



Orange County Academic Pentathlon

2015-2016 Program Changes



New Curriculum and Exam Format

- Due to a decrease in staff, the Orange County Department of Education can no longer develop our own Academic Pentathlon exams.
- We are adopting the United States Academic Decathlon's (USAD) Academic Pentathlon program.
- Schools will purchase study materials directly from USAD. All information on the exams will come from the novel and the individual study guide for each of the five topic areas:
 - ✓ Literature
 - ✓ Math
 - ✓ Science
 - ✓ Social Science
 - ✓ Fine Art (Art + Music) – New!
- Curriculum materials will be purchased from USAD for \$250. Orange County team fees will be decreased by \$150 for the first team from each school to help offset the cost of purchasing curriculum.
- The order form for the study materials (and novel) will be available in the fall.
- Once the annual curriculum is purchased, a link to the study materials will be emailed to the head coach, and schools will have unlimited downloads.
- All grade levels will study the same materials and read the same novel.
- The team format (by grade level and GPA level) will not change.
- Each year, the program curriculum will revolve around a new theme, the same overall theme as Academic Decathlon. For 2015-16, the theme is India and the novel is Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Books* (Bantam Classics ISBN 978-0553211993).
- OCDE will continue to provide a Saturday scrimmage event in January (optional and very advantageous), but scrimmage tests cannot be distributed to coaches for later use.
- Test questions will now include 5 distractors (A-E).

Exciting Benefits

- The Academic Pentathlon will continue to be a rigorous academic program providing students with the opportunity to develop 21st century skills (including teamwork, communication, and collaboration), meet new scholastic challenges, make new friends, and represent their school in a prestigious academic competition.
- The new Pentathlon program will be more closely connected to the U.S. Academic Decathlon.
- The addition of a fine art component.
- We will be encouraging high school Decathlon teams to mentor their local Pentathlon teams (i.e. tutoring, coaching, etc.)
- OCDE will provide support with implementing the new curriculum.

Exam Details

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Literature – 30 question test + 40 minute essay - 1,000 points | Math – 35 questions – 1,000 points | Social Science – 50 questions – 1,000 points |
| Science – 50 questions – 1,000 points | Fine art – 50 questions – 1,000 points | Super Quiz* – Team event – 1 point per question |

*Super Quiz Relay will now include questions from each of the subject areas for each GPA category.