

Stanislaus County Academic Decathlon General Rules

Purpose

The purpose of the Academic Decathlon is to develop and provide academic competitions, curriculum, and assessment to promote learning and academic excellence through teamwork among students of all achievement levels. An AcaDec team is made up of nine students from the same high school, three "A" students (Honors), three "B" students (Scholastic), and three "C" or below students (Varsity). A dedicated teacher from the high school serves as the Coach, and in this intense atmosphere of academic preparation and training, the students learn and build life-changing skills such as high self-assurance and esteem, the important responsibility and value of teamwork and cooperation, and the benefit of clear and concise communication, both written and verbal. The AcaDec is an arduous contest that challenges the student participants in the following ten events:

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|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Art | 2. Economics | 3. Language and Literature | 4. Mathematics |
| 5. Music | 6. Science | 7. Social Science | 8. Essay |
| 9. Speech | 10. Interview | *Super Quiz Oral Relay | |

*The Super Quiz will be an oral relay only and will include 14 questions (in multiple-choice format) with two questions from six different subject areas: art, economics, language and literature, music, science, and social science. The Super Quiz Relay team total will be based on the top two Honor, top two Scholastic, and top two Varsity decathlete's scores during the relay. The six students whose scores count toward the SQ Relay will not necessarily be the same six students whose individual scores count toward the overall team total.

Scoring

Only the top two decathlete's overall scores in each category (Honors, Varsity, and Scholastic) for the ten events listed above will be included in the team's overall score for a total possible score of 60,000 points (1,000 points for each event per person). The top two decathlete's scores in each category for the Super Quiz Relay will be ADDED to the team's overall score and is worth a total of 5,880 points (70 points per question per person). The most points possible per team are 65,880 points.

The Team

Every public and private high school in the county may participate in the Academic Decathlon. A team consists of nine full-time students from the 9th through 12th 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 students in each category with the following grade point average definitions:

- 1) Honor: 3.75 – 4.00 GPA 2) Scholastic: 3.00 – 3.74 GPA 3) Varsity: 2.99 – and below GPA

Contestants may compete in a higher division than their own grade point average category but not in a lower division. A school may field a team and remain competitive with as few as two students in each category. Each team member competes in all ten events of the Decathlon and is eligible for individual medals in all ten events. In addition, each team must compete in the Super Quiz Relay for a team trophy. All teams must register online at www.scoestudentevents.org by the deadline indicated and must pay the appropriate registration fee.

A school may include an infinite number of students classified as alternate team members with a registration fee of \$10 per student. Alternate team members compete in the Honor category and receive individual awards only. Alternate team members compete in all events listed above with the exception of speech, interview, and super quiz.

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Verification of Eligibility & Required Paperwork

Each competing high school will complete and submit the following documents on or before the indicated deadline.

1. Assignment of Codes/Team List (one per team)
2. Participant Transcripts (copy) – highlight all acceptable classes reported on the GPA Worksheet
3. GPA Computation Worksheet (one per Scholastic and Varsity decathlete)
4. Student Participation and Conduct Agreement (one per decathlete)
5. Team Volunteer Registration Form
6. Team Photo

Additions to the *Assignment of Codes/Team List* cannot be made after the form's due date. Changes to the Team List (alternate team member to regular team member or drops) can be made up until the essays are returned. No changes will be made to the *Team List* after the Essay Test.

GPA COMPUTATION

The “focus semesters” for GPA computation 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.

Grades for courses shall be used in GPA computations 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. Refer to the current “Acceptable Courses” document available online. Contact coordinator for any questions regarding acceptable courses.

The Competition

Essay Test: The competition begins with the Essay Test Mandatory Coaches meeting at which time coaches receive the Essay Test Packet. The Essay Test is administered the following day and proctored by the team coach or a school administrator at a pre-determined location and time. The Essay Test packet is returned in person to the Stanislaus County Office of Education no later than 5:00 PM the following day. Essays will not be returned per State rule.

Speech and Interview Tests: The speech and interview tests are administered prior to the event date. All teams must provide volunteer Speech and Interview judges. Rules for Speech and Interview are as follows:

- The regular team of nine decathletes participates in the speech and interview tests in order to qualify for awards. Decathletes must give a speech and interview, not just show up.
- The coach registers their team inside the multi-purpose room and teams meet at their assigned homeroom (see Team Code & Homeroom assignment list). Decathletes are not allowed inside the homeroom until their coach has arrived.
- Each team's assigned homeroom must be returned to the way the room was found.
- Due to excessive noise during the speech and interview portion of the event, no one, including family members and friends, is allowed in the hallways of the buildings except as follows:
 - The decathlete inside the assigned speech or interview room
 - The next decathlete scheduled, outside the assigned room until called to enter.
 - Decathlete immediately returning to their homeroom at the conclusion of their speech/interview.
 - Anyone else in the halls of the buildings may cause their team to be docked event points.

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Test Arena: On event day (first Saturday in February) all decathletes take the seven subject-area tests as a group. Coaches proctor the subject-area tests. Teams must follow the State policy for calculators. If a proctor finds a contestant involved in any unauthorized communication or copying from another contestant, the proctor must report the incident to the competition manager. The decision of the competition manager will be final and irrevocable. Contestants are responsible for being in the test arena at the start of testing. If a contestant is tardy, he/she will not be allowed to make up time lost. If a contestant must leave the test arena for any reason, he/she must first secure the permission of the proctor. If a participant must leave during the middle of a test to use the restroom, he/she forfeits the time remaining for that test.

Super Quiz Relay: This portion of the event is open to the public. All decathletes line up outside the gym for the “parade of decathletes” (see “Schedule of Events”, and “Super Quiz Guidelines, and Relay Instructions”). Each team must provide a minimum of one volunteer to proctor the Super Quiz. Teams generally ask a school administrator to proctor. The regular team of nine decathletes participates in the Super Quiz Relay.

Awards: In order to qualify for awards, decathletes must participate in all events (essay is the only exception). Alternate team members participate in all events (except speech, interview, and super quiz). **Team(s) advancing to State must participate in all events (State rule).** Awards are distributed as follows:

Alternate Team Members:

- Receives 1st -5th place medals in all events except Speech, Interview, and Super Quiz
- Highest Scoring Alternate Team Member

Regular Team Members: 1st -5th place medals in all 10 events

- Most Improved Team Trophy
- Highest Scoring Decathlete per team
- Overall highest scoring Decathlete per category (Honors, Varsity, Scholastic)
- Super Quiz Champion Team Trophy & nine individual awards
- First Place Club Trophy (schools without a class) & nine individual awards
- Third Place Team Plaque
- Second Place Team Plaque
- First Place Team Champions Perpetual Trophy, Plaque, coach Plaque, and nine individual awards

Alternate or Regular Team Members: Top scoring Essay

Test Scores

Team scores will be given to the team coach immediately following the awards ceremony. Coaches will have 15 minutes to protest a score. After the 15 minute period, all scores are final.

Conduct

Appropriate conduct on the part of both student participants and coaches is expected. Incidents of misconduct will be referred to the competition manager and may result in a student, or team, being disqualified from participation. This includes calling out answers during Super Quiz.