

AP™ Calculus Exam Review Tips for Students

- Practice released Free Response questions.
It is vital that students identify standard types of questions (Area-Volume, Solving Differential Equations, Using a Derivative Graph, etc.).
- Focus on presentation.
Finding a correct answer may not be enough to earn **any** points. The process must be clearly shown.
- Avoid simplification on FR. Answers like $\sin(\pi)$, $0.5(4 + 5 + 8)$, or $\ln(e^2)$ earn full credit.
- Label units when necessary. Circle directions like “label units in your answer” on the first read-through to avoid forgetting.
- Watch for FR parts with multiple problems. Circle the questions as you answer them to make sure each question is answered.
- Write **single** sentence explanations when necessary. In general, don’t say “it”. In general don’t use the word slope in the same sentence as the words increasing or decreasing.
- Use a pencil.
- Don’t leave two solutions without crossing one out.
- If you were unable to answer part (a) and you need the answer for part (b), go back and make up a reasonable answer and use it.
- Don’t leave any Multiple Choice question blank. Mark any problems to be revisited if time permits.
- If asked to give “the value of a function”, you are being asked to give a y -value.
- Round to **3** or more decimal places. Intermediate rounding (before the final answer) may lead to an inaccurate answer.
- Be expecting to approximate the value of an integral with areas of rectangles or trapezoids of **unequal** widths (possibly using values from a table).
- Understand the concept of increasing/decreasing speed.
- Be able to distinguish between “average value of a function” and “average rate of change”.
- If possible take a full length “Mock Exam” a week or two before the actual AP Exam.