

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on AP Chinese Language and Culture

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Visit the following web site for updates on AP Chinese
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/chinese>

The AP Chinese Language and Culture Course provides students with ongoing and varied opportunities to develop their communicative competence and their understanding of the Chinese culture. Throughout the course, students hone their language skills across the three communicative modes articulated in the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational.

The first AP Chinese courses will be offered fall of 2006 and the first exam is scheduled for May, 2007. The AP Chinese Exam is Internet-based. Hardware requirements can be found at the AP Chinese home page. Students can choose either the simplified or non-simplified Chinese characters for the AP Chinese exam. The course description and the sample exam items have recently been published on the web site of the AP Chinese Language and Culture: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/repository/ap05_chinese_drafted__50118.pdf

The AP Chinese course is geared to parallel the demands of a fourth semester college level course. The course and exam will assume non-heritage learners as its target population. All aspects of the exam will be geared for students who have learned Chinese as an academic experience in school, NOT as a function of their family background or time spent in a Chinese speaking community, and the raw scores of heritage learner examinees will be removed from the data pool BEFORE the 'cut scores' are established. That is, the range of students' raw scores that will earn a '5', a '4', a '3', and so on, will be established ONLY on the non-heritage learners' raw scores. Test items are grouped into interpersonal (30%), interpretive (40%), and presentational (30%).

The College Board offers a broad range of professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators such as one-day workshops, information sessions with the AP Chinese Development Committee at the AP National Conference, weeklong summer institutes, Pre-AP world languages strategies and Vertical Teams workshops. Teachers can learn more about the AP Chinese course and the exam and “best practices” for the AP Chinese classroom etc. For more specific information on various professional development opportunities please check the following web page of the AP central web site: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/article/0,3045,149-0-0-49223,00.html>. There will also be professional development scholarships. Check the following web page for details: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/repository/ap06_chin_apacschol_c_50389.pdf

A Teacher’s Guide for AP Chinese will be available soon. It will make very clear the specific requirements of both the course and the exam. It will also contain advice for teachers, course organization, sample syllabi and other useful information.

AP Scholarships

Dear colleagues,
The College Board is pleased to inform you that we are currently accepting scholarship applications for professional development during the summer of 2006. The

scholarship opportunities include attendance at the AP(r) Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, July 13-16, 2006, and AP/Pre-AP(r) Summer Institutes abroad. Chinese teachers for grades 6-12 in accredited schools may apply. Please follow the links below for complete information. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2006. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.