

Tips for Completing APES FRQs

1. Read the whole question carefully. Answer what is asked.
2. Underline the key verb, circle the number, box the object
Example: Discuss **two** other human activities that increase the concentration of carbon in the atmosphere.
3. No need to restate the question.
4. Write in complete sentences; no bulleted lists.
5. Label your answers with the number, letter, etc. (1.a.i.) of the question.
6. Organize your thoughts, then give a clear and concise answer.
7. Explain any buzz words and explain your reasoning.
8. Answer each question in 3 sentences or more.
9. Write neatly. Make it easy for the grader.
10. Don't use "death/die" or "cancer" as effects unless you absolutely know it
11. 20 min for each FRQ...keep writing even after you think you are finished
12. Graders only take the first answers given (ex. It asks for 2 things and the first one is wrong, but your next two are correct. You would only get 1 point.)
13. Climate change, pollution, geochem cycles are included in many questions.
14. Know the difference between many of the APES buzz words
 - Reduce vs. Remediate
 - Sustainable
 - Anthropogenic
 - Hydrologic and Water Cycle are the same thing
 - Environmental, Ecological, and Economic impacts do not include Human Impact
15. Should recognize the impactful legislation (Ex. Clean Air Act, Pollution Prevention Act, Kyoto protocol, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, etc.)
16. Know some key case studies and current events to use as examples for the major topics
17. Practice math-based problems without calculators.
18. Show all your work, especially the set-up for the math based problems.
19. Know some simple math short-cuts (rounding, converting large numbers to scientific notation first, significant figures, multiplying and dividing by multiples of ten just move the decimal point)
20. Read through all four FRQ's and start with your strongest.