the year will be to provide you with the best preparation for the AP Physics B examination that is possible.

Some students may consider taking the AP Physics C examination (call the colleges’ science or physics departments to which you have been accepted and/or are considering to determine their preference). I will attempt to prepare those of you who fall into this category as much as possible.