

SAMPLE TOPICS FOR ORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Note: The questions below are just SAMPLE QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE DECATHLETES CAN BE BASED ON THE STUDENTS SELF-INTRODUCTION OR TOPICS SIMILAR TO THOSE LISTED BELOW. THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW ARE ONLY EXAMPLES:

1. **PERSONAL OBJECTIVES & ACADEMICS**
 - a. "What do you enjoy most about school?"
 - b. "How do you like to spend your time after school?"
 - c. "Describe your biggest challenge at school?"
 - d. "Do you feel it's important to be involved in extra-curricular activities? Please explain."
 - e. "What did you do as a member of _____?"
 - f. "How has participation in _____ affected you personally?"

2. **ACTIVITIES (During and After School)**
 - a. "Describe the type of community service activities that you are involved in or would like to be involved in?"
 - b. "What meaningful experiences did you have as a _____?"
 - c. "What kinds of skills have you acquired as a _____ that will help you in a future job?"
 - d. "In what other activities would you like to have participated: how would they help you in the future?"

3. **COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**
 - a. "How do you feel your current activities (school and/or out-of-school activities) will benefit you in the future?"
 - b. "What would you like to accomplish in the next five years?"
 - c. "Perhaps you would share with us some of your dreams for the future."
 - d. "What are some of the things you would like to do upon graduation?"

4. **ACHIEVEMENTS**
 - a. "How did you become interested and/or involved in the Academic Decathlon?"
 - b. "What is the most difficult event in the Academic Decathlon?"
 - c. "What have been the benefits of being a Decathlon team member?"

5. **INFLUENCES & VALUES**
 - a. "Who do you consider to be the most influential person in your life?"
 - b. "How has this person influenced your personal growth?"
 - c. "What values do you consider to have most strongly influenced your life?"

6. **MISCELLANEOUS IDEAS**
 - a. "What personal quality do you possess that will benefit society or your community and why?"
 - b. "If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?"
 - c. "If you could solve a social problem, what would it be, and how do you think you would solve it?"

JUDGES SHOULD NOT ASK A DECATHLETE WHAT SCHOOL THEY ATTEND OR AREA THEY REPRESENT. ALSO, JUDGES MUST AVOID ANY QUESTIONS THAT PROBE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, DATING HABITS, PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS, ETC.