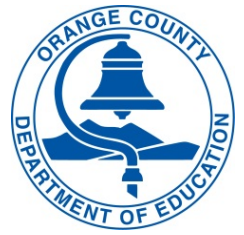




Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Coaches Handbook

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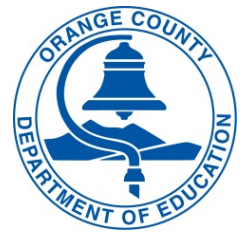
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Updated 9/8/2018



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Welcome to another exciting year!

On behalf of the Orange County Department of Education, it is my pleasure to welcome your participation in this year's Academic Pentathlon program.

The goals of the program are to:

- Inspire academic excellence in students of all achievement levels through teamwork and competition
- Build the 21st century skills of critical thinking, communication, and collaboration that prepare students for college and careers
- Provide schools with a vehicle to focus on and reward the academic efforts and achievements of their students
- Promote interaction of schools, communities, and businesses in support of academic endeavor

The Academic Pentathlon is an exciting one-day, five event academic competition. After weeks of academic coaching, team studying, and individual preparation, Pentathletes gather on competition day to test their knowledge in a variety of subject areas.

Each team is composed of nine members, three from each grade point average (G.P.A.) category of "A," "B," and "C or below." This unique team composition gives students the opportunity to work with students who have varying ability levels, motivation, and interests.

On competition day, students complete 30 minute written exams in five subject areas: Fine Art, Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. Students also write an essay for literature and participate as a team in the Super Quiz, which is the only event open to the public.

Super Quiz is held in the gym with the questions projected on a large screen. Team members are brought together, in competitive spirit, to match intellects against other participating teams. It is an exciting and challenging event before a cheering crowd of parents, students, and supporters.

In addition to academic growth, the Pentathlon supports skill development in communication, team-building, and collaboration. One of the greatest rewards is the camaraderie that is created through the team efforts of students and their coaches. All of these important skills and experiences support students to reach their full potential in school and beyond.

Please feel free to call our Academic Events office at (714) 966-4435 if you have any questions about the program or the competition format.

We look forward to your participation in the Academic Pentathlon!

Sincerely,

Kristin Rigby
Program Specialist, Academic Events



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



A Brief History

The concept of academic competitions as a motivator was pioneered by Dr. Robert Peterson, Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Emeritus. In 1968, he created the Academic Decathlon, a ten-event competition for students in grades nine through twelve.

Schools quickly discovered that spirit, excitement, and enthusiasm should not be reserved just for student athletes. The applause, cheering, and enthusiastic recognition given to athletic superstars belong just as much to outstanding academic performers. The possibility of being publicly recognized for academic achievement gives students new motivation to strive for excellence.

The Academic Pentathlon brings such recognition to students in grades six through eight. In 1984, a pilot competition was held for six teams of eighth grade students from Orange County, California. With financial support from the McKesson Foundation, a full Academic Pentathlon program was launched in 1985. That year, 440 students from 56 schools participated. Currently, program serves over 1,000 students from Southern California, and distributes several thousand awards annually.

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union has been the primary sponsor of the Orange County Academic Pentathlon since 1988. Representatives from SchoolsFirst actively serve the program by volunteering as classroom test proctors on competition days and presenting medals to winning students during the awards ceremony.

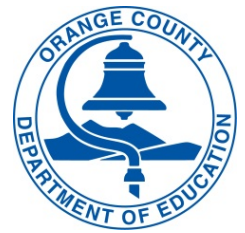
Students who participate in Academic Pentathlon develop a deep camaraderie and appreciation for their team members. Once they have shared the rich experiences of working as a cooperative group, they become more effective leaders as well as team players who value the power of collaboration.

Sponsored by





Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Team Selection

TEAM COMPOSITION

A team consists of nine students from the same grade. The nine members include three students from each of the following Grade Point Average (GPA) categories:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Honor	3.75 – 4.00
Scholastic	3.00 – 3.74
Varsity	0.00 – 2.99

GPA COMPUTATION

- Please use the appropriate grading periods below to determine GPA. GPA must be calculated the same way for each student on a team.
 - ▶ **Sixth grader GPA** = Final Fall and Spring grading periods of grade 5 (2 semesters or 3 trimesters) OR first grading period of grade 6.
 - ▶ **Seventh grader GPA** = Final Fall and Spring grading periods of grade 6 (2 semesters or 3 trimesters) OR first grading period of grade 7.
 - ▶ **Eighth grader GPA** = Final Fall and Spring grading periods of grade 7 (2 semesters or 3 trimesters) OR first grading period of grade 8.
- The only courses to be used to determine GPA are: Language Arts (English and Reading), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Art History/Appreciation, and Music History/Appreciation. Art and music courses should be 50% or less performance-based or skills-type work. Regardless of the system used to determine a GPA locally, these criteria must be followed to ensure uniformity and equity among all participants in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon. *The ultimate decision as to whether a class is to be counted is left to the judgment of the Orange County Department of Education's Pentathlon Competition Manager.*
- For conversion of numerical grades on a transcript, each school's local grading scale will be what is followed. If the conversion scale is not on the transcript, a copy should be sent with the transcript.
- When computing the GPA, there is no weighting of grades or rounding. A grade, regardless of whether it is classified as honors, regular, or remedial, will be counted by the face value as reflected on the official transcript. In other words, the letter grade shown on the transcript will be used in computing the GPA, "+" and "-" will be disregarded.
- Please see example GPA conversions on page 5 as a guideline when completing your calculations.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Each school will submit official transcripts/grade reports to verify eligibility of team members. The Pentathlon Competition Manager will verify all transcripts/grade reports and notify schools of any discrepancies. **Only students whose transcripts and registration forms have been received by the deadline will be eligible for participation in the competition.**



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Grade Point Average (GPA) Conversions

GRADE POINT AVERAGE CONVERSION CHARTS

Standard Pentathlon Point Equivalency

Grade	Points
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
F	0

Example Non-Numeric Grade Point Equivalency

Grade	Points
O, E	4
S	2.5
N	1

Example Numeric Grade Point Equivalency

Numeric	Grade	Points
90-100	A	4
80-89	B	3
70-79	C	2
60-69	D	1
69 + below	F	0

Example Levels of Achievement Equivalency

Level of Achievement	Grade	Points
Standard Exceeded (4)	A	4
Standard Met (3)	B	3
Standard Nearly Met (2)	C	2
Standard Not Met (1)	D-F	1

Note: For conversion of numerical grades on a transcript, each school's local grading scale will be what is followed. If the conversion scale is not on the transcript, a copy should be sent with the transcript.

EXAMPLE

Student 1 Grade Point Average Calculation

Subject	Grade	Points
Mathematics	A	4
Science	B	3
Social Science	C	2
Literature	D	1
Art History	F	0
Total	5 grades	10 points

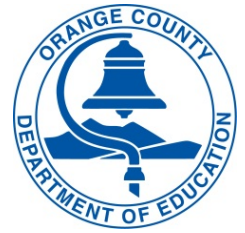
GPA FORMULA: Total points ÷ Total grades = GPA

*Student 1 GPA: $10 \div 5 = 2.0$ GPA

2.0 GPA = Varsity Student



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Registration Procedures

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

All schools interested in participating in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon must file an Intent to Participate form by the appropriate deadline for the current year.

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORMS AND TRANSCRIPTS

All schools must complete the Academic Pentathlon online registration and submit confirmation of registration along with student registration forms and transcripts for ALL participating team members to the Academic Events office by the appropriate deadline for the current year. *Instructions to complete the online registration are provided on pages 7-9 of this handbook.*

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEAM REGISTRATION AND STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS

After completing the online registration, **print** out a confirmation page for each team enrolled in the program and **highlight** the appropriate team.

Staple/Clip all student registration packets **behind** their appropriate team confirmation page. *There should be one packet (confirmation page and student forms) compiled for each participating team.*

**Each student registration packet submitted will include the following forms and will be submitted in the following order for each student:*

1. Parent/Guardian Consent Form
2. Student Academic Transcript

PARTICIPATION FEE OVERVIEW

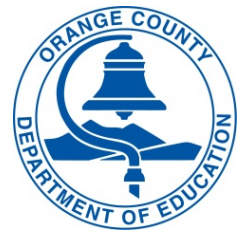
To maintain high level programming and equal opportunities in the Academic Pentathlon program, an annual registration fee is required for each participating team. Fee forms are updated annually and will be available at the beginning of each school year.

Team fee includes participation in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon scrimmage, competition, and award ceremony.

Additionally, schools will need to purchase an annual United States Academic Decathlon Pentathlon curriculum.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Pentathlon Online Registration

ONLINE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade team registrations are entered on completely separate websites.

► Websites

1. Type in the appropriate website address:
 - a. **6th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/6thgrade>
 - b. **7th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/7thgrade>
 - c. **8th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/8thgrade>
2. Click on 'here' at the end of the following sentence:
 - a. "If you are registering a new school, click here."
3. The screen that will appear will be titled, "School Registration."

► School Registration

1. Fill out *all* school information

Note: All phone numbers must be 10 digits (e.g., xxx-xxx-xxxx). Please omit extensions.

Please **do not** type everything in all upper case or all lower case letters. All data entry for the online registration needs to be in both upper and lower case letters so that everything imports properly into the scoring program and the event program.

► Account Information

1. The *Contact Email* is the email address for the person responsible for online registration. This is the email we will use in case you forget your password.
2. Create your *Login* and *Password*.
3. *Confirm Password* – retype password to ensure accuracy.
 - a. Write down and save your log-in and password.
4. Click on "Register School" to proceed. The next screen will display the data you just entered. You can make changes to your school information if needed.

► School Team(s)

1. Type in your first Team Name (use School Name).
2. You will see your team name in blue under "School Teams" if your team was successfully added.
3. To begin entering coach and student information, click on your team name. Now you can edit your team name and add/edit coaches and students.

► **Coach Information**

1. You will see "Existing Team Coaches For: Your Team." Click to add/edit.
2. Fill out all the information.
3. If you are the primary coach for all your teams, click the box next to "Make Coach Primary." There can only be one Primary Coach per school.
4. Click "Add" to register the coach. Clicking on "Skip to Next Section" will NOT register the coach.
5. You can now register additional coaches. Repeat steps 1-4 to add more coaches. Remember to "Add" after entering information to register additional coaches. Be sure to list any coaches whom you would like listed in the Pentathlon Awards Ceremony program.

Note: You can enter a maximum of three coaches per school team. If you have more than three coaches, but have a second team, list additional coaches as the coaches for the second team. This will allow all coaches to have nametags at the competition and to all be listed in the awards program. If additional coach names do not fit into the online registration system, be sure to contact the Academic Events team member.

6. Click on "Skip to Next Section" to go to Add/Edit Student Information.

► **Student Information**

1. Fill out all the information
 - a. Honor student GPA must be 4.0 and under
 - b. Scholastic student GPA must be 3.74 and under
 - c. Varsity student GPA must be 2.99 and under
2. Click "Add" to register the student. Clicking on "Skip to Next Section" will NOT register the student.
3. Repeat the above steps 1-2 to add all students.
4. Click on "Skip to Next Section" to return to the summary page.

► **Next Steps**

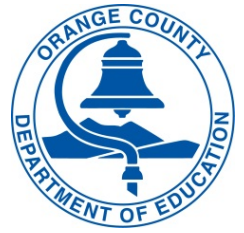
1. If you have a COMPLETE team of nine students, go to **Option A** below.
2. If your first team has FEWER than nine students, go to **Option B** on the next page.

► **Option A – If you have a COMPLETE team of nine students:**

1. Once you have entered all nine students, you may enter a second team, if you have one. **If you have alternates, they should be entered as if they are members of a second team.**
2. Only enter the names of "alternate" students if you intend for them to take the written tests at the competition and you intend to pay \$100 for each alternate student.
 - a. Students who participate in your program that do not intend to take the written tests, unless they are substituting a student who has dropped from the main team, are considered a "substitute" not an "alternate", and are not to be registered.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



► **Option B – If your first team has FEWER than nine students:**

1. Keep in mind that you must enter at least six students (two students per GPA category) on your main/first team before you can enter a second team. Alternates must be entered as a second team. This is due to our online registration system; it is not a Pentathlon rule.

For example, let's say you have six students on your main team (3 honors, 3 scholastic, and 0 varsity), and you also have two alternates. Once you have entered the 6 students on your main team, you will need to enter two varsity students with the name "No Student". The two nameless varsity students must be entered because at least two students need to be entered per each GPA category to establish a main team and to move on to creating a second team. Once you have set-up your main team, you can create a second team to enter your alternates.

Note: ***If there is a chance that you will be adding a student to your team after you have completed the online registration, please input an extra student as "To Be Determined" to alert us to hold a place in the competition. We are able to drop students from the schedule, or "sub in" an alternate, if someone drops.***

2. Remember, once you have submitted your team's participants, you cannot add more students to your team. If you submit a team of eight students, and later want to add a ninth student, the "new" student will not be permitted to participate in the competition.
3. Once you have completed your online registration, print two copies - one for your records and a copy to include with your student registration forms.

If you have any questions regarding online registration, contact Kristin Rigby at krigby@ocde.us or 714-966-4435.

► **Post Registration – To edit/change existing information...**

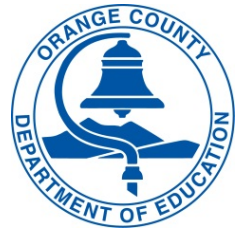
1. Go to the appropriate registration website address:
 - a. **6th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/6thgrade>
 - b. **7th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/7thgrade>
 - c. **8th grade registration** - <http://decathlon.ocde.us/8thgrade>
2. Type in your Login and Password. Click on "Login."
3. Click on the team you would like to edit.
4. To change your Team Name, type in the new name and click "Edit Name."
5. To edit/add a student or coach, click on [Click to Edit]
6. To edit an existing student or coach, click on the student/coach you want to edit.
7. When you are done, click "Edit" to save the new information.

► **Final Note**

The online registration system closes down the day after the deadline, so be sure to complete the online procedures by the deadline.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Competition Day Rules

CONDUCT

Appropriate conduct on the part of student participants is expected. Incidents of misconduct will be referred to the Pentathlon Competition Manager and may result in a student being disqualified from participation. This includes damaging school property, disruptive behavior in or outside of the classroom, or calling out answers during Super Quiz.

TEAM CHANGES

No student may be added or substituted without prior permission from the Pentathlon Competition Manager.

CHEATING

If a proctor finds a contestant involved in any unauthorized communication or using any type of notes, the proctor must report the incident to the Pentathlon Competition Manager. If it has been determined that a student or coach has cheated, some or all scores will be nullified.

IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

All test materials pertaining to an individual contestant must contain his/her identification number in order to be accepted for scoring. Each individual contestant's name should also appear on all materials.

WRITTEN TESTS/TESTING ROOM

Students need to bring pencils to the test room. Contestants are **NOT** permitted to bring additional material, equipment or cell phones to the test room (please collect from your students). All other materials will be supplied by the test room proctor. Only the Scantron answer sheets will be scored. Answers in test booklets will **NOT** be scored. Students who wish to challenge a test question should ask their test room proctor for a Test Challenge form. Test Challenge forms must be completed and submitted to the test proctor or the scoring room before the end of the day. Calculators (basic or scientific, no graphing) are allowed **ONLY** for the math test.

LEAVING THE TEST ROOM

If a contestant must leave the test room for any reason, he/she must first secure the permission of the proctor, and the time lost may **NOT** be made up.

TARDINESS

Students are responsible for being in the proper test room at the time each test begins. If a contestant is tardy, he/she will **NOT** be allowed to make up time lost.

SUPER QUIZ

This event is held before a large audience. Eligible teams **MUST** have at least **two students in each GPA category** registered for competition by the designated registration deadline. If one or more registered students are absent on competition day, the team eligible at the registration deadline can still participate in the event. Study materials are **NOT** allowed in the contestants' area, in the bleachers, or on the competition floor. Coaches or students who wish to challenge a Super Quiz Relay question may request a challenge form after the conclusion of the Super Quiz from the Super Quiz event manager. Any interruption during Super Quiz by a parent or coach may result in disqualification of the team.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Academic Integrity Policy

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AUTHORITY

In order to ensure the integrity of the Orange County Academic Pentathlon program, a strict code of conduct will be enforced by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated and immediate action will be taken if it should occur. It is the sole responsibility of the Pentathlon coach to ensure that each of the student participants knows, understands, and agrees to this academic integrity policy.

During competition day, the test room proctor will monitor Academic Pentathlon student participants in their designated classroom and will report any incidents of testing misconduct to the Academic Pentathlon Competition Manager. Student participants who are witness to academic integrity violations must notify the test room proctor before the start of the next test.

All violations will be reviewed by the Academic Pentathlon Competition Manager and final sanctions regarding the violation will be decided by the Academic Events team at OCDE.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS

Academic dishonesty can take a number of forms including, but not limited to:

► **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, information or study aids for and during academic competition, including:

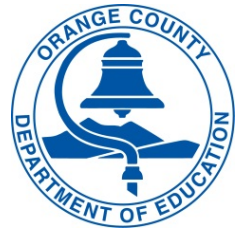
- Using notes, crib sheets, or books during objective testing.
- Looking off another student's testing materials.
- Using electronic devices such as cell phones, computers, tablets, internet or other electronic devices unless permitted by Academic Pentathlon competition rules.
- Continuing completion of test after time allotted has ended.
- Tampering with testing materials by way of receiving, intercepting, or removing tests from testing rooms.
- Advance knowledge or fraudulent possession of a test or testing materials prior to exam.
- Knowingly helping or attempting to aid another student to violate any part of this academic integrity policy.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY SANCTIONS

If it is determined that an Academic Pentathlon student participant has committed any of the violations listed above, all scores for that student will be nullified. If it is determined that a coach has committed any of the violations listed above, team scores are subject to nullification.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Super Quiz Relay Guidelines

SUPER QUIZ SUMMARY

Super Quiz is a relay event where team members are brought together to compete in a match of intellects against other participating teams. In front of a cheering crowd of peers, team members, teachers, parents, and community leaders, participants have a chance to shine in a challenging arena. The Super Quiz Relay incorporates questions from each of the subject categories, with exception of math.

Schools may host up to three teams per grade level. Each team **MUST** have at least **two students in each GPA category** registered for competition by the designated registration deadline in order to be eligible to be on the Super Quiz floor. If one or more registered students are absent on competition day, the team eligible at the registration deadline can still participate in the event.

SEATING AND TEST AREA (GYM FLOOR)

A team is assigned three chairs on the gym floor designated by their school/team name. The students of the same Grade Point Average (GPA) category (Honor, Scholastic, and Varsity) are called to the floor in a rotating order. Each GPA category of students answers the same set of ten questions.

Teammates on the Super Quiz floor can collaborate with one another but will independently answer each question. Teams may begin quietly discussing the question with their team once the emcee begins reading the question. Teams will be granted an additional ten seconds after the question and answer selections have been read. Each student on the floor marks their own answer on their individual Scantron answer sheet. A proctor will monitor and score each team of three students during each round.

CONTESTANT AND AUDIENCE AREA

Coaches must be seated with their students in the bleachers to provide supervision. Audience members, not including team members and coaches, must be seated in designated areas opposite the contestant area.

Notes and study materials are **NOT** allowed in the bleachers or on the competition floor. A team may be disqualified for communicating with coaches, parents, and team members in the bleachers while in the testing area.

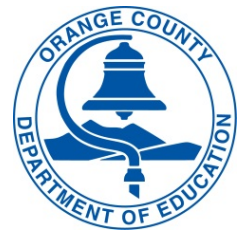
TEST QUESTIONS

Multiple choice test questions are projected on a large screen, one at a time. An emcee reads the question and five answer choices aloud. Then the contestants have an additional ten (10) seconds to mark the correct answer on the Scantron answer sheet. All erasure marks and changes must be completed before time is called.

Note: Challenges to Super Quiz test questions can be made at the end of the Super Quiz Relay event by requesting a Test Challenge form. Only students or team coaches can challenge a Super Quiz test question. All challenges will be reviewed by the Academic Pentathlon competition managers.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Scoring

The Orange County Academic Pentathlon consists of five events; each event is evenly weighed at 1,000 points per student for a 5,000-point possible total.

The top two highest scores in each Grade Point Average (GPA) category are counted for the Overall Team Score (top two Honor, top two Scholastic, and top two Varsity scores), for a 30,000-point possible total.

Super Quiz Relay consists of twelve questions at 40 points per question for a 400 point possible total for each student. The two highest scores in each GPA category are aggregated for the Super Quiz Team Score, for a 2,400 point possible total. The Super Quiz Team Score is then added to the Overall Team score; creating the "Adjusted Team Total."

Breakdown of Overall Individual Student and Team Score:

Event	Subject	Description	Total Points
1	Fine Art (Music and Art)	50 question multiple choice test	1000
2	Literature and Essay	30 question multiple-choice test; Select 1 prompt from 3 provided	500 500
3	Mathematics	30 question multiple-choice test	1000
4	Social Science	50 question multiple-choice test	1000
5	Science	50 question multiple-choice test	1000
Overall Individual Total			5,000
Overall Team Total			30,000

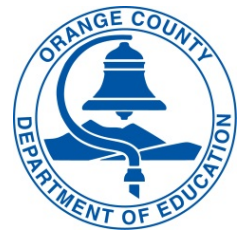
Breakdown of Super Quiz Relay Team Score:

Team Event	Description	Total
Five-event Team Total	Two highest overall individual scores in each GPA category (5,000 points x 6 students)	30,000
Super Quiz Relay Team Total	Two highest scores in each GPA category (400 points x 6 students)	2,400
Adjusted Team Total (Ten-event team total + Super Quiz team total)		32,400

Note: The two students in each GPA category factored in the calculation of the ten-event team total may not necessarily be the same two students factored into the calculation of the Super Quiz Relay team total.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Awards Distribution

Only the top two cumulative scores in each GPA category will count toward the team total. All nine team members will be eligible for individual medals.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

► SUBJECT CATEGORY WINNERS AND OVERALL INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Honor Medals: 1st through 4th place

Scholastic Medals: 1st through 4th place

Varsity Medals: 1st through 4th place

► PERSEVERANCE AWARD Medals: One selected student from each grade per team

Note: Recipients of the Perseverance Award are recognized for demonstrating a strong work ethic, showing determination, and inspiring their team. Recipients typically may not be the highest achieving student on their team, but would demonstrate significant growth throughout the year. It is encouraged that the recipient of this award be voted for amongst their peers.

TEAM AWARDS

► OVERALL TEAM

Medals and Team Plaque 1st through 6th place

► SUPER QUIZ TEAM

Medals and Team Plaque 1st through 6th place

Note: In order to be eligible for a team award, teams must have a minimum of two students in each GPA category (varsity, scholastic, honor) registered for competition by the designated competition deadline.

FINAL NOTE

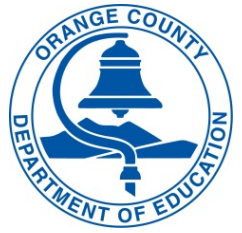
Coaches will be notified via email whether they have won a team award prior to the award ceremony; however, they will not be advised which team, which award, or which place. *Individual award winners will not be announced until the awards ceremony.*

All coaches and team members will receive certificates of participation at the awards ceremony.

Note: Medals for students serving as alternates on a team are also available for purchase after the awards ceremony.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Sample Essay Instructions

ESSAY WRITING INSTRUCTIONS

Before You Write:

- Select one essay prompt from the list provided.
- Use the outline page to draft essay.
- Use the lined paper to write essay.
- Write the number of the chosen essay prompt on the cover and at the top of the first page of your essay.
- Write in pencil only and use legible print.

Mechanics of Your Essay:

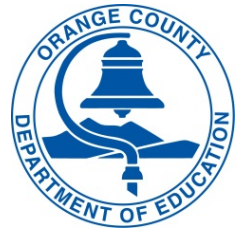
- Maintain a formal writing style and follow accepted rules of standard English, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Introduce a topic or thesis statement that previews what will follow.
- Develop the topic with logical reasoning and relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion, clarify, and organize ideas and concepts.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that summarizes the information.
- Address all portions of the prompt.
- Allow time to proofread and correct the essay.

The Essay:

- Support your position with specific details, facts, or examples drawn from your reading or from your own experience



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Sample Essay Rubric

U.S. Academic Decathlon

Essay Evaluation Form

STUDENT I.D. NUMBER

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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JUDGE'S NAME _____

JUDGE'S NUMBER

IMPORTANT
 USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY!!!

Directions: Select one performance category in Table A. Within the range of points for that category, record the points scored in the space provided.

A. Focus/Scope - Organization - Content/Development

Addresses the prompt in an outstanding manner; responds to all aspects of the task; is organized clearly and consistently based on a strong central purpose; provides substantial and specific evidence to support major positions	OUTSTANDING 85 - 100 pts
Addresses the prompt in an effective manner; responds to several aspects of the task; is organized effectively based on a clear central purpose; provides appropriate evidence to support positions	EXCELLENT 70 - 84 pts
Addresses the prompt in an adequate manner; focuses on a minor aspect of the task; is organized based on a restatement of the prompt; provides some predictable evidence to support positions	GOOD 55 - 69 pts
Addresses the prompt in a basic manner; is organized in a limited way; provides evidence that is general or not clearly linked to a position	FAIR 40 - 54 pts
Addresses the prompt in a limited manner; is organized in a confused way; provides superficial evidence with inadequate elaboration	WEAK 15 - 39 pts
Fails to address the prompt; absence of organization; absence of relevant content	POOR 0 - 14 pts

Total for A

TOTAL FOR A

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Directions: Select one performance category in Table B. Within the range of points for that category, record the points scored in the space provided.

B. Language/Style - Conventions

Demonstrates exceptional control of sentence structure and precise word choice; is almost entirely free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	OUTSTANDING 85 - 100 pts
Demonstrates strong control of sentence structure and appropriate word choice; is generally free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	EXCELLENT 70 - 84 pts
Demonstrates reasonable control of sentence structure and some precision in word choice; contains confusing errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	GOOD 55 - 69 pts
Demonstrates some lack of control of sentence structure; limited in word choice; minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	FAIR 40 - 54 pts
Demonstrates some lack of control of sentence structure; minimal variety in word choice; minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	WEAK 15 - 39 pts
Minimal control of sentence structure; inappropriate word choice; contains serious errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	POOR 0 - 14 pts

Total for B

TOTAL FOR B

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Off Prompt (OP) = Zero Score Prompt is not addressed **Non-scorable (NS)** = Zero Score Essay is: *illegible, insufficient, a blank paper*



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Calculator Policy

All students participating in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon may utilize a permissible calculator during the mathematics portion of objective testing. Calculators are NOT permitted on any other portion of objective testing.

Competing Without a Calculator

A calculator is highly encouraged; however, use is not mandatory for participation or essential to complete test questions. There will be no calculators available for loan by the Orange County Academic Pentathlon program and its administrators. Pentathletes may not borrow or share a calculator from another pentathlete after entering the testing room.

Calculator Failure During a Test

If a pentathlete's calculator stops working during a test, the pentathlete should continue taking the test without a calculator. No additional calculator will be provided, and the pentathlete will not be allowed to take the test again later. Pentathletes may also bring a backup calculator and/or spare batteries to the test. However, pentathletes are prohibited from using multiple calculators during a test (i.e., a backup calculator may only serve as a replacement for a calculator that stops working).

Because companies are continuously introducing new products, it is not possible for us to maintain a list of specific model numbers that are acceptable. Please read the lists of permissible and prohibited features carefully.

Permissible Calculators

Only basic, simple four-function, and scientific calculators are permitted during testing. *Please reference current year curriculum for most appropriate calculator for participants.*

Basic, four-function, and scientific calculator may perform the basic arithmetic operations:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Addition (+) | 3. Multiplication (×) | 5. Percentage (%) | 7. Sine/Cosine |
| 2. Subtraction (−) | 4. Division (÷) | 6. Square Root ($\sqrt{\quad}$) | |

Prohibited Calculators

Calculators with any of the following features are NOT allowed during testing:

- Models with graphing or algebraic functions
- Models that can access the Internet, have wireless, Bluetooth, cellular, audio/video recording and playing, camera, or any other smart phone type feature
- Models that have typewriter-like keypad, pen-input, or stylus
- Models that use electrical outlets, make noise, or have a paper tape

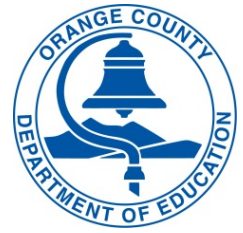
Electronic devices that may incorporate calculator functions are NOT allowed during testing:

- Laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, and other similar electronic devices, including but not limited to: iPhones, iPads, iPods, iWatches, tablets and Androids

Tips and Strategies for Coaches



Orange County Academic Pentathlon

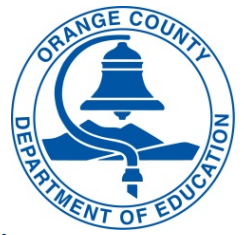


GENERAL COACHING

1. Utilize your colleagues to help coach. Just like a sports team, a Pentathlon team works more efficiently with assistant coaches. It is even better if the extra help specializes in a subject category.
2. Review the benefits of the program beyond the academics – the acquisition of 21st century competencies for school, citizenship, and life-long learning.
3. Encourage team members to set individual goals to better their own scores. Competition between peers may push the team to the next level but encouraging the mindset to continuously improve as an individual gives a team member ownership of their learning and preparation.
4. Enjoy your coaching role. The key to a team's success is enthusiasm, practice, and teamwork. Keep the team going without burning them out. Aim for peak performance at the competition.
5. Possible funding sources: PTA/ASB, bingo, faculty clubs, and academic booster clubs. Be creative with team fundraising! Fundraising efforts can be a fun way to build team camaraderie.
6. Work hard and have fun. It is fun to win, but do to rigor of the program, it is not expected that every student earn a medal. Students learn a lot throughout a Pentathlon competition season, not only about each subject area but about how to work with peers who have different working styles, abilities, and interests.
7. Give each team member a responsibility and emphasize the dual function of a team member - to lead and be led - to work together to achieve a goal. Delegate study areas to each member and have them develop expertise in the area and share with the team.
8. Positive reinforcement - train team members to give peer support, boost confidence, and give moral support to each other.
9. Encourage team members to help each other improve. Guide students in constructive critique - to accept and give advice in a positive manner. Have a brainstorming session to discuss problem areas and how study skills or interaction skills can be improved.
10. Emphasize benefits of peer coaching and sharing skills along with the strength of a team working together. Promote a non-threatening atmosphere where team members help each other and feel good about it.
11. Teach students to appreciate and honor the accomplishments of others. Be sure students attend the awards ceremony so they see and experience the excitement and attention focused on those who have earned it.



Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Tips and Strategies for Coaches continued

PREPARATION AND PRACTICE

12. Emphasize importance of good test taking skills. Have students practice taking tests on Scantrons.
13. Completing an entire test is as important as the content area. Have students practice completing a 50 question test in 30 minutes, and practice brainstorming and writing an essay in 40 minutes.
14. Score practice essays with the official scoring rubric. Give feedback and coach students through revisions and enhancements.
15. The younger the grade level of the competing team, the more structure is needed in covering the Study Guide material.
16. Host scrimmages between teams (or with another local school) to motivate students to study.

COACH AND FACULTY SUPPORT

17. Encourage school staff to sign a banner wishing students "good luck" at the competition.
18. Take team to breakfast on the morning of event and give lots of positive encouragement; downplay over-emphasis on winning, and help each member feel good about themselves no matter how they do at competition. Review the benefits that each has gained just by making a commitment to be on the team, (e.g., meeting new people and learning how to work as a team).
19. Honor your students at an assembly or Academic Awards Ceremony after they get their awards. Team members can also be recognized for being a part of an academic event. Get publicity in school paper, yearbook, district newsletter, local paper, and on school/district websites or social media outlets. This shows the value of the program to students, families, and administrators.
20. Plan field trips, pizza parties, and other team activities to encourage camaraderie and sense of belonging to a group.

WHAT COACHES ARE SAYING

- ▶ It's fun to get to know students outside of the classroom.
- ▶ It's an opportunity to share my love of learning and interacting with students.
- ▶ I enjoy being around academically motivated students.
- ▶ I enjoy the opportunity to try creative approaches to teaching, and coaching provides that opportunity.
- ▶ It's exciting to turn around a student who lacked motivation. The Pentathlon often challenges bright but unmotivated students.
- ▶ To provide a safe environment for students who need an academic challenge; Pentathlon draws students of all GPA levels, so it is not exclusive like an Honor Society or other academic clubs.