Academic Decathlon 2023 / 2024 Handbook

Coordinated by:

Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Michele Cantwell-Copher, Superintendent of Schools

In Partnership with:

California State University, Fresno
College of Arts and Humanities
Dr. Honora Chapman, Dean
Dr. Sergio La Porta, Associate Dean

Clovis Unified School District
Buchanan High School

Fresno Unified School District
Sunnyside High School

And our Event Sponsors:
Participating School Districts
Community Organizations and Businesses

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2023 / 24 Important Dates

(Tentative! Dates subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Place
September 27 Wednesday	**FAD Coaches Meeting**	**3:30 – 5:00 PM**	**Zoom Meeting**
October 3 Tuesday	CSUF Workshop	4:00 – 6:15 PM	Fresno State- Resnick Center
October 6 Friday	FAD Committee Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
October 20 Friday	**DEADLINE – Letter of Intent and Practice Day Registration Due**	**By 4:30 PM**	
October 26 Thursday	Madera County Lecture	10:00 AM – 2:40 PM	Movies Madera
November 6 Monday	FAD Committee Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
November 18 Saturday	**FAD Practice Day**	**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**	**Buchanan High**
December 4 Monday	CSUF Workshop	4:00 – 6:15 PM	Fresno State- Resnick Center
December 6 Wednesday	FAD Committee Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
December 7 Thursday	**FAD Coaches Meeting**	**3:30 – 5:00 PM**	**FCSS- 1111 Van Ness Ave. Room 402T**
December 8 Friday	**DEADLINE – Registration Due**	**By 4:30 PM**	**Delivered to FCSS 1111 Van Ness Ave.**
January 10 Wednesday	FAD Committee Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
January 22 Monday	**Essay & Online Objective Tests**	**12:00 – 5:00 PM**	**USAD Online**
January 24 Wednesday	Speech & Interview Judge Training	5:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
January 25 Thursday	Essay Scoring Training/ Grading	8:00 – 5:00 PM	FCSS- 1111 Van Ness Ave. Room 301
January 27 Saturday	**Speech and Interview Competition**	**10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**	**Fresno State- Resnick Center**
February 3 Saturday	**Objective Tests, Super Quiz & Awards**	**10:00 AM – 9:00 PM**	**Sunnyside High**
February 8 Thursday	FAD Committee Debrief Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zoom Meeting
March 22 - 24	State Academic Decathlon		Santa Clara, CA
April (TBD)	National Competition		TBD

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Like the decathlon of the ancient Greeks, the Academic Decathlon consists of ten exacting and exciting activities. While the Greek events were a contest of physical strength, the Academic Decathlon is a contest of academic strength. Modern education faces many challenges, one of which is a need for students to acquire a deep respect for knowledge and the educational process. We believe the Academic Decathlon provides a creative approach and partial solution to this particular need.

The Academic Decathlon includes ten areas of curriculum: economics, fine arts, music, language and literature, mathematics, science, social science, speech, interview, and essay culminating in the Super Quiz. The subject tests are written objective exams. The Speech and Interview sections are given orally in front of a panel of judges. The Super Quiz is the only live event held before an audience. This year's curriculum theme is "Technology & Humanity."

The 2024 Decathlon is coordinated by the office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in partnership with Fresno State, participating schools, community organizations and business sponsors. The games begin January 22, 2024, and culminate in the Super Quiz and Awards held on February 3, 2024.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & COACHES

SCHOOL	SCHOOL PHONE SCHOOL FAX	COACH COACH EMAIL
Buchanan High 1560 N. Minnewawa Clovis, CA 93611	**(559) 327-3000** (559) 327-3090	**Alyssa Lomier** alyssalomier@clovisusd.k12.ca.us
Bullard High 5445 N. Palm Fresno, CA 93704	**(559) 451-4320** (559) 451-4339	**Steve Fisher** steven.fisher@fresnounified.org
Cambridge High 1001 Chestnut Fresno, CA 93721	**(559) 253-6560** (559) 266-9776	**Robert Vega** robert.vega@fresnounified.org
Central East High 3535 N. Cornelia Ave Fresno, CA 93722	**(559) 276-0280**	**Clayton Eha** ceha@centralunified.org
Clovis East High 2940 Leonard Ave. Clovis, CA 93619	**(559) 327-4000** (559) 327-4054	**Eric Tweedie** KathrynDipirro@clovisusd.k12.ca.us
Clovis High 1055 Fowler Avenue Clovis, CA 93611	**(559) 327-1000** (559) 327-1010	**Mikayla Camenson** MikaylaCamenson@clovisusd.k12.ca.us
Clovis North High 2770 E. International Ave. Fresno, CA 93730	**(559) 327-5000** (559) 327-5290	**Alyson Small / Josh Belden** AlysonSmall@clovisusd.k12.ca.us JoshuaBelden@clovisusd.k12.ca.us
Clovis West High 1070 E. Teague Ave Fresno, CA 93720	**(559) 327-2191** (559) 327-2490	**Katy Merrill/Katie Bonesteel** katherinemerrill@clovisusd.k12.ca.us katiebonesteel@cusd.com
Coalinga High 750 Van Ness Ave. Coalinga, CA 93210	**(559) 935-7520** (559) 935-3571	**April Wheaton** awheaton@chusd.k12.ca.us
Design Science High 2004 E. Cambridge Fresno, CA 93703	**(559) 248-7353** (559) 248-7363	**Lisa Portela** lisa.portela@fresnounified.org
Firebaugh High 1976 Morris Kyle Drive Firebaugh, CA 93622	**(559) 659-1415** (559) 659-2636	**David Magoon/Cindy Best** dmagoon@fldusd.org cbest@fldusd.org

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & COACHES [CONTINUED]

SCHOOL	SCHOOL PHONE SCHOOL FAX	COACH COACH EMAIL
Fowler High 701 East Main Fowler, CA 93625	**(559) 834-6160** (559) 834-3284	**Layne Cadieux** layne.cadieux@fowler.k12.ca.us
Hallmark Academy 2445 9th Street Sanger, CA 93657	**(559) 524-7170**	**Angela Ballew** angela_ballew@sangerusd.net
Hoover High 5550 N. First Street Fresno, CA 93710	**(559) 451-4000**	**Steve Ledesma** steve.ledesma@fresnounified.org
Justin Garza High 4100 N. Grantland Ave Fresno, CA 93723	**(559) 275-4100**	**Michael Garcia** michaelgarcia@centralusd.k12.ca.us
Kerman High 205 S 1st Street Kerman, CA 93630	**(559) 843-9700**	**Daniel Mello** daniel.mello@kermanusd.com
Kingsburg High 1900 18th Avenue Kingsburg, CA 93631	**(559) 897-5156** (559) 897-7759	**Daniel Albers** dalbers@kingsburghigh.com
Orange Cove High 1700 S Anchor Ave. Orange Cove, CA 93646	**(559) 626-5900**	**Ryan Robertson** robertson-r@kcud.com
Pershing Cont. High 855 W. Nielsen Ave. Fresno, CA 93706	**(559) 268-2272** (559) 268-2279	**Trinidad Fuentes** tfuentes@centralusd.k12.ca.us
Reedley High 740 W. North Ave. Reedley, CA 93654	**(559) 305-7100** (559) 638-1202	**Renee Curwick** curwick-r@kcusd.com
Riverdale High 3086 W Mt. Whitney Ave. Riverdale, CA 93656	**(559) 867-3562**	**Jesse Cuiriz** jessecuiriz@rjusd.org

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & COACHES [CONTINUED]

SCHOOL	SCHOOL PHONE SCHOOL FAX	COACH COACH EMAIL
Roosevelt High 4250 E Tulare Avenue Fresno, CA 93702	**(559) 253-5200**	**Jean Nakaguchi** jean.nakaguchi@fresnounified.org
Sanger High 1045 Bethel Ave. Sanger, CA 93657	**(559) 524-7121** (559) 875-8848	**Angelique Duvet-Tovar** angelique_tovar@sangerusd.net
Sunnyside High 1019 S Peach Ave. Fresno, CA 93727	**(559) 253-6700**	**Adam VonBoltenstern** adam.vonboltenstern@fresnounified.org
University High 2611 E. Matoian Way M/S UH134 Fresno, CA 93740-8010	**(559) 278-8263** (559) 278-0447	**Sean Canfield** seancanfield@comcast.net
Washington Union High 6041 S. Elm Ave. Fresno, CA 93706	**(559) 485-8805** (559) 485-4435	**Gabriela Villalobos/Brian Miller** gaby.villalobos@wusd.ws brian.miller@wusd.ws

DECATHLON STEERING COMMITTEE

NAME/RESPONSIBILITY	PHONE/EMAIL	ADDRESS
Dan Aldape Awards Ceremony	**(559) 930-4386** dan@wowproductions.org	WOW Productions 6569 N Riverside Drive, Suite 102 Fresno, CA 93722
Norm Anderson Super Quiz Training	**(559) 327-9350** normanderson@cusd.com	Clovis Unified 1735 David E. Cook Way Clovis, CA 93611
Monorith Arun Tech Support	**(559) 248-5635** monorith.arun@fresnounified.org	2727 N. Cedar Fresno, CA 93703
Lisa Birrell Publicity	**(559) 603-6735** lbirrell@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave Fresno, CA 93721
Gilbert Magallon Test Proctors	**(559) 274-4700 x63119** gmagallon@centralusd.k12.ca.us	Central Unified 4605 N. Polk Avenue Fresno, CA 93722
Erika Lopez Event Support, Registration & Awards	**(559) 603-6730** elopez@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave Fresno, CA 93721
Luke Hicks Test Packet Runners	**(559) 265-3075** lukehicks@clovisusd.k12.ca.us	Clovis Unified School District 1735 David E. Cook Way Clovis, CA 93611
Ryan Coe Speech/Interview Volunteer Recruitment	Ryan.Coe@fresnounified.org	Fresno Unified School District 2309 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721
Kathy Mytton Speech/Interview Volunteer Recruitment	Kathryn.Mytton@fresnounified.org	Fresno Unified School District 2309 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721
Kim Leslie Test Proctor Recruitment &Training	**(559) 999-5218** kimbroughl@sbcglobal.net	3401 Griffith Ave Clovis, CA 93619
Dave Highbaugh Event Support	**(559) 859-3765** davehigh@icloud.com	3265 W. Stanford Ave Englewood, CO 80110

DECATHLON STEERING COMMITTEE [CONTINUED]

NAME/RESPONSIBILITY	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL	ADDRESS
Dr. Gregory Lomack Super Quiz	**(559) 327-9150** gregorylomack@cusd.com	Clovis Unified 1735 David E. Cook Way Clovis, CA 93611
Brett Mar Sunnyside Contact Super Quiz & Awards	**(559) 253-6700** Brett.Mar@fresnounified.org	Sunnyside High School 1019 S Peach Avenue Fresno, CA 93727
Jonmari Loving Decorations	**(559) 898-6550** JLoving@selma.k12.ca.us	Selma High School 3125 Wright Street Selma, CA 93662
Scott Okada Essay Grading	**(559) 524-7121** Scott_okada@sanger.k12.ca.us	Sanger High School 1045 N Bethel Ave Sanger, CA 93657
Amber Fontes Scoring	**(559) 603-6708** afontes@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave Fresno, CA 93721
Michael Springer Scoring	**(559) 603-6714** mspringer@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave. Fresno, CA 93721
Jennifer Quinn-Yovino Coordinator	**(559) 265-3014** jquinn@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave Fresno, CA 93721
Joe Riccardi Delivery/Logistics	**(559) 265-3080** jriccardi@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1111 Van Ness Ave. Fresno, CA 93721
Brenna Barks CSUF – Liaison / College Credit	**(559) 278-3056** brennab@mail.fresnostate.edu	California State University, Fresno 2380 E. Keats, Rm. 186 M/S 99 Fresno, CA 93740-0099
Carina Fulvio Test Proctor Support & Food	**(559) 443-4861** cfulvio@fcoe.org	Office of the Fresno County Supt. of Schools 1320 N. Mariposa Fresno, CA 93703

DECATHLON STEERING COMMITTEE [CONTINUED]

NAME/RESPONSIBILITY	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL	ADDRESS
Alicia Hardcastle Transcripts	**(559) 864-6500** ahardcastle@caruthers.k12.ca.us	Caruthers High School 2580 W. Tahoe Ave Caruthers, CA 93609
Cathie Salanitro Event Support	**(559) 278-3056** cathies@mail.fresnostate.edu	California State University, Fresno 2380 E. Keats, Rm. 186 M/S 99 Fresno, CA 93740-0099

Objectives & Essay Competition Schedule
Monday, January 22, 2024
USAD Online

Coaches & Students
(Suggested Schedule)

12:30	PM	Sign-in	USAD Online
1:00	PM	Language & Literature	USAD Online
1:30	PM	Social Science	USAD Online
2:00	PM	Science	USAD Online
2:45	PM	Essay	USAD Online
5:00	PM	Testing window closes	USAD Online

Online testing instructions will be sent to coaches.

Essay Grading and Training

Thursday, January 25, 2023

Essay Graders
**Please bring laptops as all grading will be done on the USAD site. **

8:00 – 5:00	PM	Training & Grading	FCSS- 1111 Van Ness Ave. Conference Room 301

Speech & Interview Schedule
Saturday, January 27, 2024
Fresno State

Coaches & Students

10:00	AM	Check-In	Resnick Center
11:00	AM	Speech Sessions	As Assigned
12:00 – 2:00	PM	Lunch (Please work around your Speech time.)	Resnick Center
3:00	PM	Interview Sessions	As Assigned

Judges
Zoom Training

Wednesday, January 24th @ 5:30 PM *(Both events covered)* – Zoom

Event Day – Saturday January 27th

9:00	AM	Check in for Speech Judges	Resnick Center
10:00	AM	Training Recap	Resnick Center
11:00	AM	Speech Sessions Begin	As Assigned
1:30	PM	Lunch	Resnick Center
2:00	PM	Check in for Interview Judges	Resnick Center
3:00	PM	Interview Sessions Begin	As Assigned

Saturday, February 3, 2024
Objectives, Super Quiz & Awards
Sunnyside High School

Students / Coaches

Time		Activity	Location
10:00	AM	Check-In	Gym Lobby
11:00		Welcome	Small Gym
11:15		Adjourn to rooms	Test Rooms
11:20		Test Instructions	Test Rooms
11:30		Math	Test Rooms
12:00	PM	Economics	Test Rooms
12:30		Lunch	Cafeteria
1:35		Art	Test Rooms
2:05		Music	Test Rooms
2:35		Break	Corridors/Restrooms
2:45		Line Up for Super Quiz	Outside Large Gym
3:00		Super Quiz Team March	Large Gym
3:15		Super Quiz Rounds 1-3	Large Gym
5:00		Dinner Break	On Your Own
6:30		Awards Ceremony	Large Gym

Proctors / Audience

Time		Activity	Location
10:00	AM	Test Proctor Training	TBD
11:00		Adjourn to Rooms	As Assigned
12:30	PM	Lunch	Proctor Room
1:30		Super Quiz Proctor Check-in	Large Gym
1:45		Super Quiz Proctor Training	Large Gym
2:45		Audience Arrival	Large Gym
3:00		Super Quiz Begins	Large Gym
6:30		Awards Ceremony	Large Gym

RULES
Notations in **Bold** apply to online testing.

1. <u>School Categories</u>: Schools will be placed in divisions based upon their 3 year average score, dropping lowest score. The natural score breaks for the minimum Score Averages for 2023- 24 are (Div. 1= 31K+, Div. 2= 27K+, Div. 3= 21K+, and Div. 4 – no minimum score) If a school elects to move up in division voluntarily, please let the competition manager know before the registration deadline.

2. <u>Team selection and Team I vs. Team II</u>: Final selection of Team I competitors must be completed by the time of registration, and copies of official transcripts submitted. Teams shall not consist of more than twelve members. Of these 12, there are 9 core members and three alternates. The core 9 listed on the registration will compete in the Super Quiz. Additional students wishing to participate for college credit will be categorized as Team II and are not eligible for awards. These students do not compete in the Super Quiz. GPA calculations are not required for Team II participants or Honor category competitors.

3. <u>Registration</u>: Registration is not considered to be official unless all information has been completed accurately on all forms, accompanied by this year's fees and official transcripts, and <u>delivered to the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Special Projects (1111 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno CA 93721)</u> by deadline date on registration forms. Please make checks payable to FCSS, Academic Decathlon. (NOTE: We have a meeting scheduled the week of the deadline- if you'd like to turn your packet in at that time.)

4. <u>Registration Form Special Note</u>: Please read School and Team Registration Form carefully and be sure that the English teacher and your principal have signed the registration form. All contacts regarding the essay reading will be sent to the teacher named on the form. It is essential that the name be correct.

5. <u>Eligibility</u>: OFFICIAL student transcripts determine eligibility and must be submitted with registration. All grades used to compute GPA must be highlighted on the official transcript. In addition, a completed Student GPA Computation sheet must be submitted for each student (except Honor category and Team II) including the official transcripts (please see detailed eligibility guidelines in the next section).

6. <u>GPA</u>: County and school personnel will certify GPA's for the county championship teams. Interpretive decisions by county competition managers will be upheld by CAD.

7. <u>Tardiness</u>: Contestants are charged with the responsibility of being in the proper test room on time. If a contestant is tardy, he/she will not be allowed to make up time lost.
   a. **Competitors who do not start an online test on time or are absent for one or more tests (not due to a technological malfunction) will not be allowed to make up time lost.**

8. <u>Leaving the testing room</u>: If a contestant must leave the testing room for any reason, he/she must first get permission from the proctor. Time lost away from the room may not be made up.
   a. **If a competitor must leave their computer / test area for any reason, they must get permission from the proctor. Time lost from online testing may not be made up unless it is due to a verified technology malfunction.**

9. <u>Removal/Withdrawal</u>: In the case of emergency or illness, a contestant must formally withdraw in order to be eligible for any awards. To formally withdraw, student must give written excuse to a proctor or Decathlon official. If a contestant leaves the Decathlon without formally withdrawing, or is removed because of cheating or misconduct, the contestant will not be eligible for any awards, his/her score will not be included in the team's total score and they will not be eligible to participate in the state event.

RULES [CONTINUED]

10. <u>Disqualification</u>: Any person possessing current or previous year's tests or test items, except for published practice tests, will disqualify him/herself and his/her school from Decathlon participation. Any person possessing materials (study or otherwise) other than a pencil and a calculator on the Super Quiz floor will have their entire team's Super Quiz score disqualified.
    a. **Any person possessing previous or current curriculum and/or test related material during the online testing process will disqualify themselves and their school from the competition.**

11. <u>Cheating</u>: If a proctor finds a contestant involved in any unauthorized communication (electronic device usage, notes etc.), the proctor must report the incident to the general chairperson. The item(s) will be confiscated, and the decision of the chairperson is final and irrevocable. (Please see rule #12.)
    NOTE: All printed materials necessary for taking the written tests will be supplied by the proctor. No additional items should be brought into the testing room by the students, except their calculator. Please remind students to wear a basic function watch if they need to keep time.

12. <u>Cellphones/Electronic Devices/Other Materials</u>: Cellphones, tablets, Smart Watches and other electronic devices with data transfer capabilities are NOT ALLOWED during any testing event.
    For Speech/Interview: Students may have their phones <u>with them</u> on the day of competition but <u>cannot use them</u> in testing areas.
    For Objectives/Super Quiz: Students may NOT have their phones with them on this day of competition. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES are allowed on Day 2 of the competition until the completion of the Super Quiz. Any device that is discovered in the possession of a participating student will be confiscated and all tests taken by the student that day are disqualified.

13. <u>Test Scoring</u>: The SCORING CENTER is out of bounds to everyone except designated officials.

14. <u>Speech/Interview</u>: Students should not reveal the name of their school to judges during this event.

15. <u>Essays</u>: All competitive essays will be read by two judges. If there is a 200+ point discrepancy between the scores, a third judge will read the essay and the two closest scores (of the three) will be averaged for a final score.

16. <u>Identification Numbers</u>: For in-person objective testing, scantrons will be pre-coded with student names, ID numbers and test names. Students are responsible for checking that each scantron has the correct student name, ID number, and test name on it. Tests and scantrons must be signed by each contestant and turned in.
    a. **For online exams, the student's ID will be their 4-digit school and student number. Each student will be given an individual online access code for testing.**

17. <u>Most Improved Team</u>: The Most Improved Team award is based on the full team score improvement between one year and the next (full team score = at least 2 members in each category taking all subjective and objective tests). Only full team scores compared from the last year to the current year will be eligible for the award.

18. <u>Dress Code</u>: Any clothing, which identifies your school, may not be worn during the Speech/Interview competitions, but will be permitted for the rest of the competition and at the Awards Ceremony. Students are encouraged to dress as would be appropriate for a job interview for the Speeches and Interviews, keeping in mind that appearance is a consideration in judging (see Non-Verbal Language and Physical Appearance on the evaluation form in the "Helpful Information" section). Students will be asked to abide by the dress code instituted by the steering committee for the Super Quiz and the Awards Ceremony, as well. While team spirit is encouraged, students must always present a professional appearance even in their casual team apparel.

19. <u>Protests</u>: The Fresno County Academic Decathlon rules for AD protests conform with the state (CAD) and other counties' procedures. All protests must be written and follow the guidelines on the forms at the back of this handbook.

20. <u>State fees</u>: California Academic Decathlon fees are the responsibility of the winning school.

2023-2024 ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The Team

A team consists of nine full-time students from the ninth through twelfth grades of the same high school; or, if there is no ninth grade, a team consists of nine full-time students from the tenth through twelfth grades of the same high school. A full-time student is defined as a student who is enrolled in four or more class periods per day. Each team is made up of three Honor students, three Scholastic students, and three Varsity students in accordance with the following grade point average definitions:

Honor:	**3.80 – 4.00 GPA**
Scholastic:	**3.20 – 3.799 GPA**
Varsity:	**0.00 – 3.199 GPA**

Contestants may compete in a higher division than their own grade point average category but not in a lower division.

Each team member competes in all ten events of the Decathlon and is eligible for individual medals in all ten events. Only six scores count for the final team standing in the competition—the top two Honor scores, the top two Scholastic scores, and the top two Varsity scores. Therefore, schools may enter with fewer than nine members and still be eligible for team awards as long as there are at least two Honor, two Scholastic, and two Varsity members.

Home-schooled students can participate in the United States Academic Decathlon® if their school district allows home-schooled students to participate in other extracurricular activities. Home-schooled students can only participate in the United States Academic Decathlon program at the high school they would attend if they were not home-schooled. The GPA classification of home-schooled students will be made in accordance with state law pertaining to home-schooled students. The State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director have final authority regarding the participation and classification of home-schooled students, and the decision of the State Academic Decathlon association and/or the State Director will be final.

Within each state, the determination of the composition of each team is made by the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director, and the decision of the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director is final. The state championship team that attends the National Finals, however, must be comprised according to the guidelines stated previously. The nine students who attend the National Finals must be the same nine students who participated in and won the state competition. No different or additional team members may be included except in the event of a student's death, medical emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances and only with the express prior approval of USAD.

The State Academic Decathlon organization has the full authority to declare the first-place team ineligible to attend the National Finals in accordance with the rules and practices of its state organization and may send the second-place team to represent its state. In such cases, the decision of the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director is final. However, the United States Academic Decathlon should be notified promptly of such an occurrence.

Computation of Grade Point Averages

GPA calculations for ninth-grade students include only their grades earned while in the eighth grade and in the summer session between eighth and ninth grade. The "focus semesters" for GPA computation for tenth, eleventh-, and twelfth-grade students go back two years prior to the present grade level of the contestant. If the contestant is a twelfth grader in September of the competition year, then the semesters that are used for GPA computation are all of the tenth grade, all of the eleventh grade, and the summer sessions between tenth and eleventh grades and between eleventh and twelfth grades. Likewise, if the contestant is in eleventh grade in the fall, the focus period for GPA computations includes the entire ninth grade, the entire tenth grade, and the summer sessions between ninth and tenth grades and between tenth and eleventh grades. If the contestant is in tenth grade in the fall, the focus period for GPA computations includes the entire eighth grade, all of the ninth grade, and the summer sessions between eighth and ninth grades and between ninth and tenth grades. Regardless of the system used to determine a GPA locally, these criteria must be followed to ensure uniformity and equity among all participants in the United States Academic Decathlon.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES [Continued]

Grades for courses shall be used in GPA computations for United States Academic Decathlon competition purposes if the courses focus more than 50% of the time on understanding ideas, concepts, and theories of a specific discipline and the assessments are objective in nature. Grades for courses that directly deal with the theoretical content covered in the United States Academic Decathlon curriculum and competitive events should be included in GPA computations. However, a grade for a course focused specifically on the United States Academic Decathlon should NOT be included in GPA computations.

Grades for courses shall NOT be used in GPA computations for United States Academic Decathlon competition purposes if they are hands-on, performance-based, skills type, lab-based, or more than 50% of course time is spent in service learning or internship. The skills that are developed in these courses tend to be more technical/vocational, and the majority of a student's grade in these courses is subjective in nature. Please refer to the United States Academic Decathlon's current Acceptable/Unacceptable document.

Inquiries regarding borderline courses should be referred to the State Director, who will make the determination based on the academic nature of the course, and who will then implement the decision uniformly throughout the state. The decision of the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director with regard to which course grades are applied to the United States Academic Decathlon GPA tabulation is final.

For all alpha grades, all A's will count as 4.0, all B's will count as 3.0, all C's will count as 2.0, and all D's will count as 1.0. Anything below D will count as 0 points. When numerical grades appear on the transcript in place of alpha grades, they shall be converted to alpha grades according to the official conversion scale that appears on the school's official transcript or in the school's official profile.

The GPA for each student shall be calculated by dividing total points by total credits hours for the focus semesters. The total points shall include the alpha grade points multiplied by the credit hours. Unless a school's curriculum defines the specific credit hours earned by a course, credit hours should be determined as 1.00 credit hours for a full-year grade, 0.50 credit hours for a half-year grade, 1/3 credit hours for a trimester grade, and 0.25 credit hours for a quarter-year grade.

If a student receives a Fail in any academic course, the F is counted in averaging the student's grades even though no credit is given. When a course has been failed prior to the focus period for which the GPA is being computed but repeated during that period, only the repeat grade is counted. When a course is failed and repeated during the focus semesters, both grades will be counted in the GPA.

Incomplete or pass/fail grades are not included in computing the GPA unless the student received an F that appears on the transcript. Once a grade is given to remove an incomplete, that grade must be used to determine the Decathlon GPA. If only pass/fail grades are assigned, the State Director will determine an evaluation scale in concert with the United States Academic Decathlon Testing Director.

Community college or other college courses are included in the GPA only if high school credit is given and the course is listed on the official school transcript.

A grade, regardless of whether it is advanced placement, honors, regular, or remedial classification, will count the face value of the final grade as reflected on the official transcript. No weighting of grades for honors classes will be included, even if this is the local district policy. An "A" grade, therefore, will count 4 points for Decathlon computation even if it counts 5 points within the local system. Under no circumstances may an "A" grade count three points. The letter grade shown on the transcript will be used in computing GPA regardless of any plus or minus. State Directors may determine standards for eligibility for students from schools with non-traditional grading systems. Such standards should be communicated to the United States Academic Decathlon for approval prior to the state competition.

If a school or a teacher has a policy of changing grades subsequent to receipt of advanced placement test scores, the new grade must be used for the computation of the Decathlon GPA. The deadline for the adjustment of AP grades is established by the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or State Director, and the decision of the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or State Director will be final.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES [Continued]

Verification of Eligibility
Each high school will submit official transcripts to verify eligibility of team members to the manager of the competition the team is entering. The school certification of transcripts will be the final indication of a student's eligibility and GPA category. The competition manager shall check the GPA computation in accordance with the above guidelines and verify eligibility of each team member. It is recommended that GPAs are calculated using the United States Academic Decathlon's GPA Calculation Excel Worksheet, which can automatically calculate a student's GPA and identify the lowest division in which a student may compete. The team coach shall be notified of any discrepancies.

Foreign students are eligible to participate in the United States Academic Decathlon. A foreign student who does not possess a valid transcript may participate in the Honor category. If a coach wishes to qualify a foreign student for the Scholastic or Varsity categories, the coach must provide adequate evidence that the student performed at a relative B or C status within the foreign system during the one year prior to participation in the Decathlon. The State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director have final authority regarding the participation and classification of foreign students, and the decision of the State Academic Decathlon association and/or the State Director will be final.

For the National Finals, each State Director must file a team certification guaranteeing that this is the same team that won the State Championship and that all team members are eligible for the categories as indicated. Official transcripts must accompany this form. In addition, the United States Academic Decathlon may request transcripts directly from the high school in order to verify eligibility. The decision of the State Academic Decathlon organization and/or the State Director regarding the certification of the State Championship Team will be final.

Participation in the United States Academic Decathlon is voluntary and is open to all students regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability or handicap.

Questions regarding computing the Decathlon GPA or eligibility of students should be addressed to the State Director or to the United States Academic Decathlon® at 714-585-1259 or e-mail: daniele@usad.org.

USAD CALCULATOR POLICY

CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON CALCULATOR POLICY
This policy applies for all competitions held in California.

Competitors May Use Calculators for the Mathematics Test

1. If competitors wish to use calculators on the Mathematics Test, they are responsible for bringing them to the test. Calculators will not be provided for decathletes who do not bring their own. Calculator use is permitted only for Mathematics; competitors will not be allowed to use calculators on any other test.
2. CAD no longer requires decathletes to clear the memory of their graphing calculators.

Permissible Calculators

If a competitor wishes to use a calculator, it can be a basic, four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, provided it has none of the features listed in Prohibited Calculators. Competitors may bring a backup calculator if they wish. **Decathletes using a prohibited calculator will have their math score disqualified and may be disqualified from competition for that year.**

Prohibited Calculators

Calculators with any of the following features are NOT allowed in CAD competitions:
- pocket organizers
- hand-held or laptop computers
- electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- models with an alphabetic (QWERTY) keypad, **e.g. TI-92 or HP-95**
- models with paper tape
- models that make noise
- models that can engage in wireless communication (transfer data or information with other calculators)
- models that require a power cord
- models with CAS (computer algebra systems), **e.g. TI-89**
- NOTE: USAD has approved the TI-Nspire calculator so long as it does not have the (CAS) stamped on the back side of the machine.

Because companies are continuously introducing new products, it would be impossible for CAD to maintain an up-to-date list of specific model numbers that possess these features. If a competitor is uncertain whether a particular calculator will be allowed, the student should bring a backup that does not possess any of the features in question. No backup calculator will be provided for any competitor whose calculator is disallowed.

Competing without a Calculator

Competitors may opt to take the Mathematics Test without a calculator; however, CAD is suggesting competitors use a basic, scientific, or graphing calculator for solving the trigonometry test items.

Calculator Failure During a Test

If a competitor's calculator stops working during a test, the student may use their backup calculator or should continue taking the test without a calculator. No additional calculator will be provided, and the competitor will not be allowed to take the test again later. However, as noted in Section III above, a competitor may bring a backup calculator and/or spare batteries to the test.

AWARDS AND SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Sweepstakes Trophy

Highest scoring school will receive the perpetual sweepstakes trophy, which revolves each year to the winning school.

(Overall Team Scores are the total of the top two scores from Varsity, Scholastic, and Honor combined excluding Super Quiz)

Individual Awards
Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4

First Place	Honor
First Place	Scholastic
First Place	Varsity
Second Place	Honor
Second Place	Scholastic
Second Place	Varsity
Third Place	Honor
Third Place	Scholastic
Third Place	Varsity

Team Awards
Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4

Trophies for teams placing first and plaques for teams placing second in highest overall score by division. Individual team members will receive medals. Trophies and individual medals for top ten teams overall – regardless of division.

Dean's Trophies
Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4

Trophies given to individuals placing first through third in highest overall score.

Super Quiz

Trophies for teams placing first through fifth in highest overall Super Quiz score. Individual team members will receive medals. Super Quiz team score is not included in overall team competition score.

School Improvement

Trophy for the school whose full team score has improved the most from the previous year including $50 scholarship for each team member.

Scholarships

Awarded to Dean's Trophy winners and other top scoring students. Dollar amounts of scholarships are decided annually based on funds available. See event program for more details.

School Divisions

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
University	Kerman	Fowler	Cambridge
Hallmark Academy	Bullard	Coalinga	Orange Cove
Clovis North	Clovis East	Clovis West	Washington Union
Sanger	Buchanan	Big Picture	Duncan Polytechnical
Firebaugh	Kingsburg	Sunnyside	Roosevelt
Design Science	Reedley	Central	Pershing
	Clovis	Hoover	Central East
			Caruthers
			Riverdale

REGISTRATION FORMS & INFORMATION

Information Contained in this Section:

Intent to Participate
Practice Day Registration Form and Additional Participants
Registration Materials Cover Sheet
School and Coach Registration Form
Team I Registration Form / Team II Registration Form
Student GPA Computation Sheet
Volunteer Form
Accepted/Unaccepted Courses

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE
2024 Fresno County Academic Decathlon
Due October 20, 2023

PLEASE TYPE

_____

School

_____

School Address (Number and Street)

_____

City   State

_____

School Phone

_____

Principal Name

_____

Coach Name

_____

Cell Phone

_____

Email Address

_____

District

_____

Superintendent Name

Please Note: All schools are required to recruit an English teacher to assist in scoring essays. The training and scoring will be Thursday, January 25th at FCSS- 1111 Van Ness Ave. This may be considered an in-service training.

By the time of registration deadline, **December 8, 2023 @ 4:30pm**, each school must deliver all of the following to FCSS, Special Projects (1111 Van Ness Ave, Fresno, CA 93721) to avoid penalties or potential disqualification:

1. School and Coach Registration, including name and signature of English teacher.
2. Team Registration forms.
3. Student GPA sheets filled out correctly.
4. Official student transcripts (opened) with appropriate classes highlighted.
5. Volunteer Form (4 Volunteers expected for full teams of 6 or more (no limit) and 2 volunteers expected for partial teams of 5 or fewer.)
6. Payment in the form of a check or purchase order.
    Check or purchase order is to be for $1000 per team (up to 12 members) and $25 per each additional Team II student made out to FCSS, Academic Decathlon.

**Please make sure your packet is complete, filled out correctly and on time,
to avoid the $50 penalty or team disqualification.**

_____

Coach Signature

_____

Principal Signature

Please return this form by October 20, 2023, to:
Erika Lopez – elopez@fcoe.org

PRACTICE DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Academic Decathlon 2024

(Note: the 12 students listed on this sheet will be your "team" for scoring and comparison purposes on Practice Day. Please list all other students as "additional participants" on the other sheet.)

Name of School: _____

Name of Coach: _____

Honors Team:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Scholastic Team:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Varsity Team:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Alternates:

1. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

2. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

3. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

PRACTICE DAY REGISTRATION

Additional Participants

Academic Decathlon 2024
(For schools sending more than twelve students, make copies as necessary.)

Name of School: _____

Name of Coach: _____

Honors Team:

    1. _____

    2. _____

    3. _____

Scholastic Team:

    1. _____

    2. _____

    3. _____

Varsity Team:

    1. _____

    2. _____

    3. _____

Alternates:

    1. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

    2. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

    3. _____ (Please select: H   S   V)

Please return this form by October 20, 2023, to:
Erika Lopez – elopez@fcoe.org

REGISTRATION MATERIALS COVER SHEET

2024 Academic Decathlon

THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT AND INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

Directions: Check off all boxes to verify completion before delivering to FCSS, Special Projects by **December 8, 2023, by 4:30PM**.

(Please note: Incomplete registration packets will be subject to late fees.)

☐ School and Coach Registration completed and signed by all parties involved.

☐ Student Enrollment (CBEDS) entered on School and Coach Registration sheet.

☐ English teacher and principal know about the essay commitment and the date is calendared.

☐ Check or purchase order has been received by FCSS or is postmarked by Dec 8. Cost: $1000 per school/team *(up to twelve members)*, + $25 for each Team II member.

(For schools issuing purchase orders – please remember all payments must be finalized by the first date of competition to avoid penalties and / or team disqualifications. Please note: NO INVOICES WILL BE SENT. This cover sheet and your registration form is to be given to your business department to process your team payment. If you require an invoice, please let Erika Lopez know.)

☐ Team I Registration form is typed with student names, complete addresses, and correct GPA's.

☐ Team II Registration form is typed with student names and complete addresses. Make additional copies as needed.

☐ Student GPA computation worksheets completed online and printed for Team I ONLY (not including Honor category) are accompanied by official, highlighted transcripts.

☐ Academic Decathlon Volunteer Form completed. Please complete the online form here: https://forms.gle/c8gF8YRxACEDgNQB9 and include the hard copy from the handbook with your registration packet. (Note: Only two volunteers are required for teams with five or fewer participants.)

☐ This cover sheet.

☐ Entire packet delivered to FCSS, Special Projects (1111 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721) by December 8, 2023, at 4:30PM.

_____   Date Received: _____

Coach Signature   County Office Stamp

SCHOOL AND COACH REGISTRATION
Academic Decathlon 2024

SCHOOL & DISTRICT INFORMATION

_____

School

_____

School Phone

_____

Principal Name

_____

School Address

_____

School City & Zip Code

_____

Student Enrollment (most current CBEDS)

_____

District

_____

Superintendent Name

Fee: $1000 per school site Team I, $25 for each additional student.

_____

COACH SIGNATURE

_____

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE

COACH INFORMATION

_____

Coach Name

_____

Cell Phone

_____

Email Address

_____

Home Address

_____

Home City & Zip Code

All communication will be with the head coach only, with the exception of essay information, which will be communicated directly to designated English Teacher.

_____

Assistant Coach 1

_____

Assistant Coach 2

All schools are required to recruit an English teacher for Essay scoring. The training and grading for essay scoring will be Thursday, January 25th in-person at 1111 Van Ness Ave. (This may be considered in-service training)

_____

Name of English Teacher for Essay Scoring

_____

English Teacher Email

_____

English Teacher Signature

Team I Registration Form
Academic Decathlon 2024

To be filled out electronically: http://academicdecathlon.fcoe.org/

*Please Note: The first nine students will be the Super Quiz Team

Honor Team – GPA from 3.80 and above (please note that any GPA is eligible in the honor category)

1. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

2. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

3. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

Scholastic Team – GPA from 3.20 – 3.799

4. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

5. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

6. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

Varsity Team – GPA from 0.00 – 3.199

7. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

8. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

9. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

Alternates

10. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

11. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

12. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

Coach Verification _____   Principal Verification _____

Team II Registration Form
Academic Decathlon 2024

To be filled out electronically: http://academicdecathlon.fcoe.org/
Click 2023-2024 Fillable Forms (Submit as many sheets as necessary)

1. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

2. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

3. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

4. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

5. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

6. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

7. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

8. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

9. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

10. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

11. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

12. Name _____   GPA _____   Grade _____

Coach Verification _____   Principal Verification _____

STUDENT GPA COMPUTATION SHEET

Instructions for GPA Calculation

Complete only the YELLOW sections of the worksheet.

> **[A] SCHOOL.** Type in name of school.
> **[B] GRADE.** Type in grade in which the student is currently enrolled. (i.e., 9, 10, 11 or 12)
> **[C] FIRST NAME.** Type in student's FIRST name.
> **[D] LAST NAME.** Type in student's LAST name.

At this point, do a "Save As" for your worksheet. Name the file so it clearly indicates your team and student's name (ex: GPA_School_Student's Name). Save your work regularly so you do not have to redo it if your file closes unexpectedly.

> **[E] YEAR.** Enter the year of course work being accepted (i.e., 2020-21, 2021 Summer).
> **[F] COURSES.** Enter all acceptable courses (for AcaDec GPA) in the appropriate semester.
> **[G] GRADE.** Enter the letter grade received for each course listed. (i.e., A+, A, A-)

POINTS. Points for each course will be automatically calculated. Points can be verified per the key at the top of the GPA Calculation Worksheet.

> **[H] CREDITS COMPLETED.** Enter the credits completed for each class listed. Use the following as a guide unless your school's curriculum defines the specific credits completed earned by a course:

> > 10.00 credits completed for full year grade.
> > 5.00 credits completed for a half year grade.
> > 3.33 credits completed for a trimester grade.
> > 2.25 credits completed for a quarter year grade.

> The formula will convert it into the appropriate number for calculation.

> **Variable Credits**
> Schools (i.e., alternative independent schools, charter schools, etc.) that use variable credits based on how much students have completed throughout the year. Their credits are 10.00 for one year and 5.00 for a semester. Consequently, if a student received 7.00 credits for one class, this would equal 7.00 credits completed.

TOTAL POINTS. This field calculates automatically. DO NOT attempt to change the calculation or manually enter a number. The calculation is POINTS x CREDITS COMPLETED.

CALCULATED GPA. The calculated GPA represents the student's GPA for the purpose of Academic Decathlon Competition.

Fields not shaded in yellow are protected and automatically calculate. The formula uses the USAD accepted cut off GPA's to identify the lowest division in which the student may compete. Students can always compete in a higher division but may NOT compete in a lower division. The division indicated by YES is the lowest division in which this student may compete in Academic Decathlon.
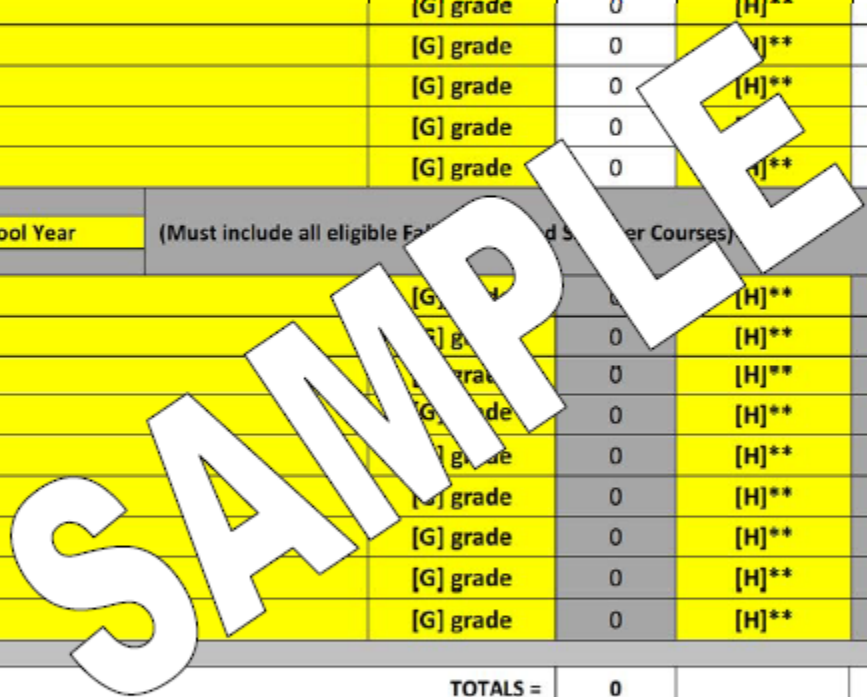
STUDENT GPA COMPUTATION SHEET

(TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE)

http://www.academicdecathlon.org/GPA.htm

California Academic Decathlon: GPA Calculation Worksheet

High School	[A] school name		Grade	[B] grade
Student's Name	[C] first name	[D] last name		

*POINTS: A+, A, A- = 4.00   B+, B, B- = 3.00   C+, C, C- = 2.00   D+, D, D- = 1.00   F = 0.00
**CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED: Report what is listed on the official transcript for each acceptable course.
(i.e.,   10.00 full year   5.00 = semester   3.33 = trimester   2.25 = quarter)
Courses graded numerically, should be converted to alpha grades based on the school's official conversion policy.

COURSES		GRADE	POINTS*	CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED**	TOTAL POINTS (points x credit hours)
Year:	[E] School Year	(Must include all eligible Fall, Spring, and Summer Courses)			
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0		0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
Year:	[E] School Year	(Must include all eligible Fall and Summer Courses)			
[F] course name		[G] grade		[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
[F] course name		[G] grade	0	[H]**	0.00
		TOTALS =	0		0.00
		Calculated GPA =			

	3.80 - 4.00 GPA	HONOR	NO		**CALCULATED GPA =**
Academic Decathlon Level =	3.20 - 3.799 GPA	SCHOLASTIC	NO		**Total Points/Total Credit hours**
	0.00 - 3.199 GPA	VARSITY	YES		**Completed**

Academic Decathlon Volunteer Form

Note: This form is for Team Registration Purposes <u>ONLY</u>. Please complete the google form here: https://forms.gle/c8gF8YRxACEDgNQB9. The volunteer information will be sent directly to the recruiters.

School: _____

Speech/ Interview Volunteer:

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Speech/ Interview Volunteer:

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Test Proctor Volunteer:

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Super Quiz Volunteer

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

California Academic Decathlon

Incorporated from the United States Academic Decathlon

www.academicdecathlon.org/GPA.htm

EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACCEPTED/UNACCEPTED COURSES

ACADEMIC COURSE GRADES FOR GPA CALCULATION

Conversions:

Honor = 3.80 – 4.00 GPA[34]		Scholastic = 3.20 – 3.79 GPA[34]		Varsity = 0.00 – 3.19 GPA[34]	
Grade/Points:	A = 4	B = 3	C = 3	D = 1	F = 0
90 – 100 = A	80-89 = 3	70-79 = 2	60 – 69 = 1	0 – 59 = 0	

Incomplete, Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit grades are not included unless a grade appears on the transcript.[12]

A-G Course List: Academic Decathlon, California: https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist   (Copy and paste into URL location bar.)
Select "Courses" and enter "Decathlon."

Acceptable Courses

- Academic Business Courses
- Accounting
- Ag Biology [15]
- Ag Business
- Ag Science (Theory)
- Algebra Fundamentals [14]
- Algebra Lab [8]
- Algebra Support [9]
- Algebra Readiness [10]
- American Sign Language [29]
- Anatomy [17]
- Art Appreciation
- Art History
- Basic Business Economics
- Business Concepts
- Business Management
- Business, Intro to
- Business, Principles of
- Basic Communications
- Business Law
- Computer Literacy
- Computer Programming Language [5]
- Computer Science [5]

- Consumer Economics
- Creative Writing
- Creative Writing, Advanced
- Criminal Law (Justice)
- Debate
- Distance Learning [28]
- Drama Comp / Drama Literature [22]
- Earth Science (Theory)
- Economics
- Engineering Design (Theory)
- English/Language Arts
- English Intervention / ELD [7, 27]
- Foreign Language Arts
- Foreign Language
- Foreign Language: American Sign Language
- Forensics (Science, Bio Tech) [3]
- Geography [4]
- Group Problem Solving (Communications)
- History of Motion Pictures [6]
- Humanities
- Journalism [18]
- Kinesiology [30]
- Marketing (Theory)

- Mathematics
- Music Appreciation
- Music History
- Music Theory
- Oral Communications
- Political Science [19]
- Principles of Technology (Science)
- Psychology
- Reading (8th Grade) [13]
- Robotics [24]
- Science (Theory)
- Social (American) Justice [20]
- Social Studies (Contemporary Issues)
- Sociology
- Speech
- Statistics (Math)
- Theory of Knowledge [2]
- U.S. History
- Upward Bound Courses [16]
- Visual Arts, IB [21]
- World Geography
- World History
- Writing

Unacceptable Courses

(How to, skills-type; non-book learning; Lab/hands-on courses)

- Academic Decathlon
- AVID courses [1]
- Agriculture [36]
- Ag Mechanics [25]
- AP Seminar (AP Capstone™) [33]
- Architectural Drawing
- Art (Ceramics, Drawing, Multi-Cultural)
- Astronomy (unless a Science credit)
- Automotive
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
- Band/Chorus
- CAHSEE Math [11]
- Child Development
- Computer: (Information Processing, Keyboarding, Lab, Micro Applications, Software Courses)
- Computers, Careers, and Finance [32]
- Crime Science [31]
- Current Events (unless Social Studies)
- Drafting

- Drama / Advanced Drama [23]
- Driver's Education
- Electronics
- Engineering Graphics
- Ethic Law (Theology)
- Film
- Graphics
- Health Education
- Home Economics
- Horticulture
- Independent Study
- Industry
- Jewelry
- Mechanical Drawing
- Media Studies
- Medical Ethics
- Metal Procedures
- Morality and Issues
- Multi-Media (Communications)
- Newspaper, School [18]
- Personal Law

- Photography
- Physical Education
- Printmaking
- Project Lead The Way (PLTW) [35]
- Public Safety [26]
- Record Keeping
- Religion
- ROTC
- Shop
- Shorthand/Speed Writing
- Spelling (8th Grade) [13]
- Stage Craft
- Television Production
- Theater Arts
- Typing
- Veterinary Science #91049 [37]
- Vocational Education Courses
- Word Processing
- Yearbook

[1] AIVD was declined by USAD on 7.27.11. AVID is an elective course that teaches students how to study, read the content, take notes, and manage time. Students participate in collaborative study groups or tutorials led by tutors who use skillful questioning to bring student to a higher level of understanding. AVID courses are a general elective course that helps students with study skills related to their specific academic courses. Therefore, AVID should not be counted towards GPA Verification because it is considered more of a study skills course.

[2] Theory of Knowledge was approved by USAD on 8.31.11 because it appears to focus more than 50% of the time on understanding ideas, concepts, and theories of this discipline (knowledge). The course also uses texts and resources for papers, quizzes, etc. which appears to have more objective assessment rather than being more performance-based/subjective assessments.

[3] Forensics was approved by USAD on 8.25.11 because the course description includes objective assessment and also covers a lot of speech, debate, public speaking, which are also listed as acceptable courses.

[4] Geography was approved by USAD on 11.28.11 because the course is often tied together with Social Studies and/or History courses, which are acceptable. It was also accepted based upon the syllabus which supported this course being more theory based. Many of World Geography curriculum USAD came across in their research involved a textbook (such as *World Geography Today (Holt, Rinehart, Winston*) and assessed with tests on chapter tests, U.S. states and capitals test, and a world map test where students are required to know many of the world's countries, capitals, and locations.

[5] Computer Science was approved by USAD on 1.4.12 because the course syllabus, course title and course description reviewed. Also, USAD does list Computer Programming Language (previously listed as Programming Language). Both courses appear to be aligned with a programming course as opposed to a computer lab course that involves keyboarding, word processing, or software (which USAD does not accept).

[6] History of Motion Picture was approved by USAD on 1.9.12 because the course syllabus reviewed shows the curriculum focusses more than 50% of the time on concepts related to film history through outside readings, includes exams, screening quizzes a final exam. This course does not include a text book.

[7] Approved by USAD on 11.29.12. English Intervention (8th grade) - This is an intervention class. Smaller class size and slower paced, designed for the student who was not below basic or lower in the 7th grade CST English section. This course is academic in nature and has objective assessments (progress monitoring and diagnostic assessments).

[8] Approved by USAD on 11.29.12. Algebra Lab - This is a slower pace, smaller class size designed for students who were below basic or lower on the previous year's CST Math section. This course is more academic in nature. This course uses Algebra I textbook (McGraw Hill) and has weekly tests (75% grade based on assignments and tests and 25% based on Final Exam.

[9] Approved by USAD on 11.29.12. Algebra Support - This is a slower pace, smaller class size designed for students who were below basic or lower on the previous year's CST Math section. Old name for what became Algebra Lab. This course uses Algebra I textbook (McGraw Hill) and the 30% of grade is based on quizzes and 40% of grade is based on exams.

[10] Approved by USAD on 11.29.12. Algebra Readiness - An intervention type class for students who scored Below Basic or lower on the previous years CST Math section. Designed with smaller class size and more moderate pace. Uses Algebra Readiness Textbook and 60% of the grade is based on quizzes and tests.

[11] Not approved by USAD on 11.29.12. CAHSEE Math - A class designed to help student unsuccessful in passing the Math section of the CAHSEE exam. Small class size and slower paced to allow the concepts to be more thoroughly grasped. This course would be considered more of a "prep" course. This does not appear to be book-based and does not have objective assessments based upon the course descriptions. The course grades are based on classwork, participation, and ALEKS Progress (online computer program).

[12] ~~According to USAD guidelines (10.30.07 and 12.16.12), incomplete and pass/fail grades are not included in computing the GPA unless the student received an F that appears on the transcript. If only pass/fail grades are assigned, the State Director will determine an evaluation scale in concert with the USAD.~~

As of 07.01.14, California schools must include all Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Grades from school transcripts to the CAD GPA Calculation Worksheet. There will be (2) options: Option 1: Pass = A and No Pass = F. Option 2: In order to change a P/NP to a grade you feel is more appropriate, a coach "must" obtain proper verification and present findings to the regional coordinator for review. Proper verification must include approval from school site administration and school district(s). The Regional Coordinator may assist the coach in obtaining the proper verification. The Regional Coordinator will present findings to the state director for final review and approval.

[13] According to USAD as of 12.13.12. Spelling as a course should NOT be counted since this falls under more "how-to/skills-type." As far as Reading, USAD would accept this as a course if a there is a syllabus that provides a course description that includes clear assessments including quizzes, tests, and writing assignments. USAD recommends checking with the school regarding the specific Reading syllabus since there are Reading Lab courses in middle schools that may be more designed as "skills courses" and may not include any form of objective assessments.

[14] Algebra Fundamentals: As of 12.18.12, USAD would count this course since the curriculum includes a textbook and the assessments are based upon Chapter/Unit Tests as well as Quarterlies and Final Exams.

[15] Agriculture Biology: As of 12.18.12, USAD would count this course. This does not have "Lab" in the course title and based upon the Agriculture Biology Course Syllabus on a Hamilton High School website, this course utilizes the text, Modern Biology/The Science of Agriculture, and grades are determined by tests, quizzes, and projects (40%) and classwork, homework, and notebook (40%). This course appears to focus more than 50% of the time on understanding ideas, concepts, and theories in this specific discipline.

[16] Upward Bound Courses: As of 12.18.12, USAD would count specific Upward Bound Courses that are academic in nature (such as Physics, Geometry, Biology etc.) after reviewing an Upward Bound Chemistry Syllabus and the course is based from the text "Chemistry in the Community" and the grades in the class are calculated by combining equally the tests/projects grade, the homework grade and the participation grade (each at 1/3). Again, this course focuses more than half of the time on understanding the theories in this subject.

[17] Anatomy: As of 12.18.12, USAD would count this course. This does not have "Lab" in the course title and is based upon a text and has objective assessments. It appears that most of the Anatomy courses have the grading based on homework, lab assignments, section/unit quizzes, Chapter Assessments, and a final exam.

[18] Journalism & Newspaper: As of 9.26.14, USAD's explanation of both courses.

USAD lists journalism under the "Language Arts" acceptable courses since there are scholastic journalism courses in high schools that do focus more than 50% of the time on understanding ideas, concepts, and theories in the field of journalism. This acceptable journalism course may include a textbook, such as *Inside Reporting* or *High School Journalism*, and the course objectives may involve students learning the differences with journalistic writing, understanding history of journalism, study of First Amendment/Freedom of Press, etc.

While a newspaper course would not be counted since this type of course is not as academic in nature since the focus of the course is for students to write, edits, and layout issues of the school newspaper. This falls more under hands-on/skills-type and the majority of the student's grade is subjective in nature.

[19] Political Science: As of 8.5.15, USAD states, "Political Science courses appear to be countable for GPA since these include a textbook (American Government) and there are objective assessments for the course which would make this more academic."

[20] Social (American) Justice: As of 8.17.15, USAD states: American Justice courses appear to be countable for GPA since this class includes a component that studies historical events/cases as well as the current justice system. In addition, since debate is on the acceptable list which further weighs in favor of counting American (Social) Justice towards GPA tabulations.

[21] IB Visual Arts (LAUSD): As of 5.10.16, USAD recognizes IB Visual Arts as an acceptable course. USAD does list Art Appreciation and Art History as Acceptable as along as 50% of the time focusses on understanding ideas, concepts and theories of art in these types of courses. IB Visual Arts course (LAUSD) appears to be more academic in nature and in line with an Art Appreciation course. It appears students are creating artwork for this course, however, there seems to be a lot more involved than other art courses that would NOT be counted such as ceramics, jewelry-making, or painting course. Students are "exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media." Based on this statement and the overview of the course, the course is more academic in nature as opposed to a strictly hands-on or lab-based art class.

[22] Drama Comp or Dramatic Literature is more academic in nature and this type of course would be more of a survey of major periods/genres of major playwrights, critics, and theorists and tends to be tied with English courses.

[23] Drama (Advanced Drama) is more of a performance-based course and is closely associated to the category of theater arts.

[24] Robotics is a course listed on USAD's official list of Acceptable Courses (10/11/16). This falls under Engineering.

[25] Ag Mechanics. This appears to be a lab-based and project-based course that gives students the opportunity to increase hand-eye coordination/motor skills and focuses on ag mechanics technology such as engine maintenance, metal fabrications, welding, construction. As of 10/11/16, USAD would not accept this course based on the fact that this is more a skills-type course.

[26] Public Safety. This is a course that falls into the Vocational and Applied Technology Department. Based on this category, USAD would not accept this course (10/11/16).

[27] Originally approved by USAD on 11.29.12. English Intervention (8th grade) - This is an intervention class. Smaller class size and slower paced, designed for the student who was not below basic or lower in the 7th grade CST English section. This course is academic in nature and has objective assessments (progress monitoring and diagnostic assessments).

On 10.31.16, USAD extended its approval to include high school English Intervention since it includes writing, reading, vocabulary, and communication that would be more academic in nature with objective assessments as opposed to a performance based class.

[28] Distance learning is similar to how Academic Decathlon treat community college courses in that if the course is academic, high school credit is given, and it is listed on the official school transcript, then is accepted.

[29] American Sign Language is an acceptable course approved by USAD on 11.21.17.

[30] Kinesiology was approved as an acceptable course approved by USAD on 10.30.18. It was approved based upon the review of the Syllabus and interviews from the instructor and students. It appears that that more than 50% of the course is more academic in nature (providing theory, book-based, understanding of ideas, concepts of kinesiology and more objective testing to determine the grade rather than a lab science/hands on course).

[31] OHS 18 Crime Science 1-2 was not approved as an acceptable course by USAD on 10.23.18. Based upon the review of the Syllabus, the course description indicates this is more of a hands-on career/technical education course.

[32] ADS 15 Computers, Careers, and Finance was not approved as an acceptable course by USAD on 10.23.18. Based upon the review of the Syllabus which appears to be a survey lab course with lab supplies/hands on course.

[33] AP Seminar (AP Capstone™). Defined as a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. These courses are not to be included (USAD, 11.02.18) because they are not focused on an academic subject/theory of a specific discipline but rather more of a skills course and the assessments (particularly in the research course) are more subjective.

[34] Effective as of July 1, 2020.

[35] Project Lead The Way (PLTW). PLTW was not approved as an acceptable course by USAD on 7.3.2020 based on the fact that the "majority" of the assessments are performance/project based according to the PLTW homepage review.

[36] Some of the courses include: Ag Science III (Madera), Small Animal Care (Madera)

[37] Veterinary Science: The Care of Animals by IUSD Virtual Academy @ San Joaquin was not approved as an acceptable course by USAD on 9.9.22. Based upon the review of the submitted information and Syllabus, the course description indicates this is more of a hands-on career/technical education course.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Information Contained in this Section:

Sample Expository Essay Writing Prompts
Sample Essay Scoring Rubric
Interview Introduction and Sample Questions
Sample Interview Evaluation Form
CAD Speech Competition Directions
Sample Speech Evaluation Form
Sample Test Scantron

SAMPLE EXPOSITORY ESSAY WRITING PROMPTS

Instructions to the Student:

Exposition – "... writing designed to convey information or explain what is difficult *to understand*." -- *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary,* tenth edition

Exposition -– "writing that sets forth facts, ideas, and detailed explanations; as opposed to purely creative writing such as short stories or poetry."
-- *Webster's New World Student Writing Handbook*

An expository essay is an effort to inform or explain. Its essential quality is clarity. The writer of an expository essay takes a subject and opens it up to the reader. To accomplish this feat, a writer does not strive to argue or persuade, but to convey significant information clearly and accurately. Exposition requires identifying an audience, explaining the purpose in a thesis, presenting adequate content information which supports the thesis, limiting the subject by analyzing the subject into logical order or division, while establishing a lively voice that uses appropriate vocabulary and tone, and mastering the conventions of Standard English mechanics, usage, and spelling through varied and sophisticated sentence structure.

To focus the exposition, the writer must establish a point of departure by introducing the subject and by providing sufficient background information so that the reader can follow the explanation. The writer's task is to increase the reader's knowledge of the subject, to assist the reader in understanding a procedure or process, and / or to provide the reader with an enhanced comprehension of an idea or concept. Expository writers present their information as objectively as possible.

Writing Directions:

Choose **one** of the three available prompts and tell the reader what you know about your chosen subject. You are to explain the idea / meaning of the prompt in relation to the literary work or article by writing an essay in which you first begin with an **introduction** that engages the reader's interest and makes a clear statement of a central idea. The essay should then move to the **development** of the idea through examples from your experiences and / or logical reasoning which present these concepts in an organized, consistent manner that follow a sensible order and clear transitions from one sentence and / or paragraph to another. The essay **concludes** with the central idea fully developed by emphatic, meaningful summary to support the thesis. The essay should utilize appropriate and correct language and sentence structure. With either the Music, History or Literature prompt, the essay is to demonstrate a degree of literary analysis. The audience is a twelfth-grade English teacher, who you may assume is very familiar with the work / article.

NOTE: Literature, Science & Social Science prompt choices will be displayed onscreen for online Essay event.

SAMPLE ESSAY SCORING RUBRIC

Point Value ⓪①②③④	ESSAY EVALUATION FORM
	Introduction / Thesis [0 – 4 value] • Original, insightful, and/or interesting • Not merely restating the prompt
	Response to Prompt* [0 – 4 value] • Conveys understanding of the prompt and tasks • Clearly addresses all aspects of the prompt
	Evidence* [0 – 4 value] • Specific and accurate examples • Evidence supports thesis and main ideas
	Analysis/Commentary [0 – 4 value] • Ideas explained thoroughly • Points argued effectively
	Cohesion [0 – 4 value] • Articulate and clearly focused • Assertions equivalently developed
	Organization [0 – 4 value] • Paragraphs have topic sentences • Paragraphs have thoughtful transitions
	Closing [0 – 4 value] • Intentional finish • Not repetitive or merely summarizing
	Word Choice / Diction / Voice [1 – 4 value] • Diction appropriate to topic • Student writer knows/owns the words used
	Spelling / Punctuation [1 – 4 value] • Accurate spelling • Proper punctuation
	Grammar / Sentence Structure [1 – 4 value] • Subject/verb agreement • Varied sentence structure

Total Points x 25 =

Off Prompt (OP) = Zero Score ☑ ☐
Prompt is not addressed

Nonscorable (NS) = Zero Score ☑ ☐
Essay is: illegible, insufficient, a blank paper

* USAD publishes essay scoring guidelines for Essay Judges, which include details student writers may include in response to each prompt

INTERVIEW SELF-INTRODUCTION INSTRUCTIONS

The following information is offered to assist you prepare for your Academic Decathlon interview. Prepared well, your self-introduction is your key to interview success because it helps to create that all-important first impression and helps you to build the rapport with the judges conducting your interview.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT

In an interview, first impressions are very important. The first thing the interviewer learns about you, you teach him or her by how you introduce yourself. The interview is your chance to communicate your ability and skills directly to the judges. Because interviewing is a skill, anyone can learn to interview effectively. The key to a successful interview is preparation and careful listening.

The first impression is going to be based on how you present yourself. Make sure your hair is neat and your attire is appropriate. All clothes should be clean and pressed. Consider wearing professional business attire. Also, try to avoid any visual distractions (large jewelry, dramatic make-up etc…). You'll want that first impression to be not just a good one, but a great one. Above all, be yourself. Be comfortable in your own skin and you are guaranteed to make a great impression!

As you begin your interview, be confident and self-assured. Make sure you address and thank each judge for their donation of time after they introduce themselves. Once introductions are over, the interview is ready to begin. Remember… sincerity, enthusiasm and personality go a long way in this world!

DURING THE INTERVIEW

During the interview, sit up straight in the chair or lean forward slightly and DO NOT slouch! Establish yourself as a self-confident and assertive person without being confrontational, cocky or aggressive. Remember to be yourself but to also present a professional, polished version of yourself.

Answer interview questions directly. Be confident without being arrogant. At the same time, admit to your weaknesses if they are brought up, but do not bring them up. Instead, concentrate on your strengths. Demonstrate energy, determination, enthusiasm, motivation, and passion for your work.

PREPARING A SELF-INTRODUCTION

In preparing your self-introduction, ask yourself this question: 'What do I want the judges to know about me? What makes me unique?'

To avoid possible bias (positive and negative) from a judge try your best not to disclose what school you attend.

Prepare exactly what you are going to say. This is not some lengthy story about your life, but a short, focused statement that sounds interesting to the listener. You make it interesting by keeping it short (30 seconds) and by showing that you are interested in sharing and listening.

In your self-introduction consider including some examples of your strengths and achievements. The way you outline your self-introduction, in particular the way you speak, tells the interviewer whether you are confident in your abilities so don't try to be what you are clearly not.

Practice your self-introduction in front of someone with a critical ear, because if it sounds false it will set the alarm bells ringing with the interviewers. Practice speaking faster or more slowly, louder, or quietly and try to vary it throughout.

FOR PRACTICE

Look at the sample self-introduction topics below and pick out one or two that you might want to share with the judges. Approach the list below with the Who, What, Where, Why, How and When questions. It is an effective way to outline your first thoughts for introducing yourself.

1. What activity has played or plays an important part in your life?
2. What is your main personal goal?
3. What do you like very much?
4. Have you developed a very special skill?
5. Can you come up with a turning point or milestone in your life?
6. What is your hobby or interest in your spare time?
7. What distinguishes you from other individuals?
8. What brought you to Academic Decathlon?
9. How has Academic Decathlon changed your goals for college?

ANSWERING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer interview questions honestly and completely but do not dwell on negatives and avoid mentioning them when possible. Sell yourself on your true capabilities and experiences without exaggerating your abilities. If you are asked a technical question and you do not know the answer, consider saying "I do not know the answer, but if I were to venture an educated guess, I would say..." Never speak negatively about another person or group.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW SCORING CATEGORIES

USAD U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON
INTERVIEW EVALUATION FORM

STUDENT ID NUMBER

VOLUNTEER NUMBER

DIRECTIONS

USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY

PLEASE -
1. MAKE DARK MARKS
2. ERASE COMPLETELY TO CHANGE
3. ENTER: STUDENT'S NAME AND NUMBER
   YOUR NAME AND NUMBER
   ROOM NUMBER
4. MARK 1 STUDENT PER FORM

EXAMPLE:
1 0 2

STUDENT'S NAME

JUDGE'S NAME

ROOM NUMBER

JUDGE

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |

INTERVIEW

		EXCELLENT		VERY GOOD		GOOD		FAIR		POOR	
VOICE	• VOLUME • FLEXIBILITY • EXPRESSIVENESS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
LANGUAGE USAGE	• GRAMMAR • ENUNCIATION • APPROPRIATENESS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	• RAPPORT • INTERACTION • INVOLVEMENT	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
NON-VERBAL LANGUAGE	• MOVEMENT • GESTURE • POSTURE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
MANNER	• ASSURANCE • ENTHUSIASM • DIRECTNESS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
LISTENING SKILLS	• APPROPRIATENESS of RESPONSES • ATTENTIVENESS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
ANSWERING SKILLS	• CLEAR • COMPLETE • APPROPRIATE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
RESPONSES	• THOUGHTFUL • INSIGHTFUL • WITH CONVICTION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	• PURPOSE ACHIEVED • INTEREST • RECEPTION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
APPEARANCE	• APPROPRIATE FOR AN INTERVIEW	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

SPEECH COMPETITION DIRECTIONS

CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the decathlete's ability to present a speech prepared in advance in accordance with specific written criteria.
- To assess the decathlete's ability to make an impromptu speech.

CRITERIA FOR PREPARED SPEECH

Content: There is no required speech topic. Speeches must be the original work of the decathlete and must not have been used in any previous competition other than the Academic Decathlon.

Time: Length is three and one-half (3.5) to four (4) minutes. The countdown clock on the screen will help you keep pace turning colors when one (1) minute remains (signified by green); again, when thirty (30) seconds remains (signified by yellow); and when no (0) time remains (signified by red). There will <u>not</u> be a courtesy time applied. **If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e. 3:30 to 4:00), a time violation penalty is accessed. Penalty for the prepared speech only is – 7.**

Delivery: **Over-reliance on note cards, where decathlete actually reads some parts of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and may not be scored above the *Fair* range in *Speech Development* category. Glancing at note cards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the presentation, should not be penalized in any way**. Gestures are acceptable, but props (including costumes) are not permitted. The decathlete must stand while delivering their speech; any physical condition, which prevents standing, will be taken into consideration. Because the speeches are given in a virtual format, decathletes should consider looking directly into the camera of their laptop as this will best replicate "eye contact" for the judges.

Evaluation: The attached scoring sheet shows specific items for the decathlete's evaluation.

CRITERIA FOR IMPROMPTU SPEECH:

Content: The decathlete will be presented with three speech topics on screen. The decathlete picks one of the three topics and speaks on that topic.

Time: The impromptu speech is delivered immediately following the prepared speech. The decathlete has one minute to select and prepare the topic selection. The length of the speech is one and one-half (1.5) to two (2) minutes. The countdown clock on the screen will help you keep pace turning colors when one (1) minute remains (signified by green); again, when thirty (30) seconds remains (signified by yellow); and when no (0) time remains (signified by red). There will <u>not</u> be a courtesy time applied. **If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e. 1:30 to 2:00), a time violation penalty is assessed. Penalty for the prepared speech only is –3**.

SPEECH COMPETITION DIRECTIONS [CONTINUED]

Delivery: Notes may be used. Gestures are acceptable. The decathlete must stand while delivering their speech; any physical condition, which prevents standing, will be taken into consideration. Because the speeches are given in a virtual format, decathletes should consider looking directly into the camera of their laptop as this will best replicate "eye contact" for the judges.

Evaluation: The attached scoring sheet shows specific items for the decathlete's evaluation.

SPEECH PENALTIES:

To assess any proper penalty, the three speech judges must reach a consensus. Therefore, after the decathlete has completed both the prepared and the impromptu speeches, the chairperson should check that all judges agree on the assessment of any penalties for that particular decathlete. If the judges do not agree, the judges discuss the penalties, briefly, and arrive at consensus as follows:

- The timer is the final arbiter in the case of time violations.
- Scantrons reflect that the accessed penalty is the same for all three judges.

The decathlete must **NOT** reveal anything that might be interpreted as identifying information regarding school, county, region, or location in **ANY** manner-in either informal conversation, speech content, apparel, or insignia of **ANY** kind.

SAMPLE SPEECH SCORING CATEGORIES

USAD U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON
SPEECH EVALUATION FORM

STUDENT ID NUMBER

VOLUNTEER NUMBER

STUDENT'S NAME

JUDGE'S NAME

ROOM NUMBER

JUDGE
1 2 3
4 5 6

PREPARED SPEECH		EXCELLENT		VERY GOOD		GOOD		FAIR		POOR		
SPEECH DEVELOPMENT	• ORGANIZATION • BODY • OPENING/CLOSING	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
EFFECTIVENESS	• ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE • INTEREST • RECEPTION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
CORRECTNESS	• GRAMMAR • PRONUNCIATION • WORD SELECTION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
APPROPRIATENESS	• WORD SELECTION AND STYLE APPROPRIATE TO THE AUDIENCE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
SPEECH VALUE	• IDEAS • LOGIC • ORIGINALITY	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
VOICE	• FLEXIBILITY • VOLUME • VARIETY	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
NON-VERBAL	• APPEARANCE • MOVEMENT • ASSURANCE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

IMPROMPTU SPEECH		EXCELLENT		VERY GOOD		GOOD		FAIR		POOR		
CONTENT	• ORIGINALITY • IDEAS • ORGANIZATION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
DELIVERY	• MOVEMENT/GESTURE • BODY LANGUAGE • VOICE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	• ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE • VERBAL COMMUNICATION • NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

SPEECH PENALTIES	BOTH SPEECHES	PREPARED ONLY	IMPROMPTU ONLY	NO PENALTY
TIMING VIOLATION	-10	-7	-3	0

MISCELLANEOUS FORMS & INFORMATION

Information Contained in this Section:

Challenge Procedures and Guidelines
Post Awards Ceremony Challenge Form
Test Item Challenge Sheet

CHALLENGE PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES
As specified by the California Academic Decathlon

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Directors of the California Academic Decathlon (CAD) has adopted the following Challenge Procedures and Guidelines for use in the state competition. They are also intended as an aid to county participants, especially Competition Managers. These guidelines are extensively based on the United States Academic Decathlon Procedure Manual, but have been modified in certain sections to meet the special needs of the state competition.

The CAD Board of Directors is responsible for the overall integrity and ethics of the Decathlon, but their responsibility must flow down to every level. Integrity and ethics must exist in the individual or they do not exist at all. They must be upheld by individuals, or they will not be upheld at all. Therefore, all participants are expected to strive to ensure the truthfulness, fairness, and accuracy of all aspects of the competition. In matters of overall policy, the CAD Board of Directors has final authority, but as delineated herein, the authority and responsibility for conducting the CAD competition lies with the state Competition Manager.

TEST CHALLENGES

Thorough documentation and understanding of challenge policies and procedures and the circumstances under which any score adjustment can be made is very important. Further, it is important to assure challenges can be filed, discussed, and resolved in a timely manner. Although USAD and CAD recommend that challenges not be encouraged, adherence to these procedures and guidelines is necessary to ensure fairness in the treatment of all challenges. All challenges must include the appropriate documentation. Listed below are various types of challenges and the procedures for filing them. Students are instructed to file complaints through their coach in written form, except for such problems as missing test pages or unreadable portions; in this case, students should raise their hand and tell the proctor.

Coaches who wish to challenge an item on an objective test or Super Quiz should use the Challenge Form provided in the Coaches' packet by the Competition Manager. Completed forms must be filed with the Competition Manager within the designated time limits. The Competition Manager and staff will be available at a designated site at the Super Quiz to collect forms.

CHALLENGE OF AN ITEM ON AN OBJECTIVE TEST

Challenge of a test item on an objective test may be lodged during the competition by a coach because of one of the following reasons:

a. No right answer
b. Two right answers
c. Typographical error in question

Challenges to any item on an objective test for any reason other than those stated above will not be accepted. The deadline for filing challenges for the above reasons is 30 minutes following the end of the Super Quiz.

CHALLENGES TO SUPER QUIZ

Challenges to an item on the Super Quiz may be lodged by a coach based on the following circumstances:

a. Answer indicated as correct is not the correct answer
b. Question does not relate to the Study Guide outline

Challenges to any item on the Super Quiz for any reason other than those listed above will not be accepted.

RESPONSES

Responses to challenges for items on an objective test or Super Quiz will be provided to the coach who submitted the challenge prior to the Awards Banquet. All decisions made by the Competition Management Team are final.

POST AWARDS CEREMONY CHALLENGE FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE TEAM COACH ONLY

_____   _____
Coach's Name   County/School

As the coach for the _____ team, I hereby request a review
of the following test item(s):

_____   _____
Student Name & Computer I.D. #   Test/Event

The reason for this request is as follows: _____

_____

_____

                                                  _____
                                                  Coach's Signature

- -

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – Please do not write below this line.

Student Name: _____   Test/Event: _____

Your request has been: _____ Denied   _____ Accepted

For the following reason(s): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____   _____
Competition Manager's Signature   FAD Committee Representative

TEST ITEM CHALLENGE SHEET

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE TEAM COACH ONLY

_____

Coach's Name   County/School

As the coach for the _____ team, I hereby request a review
of the following test item(s):

_____

Student Name & Computer I.D. #   Test/Event

The reason for this request is as follows: _____

_____

_____

_____

Coach's Signature

- -

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – Please do not write below this line.

Student Name: _____   Test/Event: _____

Your request has been: _____ Denied   _____ Accepted

For the following reason(s): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Competition Manager's Signature