

Order of Study

Please note that everything suggested here serves only as a guideline. It is assumed that you are currently taking or have already finished Physics 20, since most of the material in Physics 1 links well with Physics 20.

When self-studying for a course like AP Physics 1, there will be some content that you might cover in too much detail, while missing on some points from another. Also, consider that the AP exams are not as focused on “formula-substitution-answer” type questions; instead, they will often focus more on the application of broad ideas.

Although only a suggestion, it is helpful to use a study guide as you work through this material. There are two main publishers, 5 Steps to a 5 and Barron’s. Each has their own pros and cons. Both publishers offer suggestions on the structure and type of questions, as well as include practice tests (which can be invaluable). You can find them at a local bookstore or order them online from a site like Amazon. Make sure you are buying the current edition (it must have the year of the exam you will be writing in May).

In the following list, we look at the major topics you need to study for Physics 1.

- **Topics from the regular Alberta Physics 20 curriculum**
- **Topics from the regular Alberta Physics 30 curriculum**
- **Exclusive to the AP Physics 1 program**

Chapter 1: Kinematics

Chapter 2: Vectors

Chapter 3: Forces

Chapter 6: Energy

Chapter 9: Momentum

Chapter 5: Circular Motion P20

Torque and Rotational Dynamics

Energy and Momentum of Rotating Systems

Chapter 7: SHM (Oscillations)

Fluids

When studying for Physics 1, you can skip some chapters from Physics 20 as these chapters are not relevant to the Physics 1 exam...

Chapter 4: Gravity

Chapter 8: Waves