

UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON
National Finals 2010
Explanation of Scoring

1. The Academic Decathlon has ten events. Each event is evenly weighted at 1000 points per competitor for a possible 10,000 point total. However, only six scores per team are counted for the team ranking, (top two Honor, top two Scholastic, and top two Varsity). So the highest possible team score is 60,000. Scores of winning teams at the National Finals are usually in the 47,000 – 50,000 range.
2. Five of the objective tests have 50 items. The raw score for these tests is converted to 1000 points with each item worth 20 points. The math test has 35 items with each item being worth 28.6 points.
3. The essay is scored based on a rubric. Each essay is independently read twice. If there is a divergence of 200 or more points in the two scores, the essay is read and scored by a third judge. The third score replaces the divergent score. The two scores are averaged for the final score.
4. The speech and interview are performed before a panel of judges (usually three). The judges complete the appropriate Scantron scoring forms. These are scanned directly into the computer. The scoring program computes an average score based on a maximum of 1000 points.
5. Super Quiz has both a written component and an oral component. The written test will have 40 items worth 15 points each that counts for 60% of the total score ($40 \times 15 = 600$). In the oral relay, each student will answer five questions worth 80 points each which will count for 40% ($5 \times 80 = 400$). Separate Scantrons will be used for the written and oral Super Quiz.
6. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded in each event and for each category (Honor, Scholastic, and Varsity). All ties are awarded.
7. Team overall ranking is determined by the six team members that make up the top two scores in each category (Honor, Scholastic, and Varsity).
8. For Super Quiz Overall the team ranking is also determined by the six team members with the top two scores in each of the three categories. NOTE: It is not necessary that the six students whose scores count for the Super Quiz be the same six students whose scores count for the Overall Team score.
9. There will be three divisions determined by the 9-12 enrollment of each school. Division I (Large Schools) shall consist of all teams whose school enrollment is greater than 1500. Division II shall consist of all teams whose school enrollment is greater than 750 but less than or equal to 1500. Division III shall consist of all teams whose school enrollment is 750 or smaller. However, a division must have at least 25% of the teams participating. Each division will have a first (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winner. These are the Division Champions. The National title will be awarded to the team with the highest number of points regardless of division.
10. A Winner's List is released following the presentation of awards that indicates the gold, silver, and bronze medal winners in each event, the special awards, the top five teams in the Super Quiz and the top ten teams in the Overall Standings. **Each coach and State Director receives a printout of scores for his/her team.**
11. Special awards are common in the Academic Decathlon. At the National Finals they include the Kristin Caperton Award for overcoming challenges, the Highest Scoring Student from each state, and Rookie Team of the year for each division.