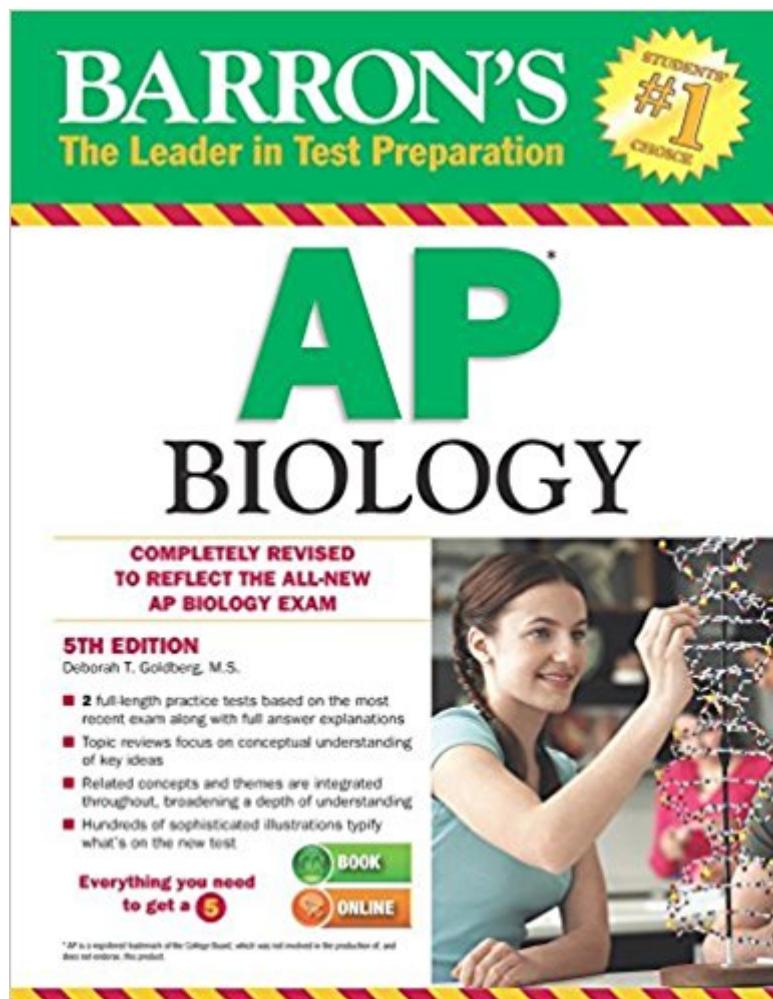


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Barron's AP Biology, 5th Edition



Synopsis

This best selling AP Biology study guide includes: Two full-length exams that follow the content and style of the new AP Biology exam All test questions answered and explained An extensive review covering all AP test topics Hundreds of additional multiple-choice and free-response practice questions with answer explanations This manual can be purchased alone, or with an optional CD-ROM that includes two additional practice tests with answers and automatic scoring. BONUS ONLINE PRACTICE TEST: Students who purchase this book or package will also get FREE access to one additional full-length online AP Biology test with all questions answered and explained.

Book Information

Series: Barron's Ap Biology

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; 5 edition (January 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1438005008

ISBN-13: 978-1438005003

Product Dimensions: 1 x 10 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 130 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,598 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Study Aids > Advanced Placement #103 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Advanced Placement #223 in Books > Education & Teaching > Test Preparation > College & High School

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Deborah Goldberg earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees at Long Island University. For fourteen years,

she studied cells using electron microscopy at NYU Medical Center and New York Medical College. For the following twenty-two years, she taught Chemistry, Biology, and Forensic Science at Lawrence High School on Long Island.

I bought the 4th edition of this book back in October but dumped it because it seemed like it wasn't written for the new bio AP exam format. It had lots of material that wasn't on the exam and the practice tests were so NOT in line with the sample questions my teacher gave us that were from the new AP exam. Instead, I bought the Cliffs version and found it much, much better. Then I saw this 5th version of Barrons and the description said it was updated for the new exams. So I bought it because like I feel like the person you hate because I overkill studying. Updated? Hardly. Every page nearly word for word the same, including the exams which are so easy as to be nearly useless. Oh yeah, most stuff in plant chapter removed and chapter title for classification change to biological diversity. Too little change, too late.

If you're looking for a book that mimics the official test and provides lessons directly applicable to the official test then you're in the wrong place. This book may provide you with some bio knowledge but it won't help you really prepare for the questions. The AP test is a series of common sense and scenario-based questions that can't really be taught in a book, which may be good or bad depending on what kind of test-taker/studier you are. MC is based on paragraphs of given information and are "predict, give explanation, and what does graph/diagram show" types of questions, and FR are all application/lab questions that are the "justify, propose, and provide" types. That being said, the FR questions in this book are NOTHING like the actual test, but they're a good review for what you studied. As for the labs at the end, Cliffnotes is much better. I got a 5 on the test and the only thing I remember applying from prep books were some graph/diagrams in Barron's and some labs from Cliffnotes (please don't waste your time and read the whole book). To get a more realistic feel of the test, it's best to just view the official AP tests, scoring guidelines, and samples from previous years, as collegeboard releases them all online.

I read carefully up to page 58, doing all of the practice problems and checked my answers.p.57- "Hydrophilic signaling molecules dissolve through the plasma membrane and bind with a receptor in the cytoplasm. Hydrophilic signaling molecules, those that bond to a receptor on the cell surface, require a second messenger."-- I believe in the first statement they meant to say hydroPHOBIC molecules pass through the plasma membrane.p.30- A question asks why there is no increase in

product after 100 seconds in an experiment where one enzyme is combined with its substrate at time 0. They provide a table showing that at time 100 and 120 sec, product in milligrams stays at 0.85 milligrams. Their answer is, "There is no increase in product after 100 seconds because all the enzymes are saturated and are already catalyzing reactions as fast as they can." The next question asks what would happen if you added only more enzyme after 100 seconds. Their answer, "Assuming there is excess substrate that enzyme is not colliding with, an addition of enzyme after 100 seconds would increase the rate of reaction until the enzyme, once again, became saturated." Is Goldberg assuming that if all the enzymes are busy working, the amount of product wouldn't change within 10 seconds? p.34- It states "Eukaryotes-cytoskeleton present" and "Prokaryotes-cytoskeleton absent". This was originally taken to be true, but in the early 1990's it was discovered that prokaryotes do have their own cytoskeletons, though they differ from those of eukaryotes. When I first got this book I was very excited and trusted that it would be a solid review for the AP. Skimming through, many tables seemed very useful. In fact, I loved all of the diagrams and apparent level of depth. However, now I can't trust that the things I'm reading are true - even if the errors I noticed could be considered minor. Honestly, I don't know how many other mistakes I could have missed and put inside my brain. I'm more sad than angry because I had high hopes for this book. Note: In the introduction they acknowledge that multiple-choice questions have been restyled in the newer AP. However, in my opinion this book's practice MC questions don't really reflect the new AP questions. Could be because of the amount of time and effort it would take to do it. Could have been 4 stars if errors were fixed. Would definitely be an amazing 5 star review book if errors were fixed AND questions were styled to reflect the current AP exam.

Overall this book is a pretty good way to study for the AP. Unlike the Princeton Review book, the practice tests have been updated to mirror the revamped format of the new Biology AP test. The reason for the two stars is that the practice tests contain a lot of errors. This is really really frustrating and confusing. Wasting time trying to figure out which answer is correct when the correct answer isn't actually listed is annoying and messes up the timing of the test.

I have yet to receive my AP Biology score back yet, however, being on home hospital, this review truly helped me recover my memory on most subjects on the AP test! It tested my knowledge with multiple choice questions and with the FRQ questions as well. I would like to say that this test has helped me get a better score than I would have without it!

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