

2017-2018

# United States Academic Decathlon® Program Materials and Products



# Dear Academic Decathlon® Coach,

Welcome to the 2017–2018 Academic Decathlon<sup>®</sup> Season!

This year's theme will be

## Africa

In this new U.S. Academic Decathlon® Program Brochure, you will find the essential resources your team will need to participate and compete successfully in the U.S. Academic Decathlon®. Please take note of the following information from this year's U.S. Academic Decathlon® Study Guide.

# Essential Information for Coaches

- The United States Academic Decathlon® competition is comprised of ten events.

  There are seven multiple choice exams—one in each of the following subject areas: art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science. Students will also take an essay exam and will be judged in a speech event as well as an interview event.
- The culmination of the competition is the Super Quiz™ relay. The Super Quiz™ relay includes questions (in multiple-choice format) from the following seven subject areas: art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science.
- The multiple-choice exams in art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science each have 50 questions. The mathematics exam has 35 questions. Coaches can contact their State Director to find out the format that will be used for the Super Quiz™ relay.
- The United States Academic Decathlon® permits students to use calculators, including graphing calculators, for the mathematics exam only, provided they have none of the features listed in Section III of the USAD Calculator Policy. Coaches can view this calculator policy on the USAD website <a href="http://www.usad.org/Coaches/AD-Calculator-Policy.aspx">http://www.usad.org/Coaches/AD-Calculator-Policy.aspx</a>> or contact USAD to receive a copy of the calculator policy.
- The literature test items will be derived from the selected works of literature and from the information provided in the *Literature Resource Guide*. The literature test will include a critical reading passage with accompanying test items. The literature test will also expect students to be able to analyze the selected works of literature as well as the critical reading passage and will

- expect students to be familiar with literary terms and devices.
- ※ The United States Academic Decathlon® competition tests will be written in accordance with the topics and percentages noted in the subject area outlines that are published in the Academic Decathlon® Study Guide.
- \*\*The United States Academic Decathlon\* offers Resource Guides and Student Exercise Books in art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science. The Resource Guides and Student Exercise Books will assist students in their study of the topics listed in the subject area outlines. All USAD competition test items will be derived from the information and concepts presented in the Resource Guides as well as the selected literature, artworks, and musical works.
- ★ The 2017–18 mathematics curriculum and materials (including the subject area outline, Resource Guide, Student Exercise Book, and Notebook Divider) will be the same as were used for the 2014–15 United States Academic Decathlon®.
- ★ Test writers have been instructed to construct tests such that at least 10–20% of the questions on each test require the use of higher-order thinking skills.
- While the *Art Resource Guide* includes information relevant to the 18 selected artworks, this guide contains text only and does NOT include images of the artworks.
- ★ The Art Reproductions Booklet contains reproductions of the 18 artworks that are included in this year's art outline. However, please be aware that no text beyond the title, artist, date, etc., accompanies these artworks.
- \*\* All USAD materials are copyrighted. USAD materials may not be duplicated or posted to any public or private sites on the Internet for any reason without written permission from USAD. Violators may be prosecuted.

Best wishes to all Academic Decathlon® participants for an outstanding Academic Decathlon® season, filled with fun, teamwork, and valuable learning!



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## Team Study Materials

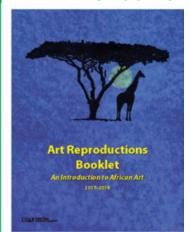
#### ACADEMIC DECATHLON® STUDY GUIDE:



Summarizes the curriculum for the entire year. Includes detailed outlines for Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science. Also includes rules and guidelines for the Essay, Interview, and Speech events. Teams can either order hard copies of the *Study Guide* to be shipped to their school, or they can order the *Study Guide* as a

PDF for electronic download. Available May 15.

#### ART REPRODUCTIONS BOOKLET:



Companion to the Art Resource Guide. Contains full-color reproductions of the 18 selected works for this year's art curriculum. Includes works by various artists and architects. Accompanying information will include title, artist, date, and dimensions (if applicable). Teams can either order hard copies of the Art Reproductions Booklet to be shipped to their school, or

they can order the *Art Reproductions Booklet* as a PDF for electronic download. *Available May 15*.

## MUSIC CD: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MUSIC OF AFRICA:



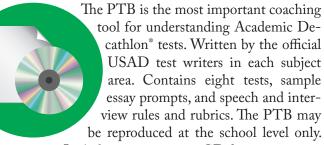
This CD is produced exclusively for USAD and will introduce students to the Music of Africa. The Music CD is an essential companion piece to this year's music curriculum. Available May 15.

#### **RESOURCE GUIDES:**

Resource Guides will be provided in Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science. These Resource Guides will provide teams with a thorough

review and academic treatment of all the topics noted in the subject area outlines for these subjects. The *Resource Guides* offer an essential resource that will assist students in their mastery of the topics and aid in their preparation for the competition tests. Teams can either order hard copies of the *Resource Guides* to be shipped to their school, or they can order the *Resource Guides* as PDFs for electronic download. *Available May 15*.

#### PRACTICE TEST BOOKLET:



Includes accompanying CD for art questions based on artwork images, music questions based on listening excerpts, and a PowerPoint® Slideshow for Super Quiz $^{TM}$  oral relay. The PTB is also available as a PDF and the CD as an MP3 file for electronic download. *Available May 15*.















## Curriculum Package

#### THE CURRICULUM PACKAGE (Available May 15):

- 10 Academic Decathlon® Study Guides
- 10 Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science Resource Guides
- 10 Art Reproductions Booklets
- **10 Music CDs**
- 1 Practice Test Booklet (with CD)

## Student Study Aids

#### STUDENT EXERCISE BOOKS:

Available in Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science, the Student Exercise Books provide a student-friendly summary of the material for each subject may only be purchased presented in the Resource Guides and offer students a chance to test and reinforce their with the order of a complete set of Student Exercise Books, Student Exercise Books are knowledge of the curriculum through a variety of exercises and activities. The Student Exercise Books include section by section overviews of the Resource Guides, as well as short quizzes, true/false questions, fill-in-the-blank items, crossword puzzles, etc., to assist students in their mastery of the curriculum. Teams can either order hard copies of the Student

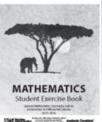
Exercise Books to be shipped to their school, or they can order the Student Exercise Books as PDFs for electronic download. Available June 15.















NOTE

Individual Student Exercise Books

NOT included in the

Curriculum Package.

## Ouline Market

#### THE ONLINE MARKET:

High-quality practice exams for students to test themselves with over 4,000 multiple-choice questions. Questions are written in the format of the Round 1–4 exams and USAD's Level Exams. All writers have competed in United States Academic Decathlon® and ranked among the highest-scoring decathletes in the country. Tests are broken down into three categories that follow the chunking theory of memory stages: Automatic Stage Quizzes, Conceptual Stage Exams, and Comprehensive Stage Exams.

- **Automatic Stage Quizzes:** Focuses on small chunks of information and usually consists of questions that are level 1 type questions. **Available August 15**<sup>th</sup>
- **Conceptual Stage Exams:** Covers full sections of the guides and asks higher-level questions, building on the information asked in the *Automatic Stage Quizzes*. **Available September 1**<sup>st</sup>
- **Comprehensive Stage Exams:** These are a combination of the *Automatic Stage*-style questions and *Conceptual Stage*-style questions and cover the entire subject *Resource Guide*. *Available October 1st*

Teams must be members of the USAD Testing and Training Center to purchase the product at a discounted price. Coaches will also have access to the exams and will be able to choose if they want their students to have access to the questions, or if they want the PDF downloadable version only. Teams who choose not to access the training center will have access to the exams in PDF format at a higher price.

## Practice Test Packages

#### THE PRACTICE TEST PACKAGE:

A complete set of practice materials. The Practice Test Package has 8,000 test questions that are written and reviewed by United States Academic Decathlon®-contracted writers and reviewers. The Practice Test Package contains thousands of test questions to reinforce learning and test-taking skills. The topical breakdown of the test items in the Practice Test Package is in accordance with the percentages noted in the Academic Decathlon® Study Guide outlines.



#### THE PRACTICE TEST PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Monline Testing and Training Center: Train for Academic Decathlon® Team Competition through a unique combination of individual study sessions, direct challenges, and national scrimmages featuring more than 7,000 questions in art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science categories. A powerful new Academic Decathlon® resource offering daily preparation to match intellects with students from around the country through Team Competitions. Available August 1.
- X Practice Level Tests: Includes a series of three tests made up of 150 questions in each subject area. Tests can be used consecutively as a study tool since they are constructed at easy, medium, and hard difficulty levels, allowing for gradual mastery of the curriculum. Available August 1.
- Music Listening Quizzes: Includes 10 quizzes with multiple-choice items that focus on a 30-second musical excerpt from the United States Academic Decathlon® Music CD: An Introduction to the Music of Africa. Quizzes will be similar to what students will encounter on the listening portion of the music competition tests to reinforce mastery of the Music CD. Includes accompanying music excerpt CD (in limited quantities), which is also available as an MP3 for electronic download. Available June 15.

## Practice Test Packages (cout.)

#### ONLINE PRACTICE TESTS: Standard Practice Tests and Subject Assortment Tests

The online test system uses the same interface as the Official Online National Competition. Get up to 35 subscriptions for one low price. The system features additional bonuses for the coach and student, which include the ability to:



- **X** Build tests to assist in the team selection process
- X Administer tests in a group setting
- X Set up competitions between teams and states
- X Take an unlimited number of on-screen USAD-format tests, randomly created in each subject area
- X Access the test program from any Internet-connected handheld computer or cell phone with full web browser
- X Access test reports in seven different formats

Students can access the online practice test program with their assigned username and password.

Online Practice Tests—1300 test items: 200 each in art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science; 100 mathematics questions. Tests will focus on each subject area, section-by-section of the Study Guide outlines, to reinforce mastery of the material. Available August 1.

Online Subject Assortment Tests—700 test items. This includes fourteen 50-item tests that consist of an assortment of questions from each of the seven objective subject areas. Available August 1.

*Online Bonus Questions*—1400 multiple-choice questions that go beyond the scope of the *Resource Guides* for additional mastery of the curriculum topics. *Available August 1*.

#### Academic Decathlon® Study Features—

- X Online Flash Cards and Online Quick Quiz: Test your knowledge by subject category.
- X Online Scrimmage: Participate in national scrimmages.
- **Head-to-Head Challenge:** Challenge another current user to a direct competition.
- Monline Puzzle Maker: Access to this software program allows you to quickly create word search and crossword puzzles using word lists and clues directly from the United States Academic Decathlon® curriculum.

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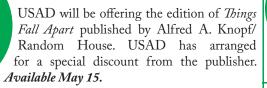
#### United States Academic Decathlon® Online Community Features—

- **X** User Profile
- X List your school and graduation year
- X Choose a photo
- **%** My Statistics
- X Track your online study results and rankings
- ★ Recent News and Videos
- X Access state and national USAD news and information

## Additional Study & Practice Test Materials

#### THIS YEAR'S SELECTED LITERATURE:

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe



#### ART IMAGES CD:

This CD includes images of the 18 artworks selected for this year's competition and is a useful companion to the *Art Resource Guide*. Coaches can use the Art Images CD to stimulate art appreciation, promote the study of art history, or teach aesthetics. *Available May 15*.

#### SUPER QUIZ™ RELAY POWERPOINT TESTS:

This CD includes twelve tests that are displayed in a PowerPoint® SlideShow. The Super Quiz™ relay will include questions (in multiple-choice format) from the following seven subject areas: art, economics, literature, music, science, mathematics, and social science. The CD will help to reinforce student mastery of the United States Academic Decathlon® Resource Guides.

Also available in digital format. Available August 1.

#### 4,000 SUBJECT AREA FLASH CARDS:

Companion to the *Resource Guides* and *Online Practice Tests*. 600 questions each in art, music, literature, social science, science, and economics; 400 in mathematics. Questions and answers are referenced directly to the *Resource Guides* to reinforce learning and strengthen fast answer skills. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available August 1*.

#### NOTEBOOK DIVIDERS (10 SETS):

Crammed with pertinent information, this set of 10 tabbed notebook dividers helps students stay organized. Includes important dates to remember, lists of key terms and definitions, and much more! *Available May 15*.

#### PRACTICE COMBO QUIZZES:

Contains four quizzes with a total of 200 items in each subject area. Quizzes focus on topics in sequential order of the subject outlines. Quizzes include a combination of fill-inthe-blank items, short-question and answer format, multiple choice items, and matching to help students to master the curriculum with a variety of question styles. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available August 1*.

#### **PRACTICE SPECIALTY TESTS:**

Includes two 100-item tests in art, literature, music, science, and social science, focused in depth on a specific portion of the subject outlines. Tests consist of a variety of question styles for students to gain knowledge on focused topics. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available August 1*.

#### **ESSAY EXAM BOOKLET:**

Contains 20 essay tests with a total of 60 essay prompts, which focus on the following six subject areas: art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science. The essay rubric used at the National Competition is included in the booklet. Great for essay writing practice. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available June 15*.

#### **ESSAY RESOURCE GUIDE:**

The Essay Resource Guide provides Academic Decathletes with all the information they need to know about USAD's essay event. The Essay Resource Guide includes a thorough explication of the essay scoring rubric and offers students techniques, strategies, tips, and guided activities—including detailed analyses of sample essays—to help them write an effective, high-scoring essay. Available May 15.

#### IMPROMPTUTOPIC BOOKLET:

Contains 150 impromptu speech topics, including a variety of sample approaches that may be encountered in the United States Academic Decathlon® competition. Great for speech practice and impromptu preparation. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available June 15*.

#### LITERATURE CHAPTER QUIZZES:

Test your knowledge of *Things Fall Apart*. Chapter quizzes will include a combination of fill-in-the-blank items, short question and answer format, multiple-choice items, and matching to help students to master the chapters in this year's selected text. Also available as a PDF for electronic download. *Available June 15*.



# USA United States Academic Decathlou®

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			*JK1090	Science Student Exercise Book\$5.00	Qty
RELEASE I	DATE: JUNE 2017		*JK1095	Social Science Student Exercise Book\$5.00	Qty
MP4030	Certificates (Set of 10)\$9.80			34 OTTC Students – Online Access\$499.00	Qty
MP4061	Gold Medal\$5.10			If 34 OTTC Students – PDF version\$499.00	
MP4062	Silver Medal\$5.10				.,
MP4063	Bronze Medal\$5.10	Qty		Without OTTC Subscription:	
			OM5530pdf	Non-OTTC PDF version\$807.00	Qty
PF	RACTICE TEST PACKAG	iES			

Items will ship upon individual release dates

PAGE FOUR TOTAL: \$\_\_\_



# USAP United States Academic Pentathlon®

#### 2017 - 2018 Competition Year

The premier scholastic competition for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students!

#### **OVERVIEW**

- United States Academic Pentathlon® is the newest program from the United States Academic Decathlon®. This premier national scholastic competition for middle school students was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual competition.
- The five-event academic program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome inter-school academic competition, and to further develop student communication skills.
- Academic Pentathlon® is uniquely designed to include students with a wide variety of academic abilities.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

- Academic Pentathlon® teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members. All students must be currently enrolled in grades 6-8. Each team must consist of at least two "A" students, at least two "B" students, and at least two "C or below" students. The team score will be determined by the sum of the top two student scores in each GPA category. The GPA Calculation Form can be found on the <u>USAP web page</u>.
- Teams advance through local, regional, and state levels of competition. The state champions compete in the national finals. MOST Academic Pentathlon® competitions take place online in a virtual testing environment, so there is no travel required for teams! The National Academic Pentathlon® competition is held in a physical location.
- Academic Pentathlon® teams are encouraged to partner with local high school Academic Decathlon® teams, perhaps having Academic Decathlon® students serve as mentors to Pentathlon students.

#### CURRICULUM

- Academic Pentathlon's curriculum is an interdisciplinary curriculum in which a selected theme is integrated across five different subject areas: fine arts, literature, mathematics, science, and social science.
- The Academic Pentathlon® theme parallels that of the high school Academic Decathlon® program.
- The theme for the 2017–2018 U.S. Academic Pentathlon® curriculum is Africa. The themes are developed by our curriculum team with special attention to national content standards.
- The materials will be available for downloading in PDF format (music CD files in mp3 format) on September 1st each year. The site license fee allows you to download as many copies as needed. Novels may be purchased via online vendors such as Amazon or via your regular school vendors. The 2017-18 novel will be A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park ISBN 978-0-547-57731-9.
- All test questions will be derived from the USAP curriculum.



## United States Academic Pentathlon®



## 2017 – 2018 Competition Year School Registration Form

School:	District:	
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Fax:	
Coach(es):		
Email Address:		
School Principal:		
grade students. In addition, there will be a \$10 c		als for all students. Teams may consist of 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> e year. You may purchase individual subscriptions or packate in online testing during the year, please include \$100.00
ALL Registration Documents Due (Forms found	Faut Dates  d on USAP website)	ORDERING INFORMATION  Please indicate a quantity by each option and list the total below:
	owpetition Dates	Registration and Curriculum Site License \$250.00
Practice Competition – Subject Area Exams ( Essay for Regional Competition	Only January 18, 2018 February 1, 2018 February 21, 2018 March 15, 2018 April 3, 2018	Online Testing Subscription (per student) \$10.00
		Total \$
Payment must be included with the registr	ration form, make checks payable to USAD, when $_{ m I}$	paying by credit card a \$5.00 service fee will be added.
PAY BY CREDIT CARD	VISA MasterCard	
CARDHOLDER'S NAME:		
		ZIP:
		EXP. DATE/
CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE: _		

## VISION

The vision of the U.S. Academic Decathlon® is to provide students the opportunity to excel academically through team competition.

## MISSION

The mission of the U.S. Academic Decathlon® is to promote learning and academic excellence among students of varying achievement levels by developing and providing multidisciplinary academic competitions using U.S. Academic Decathlon®-based curricula.

## CORE VALUES

As a premier national scholastic competition for high school students, the United States Academic Decathlon® believes in:

The academic growth of students;

Challenging multidisciplinary learning;

Teamwork as a means to achieve self-knowledge and life-skills development;

Providing equal opportunities for students of varying achievement levels;

The importance of inclusivity and diversity to learning and the human experience;

High standards of honesty and integrity;

Transparency in our relations and interactions with all of our stakeholders;

Excellence in our programs, services, and activities; and,

Respect for diverse points of view.

United States Academic Decathlon®
P.O. Box 4351, Mankato, MN 56002
866-511-USAD • Email: info@usad.org • Website: www.usad.org
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