

## **OUR CHANGING CLIMATE**



## MATERIALS BROCHURE

2024 - 2025

The vision of the United States Academic Decathlon® is to provide students the opportunity to excel academically through team competition.
Toll Free: 866-511-USAD (8723) • Direct: 712-326-9589 • Fax: 712-366-3701 • Email: info@usad.org • Website: www.usad.org

## Dear Academic Decathlon® Coach,

## Welcome to the 2024–2025 Academic Decathlon Season!

This year's theme will be

## Our Changing Climate

In this 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<sup>TM</sup> 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.
- ♠ For all Academic Decathlon competitions prior to Nationals, 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.
- ▲ At the 2025 Nationals, the number of questions per test may differ from the number of questions per test at regional and state competitions. The U.S. Academic Decathlon will inform teams of the number of test items in each subject at Nationals prior to the event.
- ♠ For all Academic Decathlon competitions prior to Nationals, students will be given 30 minutes to complete each of the written multiple-choice exams. Students will have 50 minutes to complete the essay exam.

- 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 <a href="USAD website">USAD website</a> <a href="https://www.usad.org/Coaches/AD-Calculator-Policy.aspx">https://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 2024–25 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 2021–22 United States Academic Decathlon.
- ▲ All curriculum and practice test materials, except for the Notebook Dividers and the Flashcards, are available in digital format only. The Notebook Dividers are available in print format only, and the Flashcards are offered in both digital and print format.

- ♦ While the *Art Resource Guide* includes information relevant to the eighteen selected artworks, this guide contains text only and does NOT include images of the artworks.
- ♦ The Art Reproductions Booklet contains reproductions of the eighteen 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.
- ▲ 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.
- ▲ 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!



Our staff looks forward to receiving your order and to providing you with customer service of the highest quality. All orders may be placed by U.S. mail OR email OR fax. Orders for digital materials may be placed online using a credit card at <a href="http://store.usad.org/">http://store.usad.org/</a> beginning May 15.

#### TARA BROWN

Customer Service and Accounts Receivable 712-326-9589 or toll free 866-511-USAD (8723) 651-389-9144 (fax) info@usad.org

#### **DANIELE GRIGSBY**

Test Development 714-585-1259 daniele@usad.org

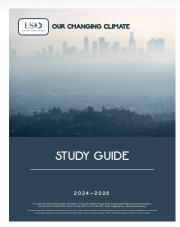
#### **AMY DOSCH**

Finance and Accounting 651-249-5878 amy@usad.org

#### **TERRY MCKIERNAN**

Curriculum Development 714-585-1289 terry@usad.org

## 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. *Available May 15.* 

# es and guidelines for the Essay, Interview, despect events. Available May 15.

# ART An introduction to Environmental and Environmental Art Reproductions Booklet 2024–2025 The reference and Environmental Art Reproductions Booklet 2024–2025

#### 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. Accompanying information includes title, artist, date, and dimensions (if applicable). *Available May 15.* 

#### PRACTICE TEST BOOKLET:

The PTB is the most important coaching tool for understanding Academic Decathlon tests. Written by the official USAD test writers in each subject area. Contains eight tests, sample essay

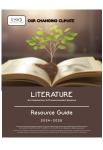
prompts, and speech and interview rules and rubrics. The PTB may be reproduced at the school level only. Includes mp3 file for music questions based on listening excerpts and PowerPoint® Slideshows for art questions based on artwork images and the Super Quiz™ relay. *Available May 15.* 

#### **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. **Available May 15.** 















## Curriculum Package

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

- Academic Decathlon® Study Guides
- ♦ Art, Economics, Literature, Music, Science, and Social Science Resource Guides
- Mathematics Resource Guides and Mathematics Instructor's Manual
- Art Reproductions Booklets
- ♠ Practice Test Booklet

## Student Study Aids

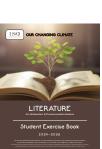
#### **STUDENT EXERCISE BOOKS:**

Available in Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science, the Student Exercise Books provide a student-friendly summary of the material presented in the Resource Guides and offer students a chance to test and reinforce their 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. **Available June 15.** 

NOTE
Student Exercise
Books are NOT
included in the
Curriculum
Package.















## Online 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. 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: Focus on small chunks of information and usually consist of questions that are level 1 type questions. Available August 15
- Conceptual Stage Exams: Cover full sections of the guides and ask higher-level questions, building on the information asked in the Automatic Stage Quizzes. Available September 1
- 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 1*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:

- Online 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 Academic Decathlon resource offering daily preparation to match intellects with students from around the country through team competitions. Available August 1.
- 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 music selections featured in the USAD Music Resource Guide: Music and the Natural World. Quizzes will be similar to what students will encounter on the listening portion of the music competition tests to reinforce mastery of the music selections. Includes accompanying mp3 file which is available for electronic download. Available June 15.

## Practice Test Packages (cont.)

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

The online test system uses the same interface as the United States Academic Decathlon® 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:



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

- Online Flash Cards and Online Quick Quiz: Test your knowledge by subject category.
- Online Scrimmage: Participate in national scrimmages.
- Head-to-Head Challenge: Challenge another current user to a direct competition.
- Online 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.

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

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

## Additional Study and Practice Test Materials

#### THIS YEAR'S SELECTED LITERATURE:

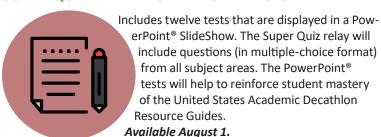


#### Solar Storms

by Linda Hogan

USAD will be offering the edition of Solar Storms, published by Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc. USAD has arranged for a special discount from the publisher. Available May 15.

#### SUPER QUIZ™ RELAY POWERPOINT TESTS:



#### **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. 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.

#### **NOVEL CHAPTER QUIZZES:**

Test your knowledge of Linda Hogan's Solar Storms. 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 novel.

Available June 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-in-theblank items, short-question and answer format, multiple-choice items, and matching to help students to master the curriculum with a

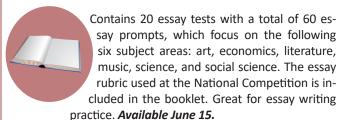
variety of question styles. Available August 1.

#### 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. Available August 1.

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



#### **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.

#### IMPROMPTU TOPIC 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. Available June 15.

## USAN UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON®

## 2024-25 Curriculum and Study Materials Order Form: Page One

**Email** info@usad.org **Mail** USAD **Contact us with guestions** Submit Fax 651-389-9144 Phone: 712-326-9589 Order PO Box 4351 **Online** http://store.usad.org Mankato, MN 56002 Email: info@usad.org Via:

#### ORDER PROCESSING

- \*Submit orders via email/fax/mail
- ◆Include a check, credit card, or purchase order with the order forms
- Orders are processed in the order received
- ◆Allow 2–4 weeks for delivery via UPS (hard copy) or email (digital)
- No returns or refunds

#### **ORDER ONLINE**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

- ◆Order online at <a href="http://store.usad.org">http://store.usad.org</a>
- Online store opens May 2024
- ◆Online store items are digital only (no hard copy)
- ◆Payment is by credit card only
- Check spam or junk folder for missing deliveries.

#### **TO AVOID DELAYS**

- \*Complete one order form in full for each school
- ◆Include order form(s) with your purchase order
- Send orders to the address/fax/ email above only
- Inspect deliveries immediately; report discrepancies within 30 days





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- ◆Digital items include one download for one school/coach
- ◆Multiple schools, even in the same district, CANNOT download/use the same digital copy of a purchased item
- ◆Violators may be prosecuted

## Order Form: Page Two – Study Materials

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<b>RELEASE L</b> AK1010	DATE: AUGUST 2024 4,000 Subject Area Flash Cards\$467.00	0 Qty		PAGE TWO TOTA	L: \$	

#### **Order Form: Page Three – Online Testing and Training Center** Please complete one order for each email address/coach/school EMAIL: COACH'S FULL NAME: CITY: STATE: **ITEMS IN DIGITAL FORMAT** Hard copies are not included ◆Customers are responsible for payment of items, including Orders arrive via email from no-reply@usad.org with those not received due to: invalid or no email provided to the subject line "Academic Decathlon and Academic USAD, email filtered into a spam or junk folder Pentathlon E-Delivery Receipt" Check spam or junk folder for missing deliveries. Contact your tech support if order is not in either of these folders. ONLINE TESTING and TRAINING CENTER (OTTC) **RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 2024** Qty \_\_\_\_ \*SM2110oa 34 OTTC Students – Online Access...\$222.00 \*SM2110pdf 34 OTTC Students - PDF version .. \$222.00 **Subscriptions to Online Testing and** Qty \_\_\_\_ Training Center (OTTC) **Without OTTC Subscription:** AT2030Koa 10 Subscriptions -SM5510pdf Non-OTTC PDF version.......\$356.00 Qty \_\_\_\_ 9 Students + 1 Coach......\$385.00 Qty **RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 2024** AT2032oa 35 Subscriptions -34 Students + 1 Coach ......\$605.00

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\*The following individual item is only available after purchasing AT2030KOA or AT2032OA

**UNIT 1: Automatic Stage Quizzes** 

(2,400+ additional questions)

With OTTC Subscription:

**Without OTTC Subscription:** 

**UNIT 2: Conceptual Quizzes** 

(800+ additional questions)

With OTTC Subscription:

\*AT2034oa 1 Additional Student Subscription .. \$40.00

\*AM2010oa 9 OTTC Students – Online Access.. \$190.00 \*AM2010pdf 9 OTTC Students – PDF version.. \$190.00

\*AM2000oa 34 OTTC Students – Online Access..\$241.00

\*AM2000pdf 34 OTTC Students - PDF version.. \$241.00

AM5500pdf Non-OTTC PDF version......\$378.00

\*SM2100oa 9 OTTC Students – Online Access .. \$168.00

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**RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 2024** 

UNIT 3: Comprehensive Tests
(800+ additional guestions)

With OTTC Subscription:

**Without OTTC Subscription:** 

**Digital Quiz Package: UNITS 1-3** 

(4,000+ questions)

**With OTTC Subscription:** 

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OM5530pdf Non-OTTC PDF version......\$963.00



# United States Academic Pentathlon<sup>®</sup>

### 2024 – 2025 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 USAP web page.
- ◆ 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 2024-2025 is Our Changing Climate. 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 on August 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 2024–2025 novel title will be coming soon.
- All test questions will be derived from the USAP curriculum.



# **United States Academic Pentathlon**®

2024-2025 School Registration Form

Street Address:			
City:	State:		Zip:
Telephone:	Fax	:	
Coach(es):			
Email Address:			
School Principal:			
grade students. In addition, there packages of 10, 25, or 50 online te \$100.00 in addition to the \$300.00	, which covers the registration and site license for do will be a \$10 charge per team member for the onlin sting subscriptions. For example, if you have 10 stud of fee. USAP is excited to offer a Practice Quiz Booklet by prompts, and the essay rubric. Available as a PDF	e testing during the year. Yo dents that will participate in t. Written by the official USA	ou may purchase individual subscriptions or online testing during the year, please include
ALL Registration Documents Du	on Due Determine Dates	cember 6, 2024 April 10, 2025 Please list the	rdering Information indicate a quantity by each option and total below: stration and Curriculum Site License
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Payment must be included wi	th the registration form, make checks payable t	o USAD, when paying by	credit card a \$5.00 service fee will be addec
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School: District:

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#### **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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