USAD®
United States Academic Decathlon®

MATERIALS BROCHURE 26/27

JOURNEYS OF TRANSFORMATION: AN EXPLORATION OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

The vision of the United States Academic Decathlon® is to provide students the opportunity to excel academically through team competition.

Email: info@usad.org · Website: www.usad.org

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Dear Academic Decathlon® Coach,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 Academic Decathlon Season!

This year's theme will be

Journeys of Transformation: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation

In this U.S. Academic Decathlon Program Brochure, you will find the essential resources your team will need to participate and compete successfully in the U.S. Academic Decathlon®.

Please take note of the following information from this year's U.S. Academic Decathlon® Study Guide.

Essential Information for Coaches

- The United States Academic Decathlon competition is comprised of ten events. There are seven multiple-choice exams—one in each of the following subject areas: art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science. Students will also take an essay exam and will be judged in a speech event as well as an interview event.
- The culmination of the competition is the Super Quiz™ relay. The Super Quiz relay includes questions (in multiple-choice format) from the following seven subject areas: art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science.
- For all Academic Decathlon competitions prior to Nationals, the multiple-choice exams in art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science each have 50 questions. The mathematics exam has 35 questions. Coaches can contact their State Director to find out the format that will be used for the Super Quiz relay.
- At the 2027 Nationals, the number of questions per test may differ from the number of questions per test at regional and state competitions. The U.S. Academic Decathlon will inform teams of the number of test items in each subject at Nationals prior to the event.
- For all Academic Decathlon competitions prior to Nationals, students will be given 30 minutes to complete each of the written multiple-choice exams. Students will have 50 minutes to complete the essay exam.
- Students will not be permitted to use calculators during any 2026–2027 Academic Decathlon competition events, including mathematics tests. The 2026–2027 Academic Decathlon mathematics tests will only include problems that do not require the use of a calculator.
- The literature test items will be derived from the selected works of literature and from the information provided in the *Literature Resource Guide*. The literature test will include a critical reading passage with accompanying test items. The literature test will also expect students to be able to analyze the selected works of literature as well as the critical reading passage and will expect students to be familiar with literary terms and devices.
- The United States Academic Decathlon competition tests will be written in accordance with the topics and percentages noted in the subject area outlines that are published in the Academic Decathlon Study Guide.
- The United States Academic Decathlon offers Resource Guides and Student Exercise Books in art, economics, literature, mathematics, music, science, and social science. The Resource Guides and Student Exercise Books will assist students in their study of the topics listed in the subject area outlines. All USAD competition test items will be derived

from the information and concepts presented in the Resource Guides as well as the selected literature, artworks, and musical works.

- The 2026–27 mathematics curriculum and materials (including the subject area outline, Resource Guide, Student Exercise Book, and Notebook Divider) will be the same as were used for the 2023–24 United States Academic Decathlon.
- All curriculum and practice test materials, except for the Notebook Dividers, are available in digital format only. The Notebook Dividers are available in print format only.
- USAD will provide participants with the titles (and featured composers and/or artists where applicable) of the fourteen selected musical works.
- While the *Art Resource Guide* includes information relevant to the eighteen selected artworks, this guide contains text only and does NOT include images of the artworks.
- The *Art Reproductions Booklet* contains reproductions of the eighteen artworks that are included in this year's art outline. However, please be aware that no text beyond the title, artist, date, etc., accompanies these artworks.
- Test writers have been instructed to construct tests such that at least 10–20% of the questions on each test require the use of higher-order thinking skills.
- All USAD materials are copyrighted. USAD materials may not be duplicated or posted to any public or private sites on the Internet for any reason without written permission from USAD. Violators may be prosecuted.
- **New product release!** FlashDec is a flashcard-style mastery system aligned to the USAD Resource Guides. Over fifteen thousand concise fill-in-the-blank items built directly from the official Resource Guides. Students test their recall and rate each card's difficulty. The system adapts, automatically prioritizing harder material for review. Coaches can track study time, monitor progress, and identify knowledge gaps across their team. FlashDec will replace the traditional hard copy and electronic versions of the USAD Flashcards and will be offered as a single item, or in two of the Practice Test Packages.

UPDATED ORDERING PROCESS!

USAD is excited to share that all orders will now be processed online through our new online ordering system at: https://materials.usad.org/.

Our updated platform makes ordering easier and more convenient than ever:

- Submit **Purchase Orders (POs)** or pay by **credit card**
- Order **hard copy and online materials together** in one transaction
- Create your own account for streamlined access
- Materials automatically distributed directly to your account
- Access materials on the official release dates (if items are released on different days, they'll become available accordingly)

We look forward to providing a smoother, more efficient ordering experience for everyone! If you have questions or need assistance, please email info@usad.org.

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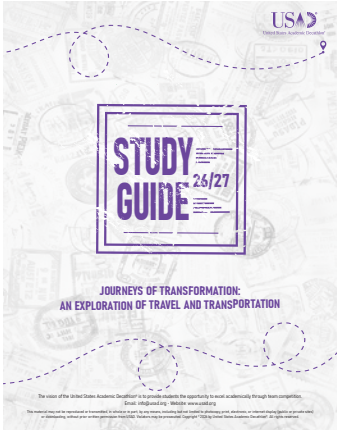
Curriculum Package

THE CURRICULUM PACKAGE (Available May 15):

- Academic Decathlon® Study Guides
- Art, Economics, Literature, Music, Science, and Social Science Resource Guides
- Mathematics Resource Guides and Mathematics Instructor's Manual
- Art Reproductions Booklets
- Practice Test Booklet

$760

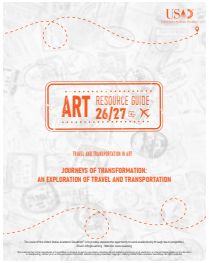


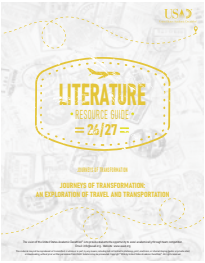
ACADEMIC DECATHLON® STUDY GUIDE:

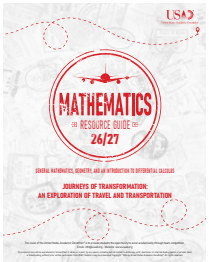
Summarizes the curriculum for the entire year. Includes detailed outlines for Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science. Also includes rules and guidelines for the Essay, Interview, and Speech events. ***Available May 15.***

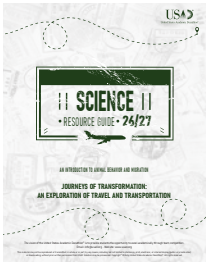
RESOURCE GUIDES:

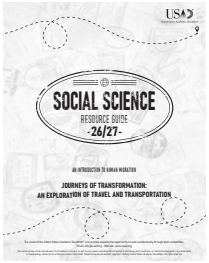
Resource Guides will be offered in Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science. These Resource Guides will provide teams with a thorough review and academic treatment of all the topics noted in the subject area outlines for these subjects. The Resource Guides offer an essential resource that will assist students in their mastery of the topics and aid in their preparation for the competition tests. ***Available May 15.***

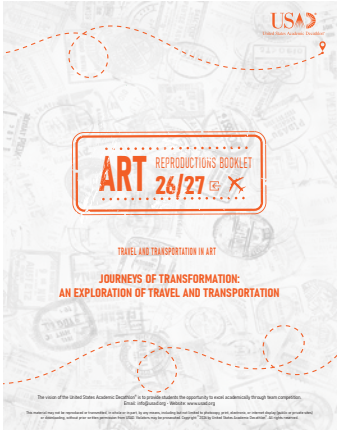












ART REPRODUCTIONS BOOKLET:

Companion to the *Art Resource Guide*. Contains full-color reproductions of the 18 selected works for this year's art curriculum. Includes works by various artists. Accompanying information includes title, artist, date, and dimensions (if applicable). ***Available May 15.***

PRACTICE TEST BOOKLET:

The PTB is the most important coaching tool for understanding Academic Decathlon tests. Written by the official USAD test writers in each subject area. Contains eight tests, sample essay prompts, and speech and interview rules and rubrics. The PTB may be reproduced at the school level only. Includes mp3 file for music questions based on listening excerpts and PowerPoint® Slideshows for art questions based on artwork images and the Super Quiz™ relay. ***Available May 15.***

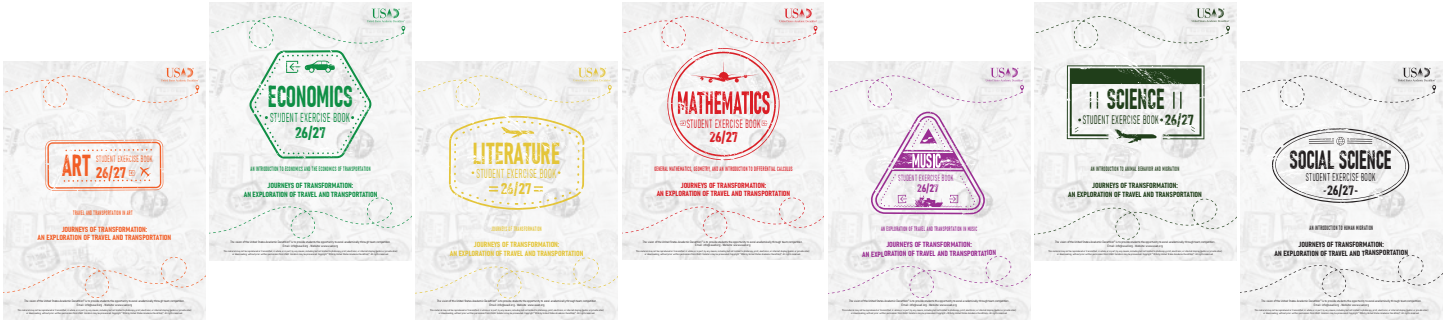
Student Study Aids

STUDENT EXERCISE BOOKS:

$403

NOTE
Student Exercise Books are NOT included in the Curriculum Package.

Available in Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science, the Student Exercise Books provide a student-friendly summary of the material presented in the Resource Guides and offer students a chance to test and reinforce their knowledge of the curriculum through a variety of exercises and activities. The Student Exercise Books include section by section overviews of the Resource Guides, as well as short quizzes, true/false questions, fill-in-the-blank items, crossword puzzles, etc., to assist students in their mastery of the curriculum. ***Available June 15.***



The Quiz Market

THE QUIZ MARKET:

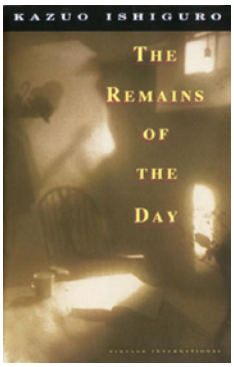
The Quiz Market

High-quality practice exams designed for students to test themselves with a broad range of multiple-choice questions. These questions are written in the format of the Round 1–4 exams and USAD's Level Exams. The tests are organized into categories that follow the chunking theory of memory stages: Automatic Stage Quizzes and Mastery Quizzes: Concepts & Comprehension.

- **Unit 1: Automatic Stage Quizzes:** Focus on small chunks of information and usually consist of questions that are level 1 type questions. Available September 1 as a PDF. $231
- **Unit 2: Mastery Quizzes: Concepts & Comprehension:** Conceptual Quizzes will focus on separate sections of the guides and ask higher-level questions, building on the foundational knowledge. Comprehensive exams will blend automatic recall questions with conceptual application challenges, testing the student's comprehensive understanding of the subject. Each subject will include two conceptual quizzes and two comprehensive quizzes. Available October 1 as a PDF. $180
- **The Quiz Market Package: Units 1 & 2** $370

Additional Study and Practice Test Materials

THIS YEAR'S SELECTED LITERATURE:



The Remains of the Day
by Kazuo Ishiguro

USAD will be offering the edition of *The Remains of the Day* published by Vintage International, an imprint of Penguin Random House. USAD has arranged for a special discount from the publisher.

Available May 15.

$10

SUPER QUIZ™ RELAY POWERPOINT TESTS:

Includes twelve tests that are displayed in a PowerPoint® SlideShow. The Super Quiz relay will include questions (in multiple-choice format) from all subject areas. The PowerPoint® tests will help to reinforce student mastery of the United States Academic Decathlon Resource Guides.

Available August 1.

$118

FLASHDEC

FlashDec

$579

The next generation of flashcards: digital, adaptive, and completely aligned to the Resource Guides. FlashDec transforms guide content into thousands of fill-in-the-blank prompts. Students test their recall, rate each card's difficulty, and the system automatically resurfaces tougher material more often, building lasting retention through proven spaced repetition techniques. Coaches can track study time, monitor progress by subject area, and identify knowledge gaps across their team. All the speed you loved in traditional flashcards, now with thousands more questions and a powerful adaptive review system.

PRACTICE COMBO QUIZZES:

Contains four quizzes with a total of 200 items in each subject area. Quizzes focus on topics in sequential order of the subject outlines. Quizzes include a combination of fill-in-the-blank items, short-question and answer format, multiple-choice items, and matching to help students to master the curriculum with a variety of question styles.

Available August 1.

$214

PRACTICE SPECIALTY TESTS:

Includes two 100-item tests in art, literature, music, science, and social science, focused in depth on a specific portion of the subject outlines. Tests consist of a variety of question styles for students to gain knowledge on focused topics.

Available August 1.

$181

ESSAY EXAM BOOKLET:

Contains 20 essay tests with a total of 60 essay prompts, which focus on the following six subject areas: art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science. The essay rubric used at the National Competition is included in the booklet. Great for essay writing practice. ***Available June 15.***

$30

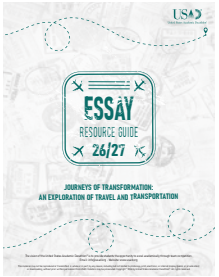
Additional Study and Practice Test Materials

NOTEBOOK DIVIDERS (10 SETS):

Crammed with pertinent information, this set of 10 tabbed notebook dividers helps students stay organized. Includes important dates to remember, lists of key terms and definitions, and much more!
Available May 15.

$87

ESSAY RESOURCE GUIDE:



The *Essay Resource Guide* provides Academic Decathletes with all the information they need to know about USAD's essay event. The *Essay Resource Guide* includes a thorough explication of the essay scoring rubric and offers students techniques, strategies, tips, and guided activities—including detailed analyses of sample essays—to help them write an effective, high-scoring essay. ***Available May 15.***

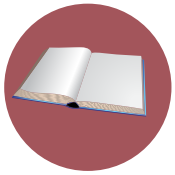
$55

NOVEL CHAPTER QUIZZES:

Test your knowledge of *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Quizzes will include a combination of fill-in-the blank items, short question and answer format, multiple-choice items, and matching to help students to master the chapters in this year's selected novel. ***Available June 15.***

$110

IMPROMPTU TOPIC BOOKLET:



Contains 150 impromptu speech topics, including a variety of sample approaches that may be encountered in the United States Academic Decathlon competition. Great for speech practice and impromptu preparation. ***Available June 15.***

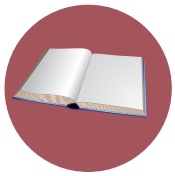
$41

PRACTICE LEVEL TESTS:

Includes a series of three tests made up of 150 questions in each subject area. Tests can be used consecutively as a study tool since they are constructed at easy, medium and hard difficulty levels, allowing for gradual mastery of the curriculum.
Available August 1.

$178

SECTION-BY-SECTION TESTS:



Enhance mastery of the curriculum with Section-by-Section Tests, featuring 2,100 test items designed for targeted review. Each subject area includes 300 multiple-choice questions, focusing on specific sections of the Study Guide outlines to reinforce key concepts and improve retention.
Available August 1.

$360

MUSIC LISTENING QUIZZES:

Includes 10 quizzes with multiple-choice items that focus on a 30-second musical excerpt from the music selections featured in the *USAD Music Resource Guide: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation in Music*. Quizzes will be similar to what students will encounter on the listening portion of the music competition tests to reinforce mastery of the music selections. Includes accompanying mp3 file which is available for electronic download.
Available June 15.

$78

Practice Test Packages

PRACTICE TEST PACKAGE:

A complete set of practice materials. The Practice Test Package includes hundreds of questions that are written and reviewed by United States Academic Decathlon®-contracted writers and reviewers. The Practice Test Package contains test questions to reinforce learning and test-taking skills. The topical breakdown of the test items in the Practice Test Package is in accordance with the per-cent¬ages noted in the Academic Decathlon Study Guide outlines.

PTP
Practice Test Package

Team Edition Practice Test Package:

$618

Includes:

- Practice Level Tests
- Music Listening Quizzes
- Music Listening Quizzes MP3 file
- Section-by-Section Tests
- Super Quiz™ Relay PowerPoint Tests

Available for downloading June 15: Music Listening Quizzes and MP3 file.

Available for downloading August 1: Practice Level Tests, Section-by-Section Tests and Super Quiz™ Relay Power-Point Tests.

Supreme Edition Practice Test Package:

$1385

Includes:

- FlashDec (NEW product for 2026-27)
- Music Listening Quizzes
- Music Listening Quizzes MP3 file
- Section-by-Section Tests
- Super Quiz™ Relay PowerPoint Tests
- Essay Exam Booklet
- Impromptu Topic Booklet
- Novel Quizzes

Available for downloading June 15: Music Listening Quizzes and MP3 file, Essay Exam Booklet, Impromptu Topic Booklet, and Novel Quizzes.

Available for downloading August 1: Practice Level Tests, Section-by-Section Tests, and Super Quiz™ Relay Power-Point Tests.

Online access to FlashDec available August 1.

Practice Test Packages (cont.)

Extreme Edition Practice Test Package:

$1953

Includes:

- FlashDec (NEW product for 2026-27)
- Music Listening Quizzes
- Music Listening Quizzes MP3 file
- Section-by-Section Tests
- Super Quiz™ Relay PowerPoint Tests
- Essay Exam Booklet
- Impromptu Topic Booklet
- Novel Quizzes
- Art Student Exercise Book
- Economics Student Exercise Book
- Literature Student Exercise Book
- Mathematics Student Exercise Book
- Music Student Exercise Book
- Science Student Exercise Book
- Social Science Student Exercise Book
- Practice Combo Quizzes
- Practice Specialty Tests

Available for downloading June 15: Music Listening Quizzes and MP3 file, Essay Exam Booklet, Impromptu Topic Booklet, Novel Quizzes, and Student Exercise Books

Available for downloading August 1: Practice Level Tests, Section-by-Section Tests, Super Quiz™ Relay PowerPoint Tests, Practice Combo Quizzes, and Practice Specialty Tests.

Online access to FlashDec available August 1.

United States Academic Pentathlon®

2026 – 2027 Competition Year

The premier scholastic competition for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students!

OVERVIEW

- United States Academic Pentathlon, the premier national scholastic competition for middle school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual competition.
- The five-event academic program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome inter-school academic competition, and to further develop student communication skills.
- Academic Pentathlon is uniquely designed to include students with a wide variety of academic abilities.

GETTING STARTED

- Academic Pentathlon teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members. All students must be currently enrolled in grades 6–8. Each team must consist of at least two "A" students, at least two "B" students, and at least two "C or below" students. The team score will be determined by the sum of the top two student scores in each GPA category. The GPA Calculation Form can be found on the USAP web page.
- Teams advance through local, regional, and state levels of competition. The state champions compete in the national finals. MOST Academic Pentathlon competitions take place online in a virtual testing environment, so there is no travel required for teams! The National Academic Pentathlon competition is held in a physical location.
- Academic Pentathlon teams are encouraged to partner with local high school Academic Decathlon teams, perhaps having Academic Decathlon students serve as mentors to Pentathlon students.

CURRICULUM

- Academic Pentathlon's curriculum is an interdisciplinary curriculum in which a selected theme is integrated across five different subject areas: fine arts, literature, mathematics, science, and social science.
- The Academic Pentathlon theme parallels that of the high school Academic Decathlon program.
- The theme for the 2026-2027 will be *Journeys of Transformation: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation*. The themes are developed by our curriculum team with special attention to national content standards.
- The materials will be available for downloading in PDF format on August 1st each year. The site license fee allows you to download as many copies as needed. Novels may be purchased via online vendors such as Amazon or via your regular school vendors. The featured novel for 2026-2027 will be announced soon.
- All test questions will be derived from the USAP curriculum.

For more information, please contact Tara Brown, *U.S. Academic Pentathlon*

pentathlon@usad.org • 612-423-4035

VISION

The vision of the U.S. Academic Decathlon® is to provide students the opportunity to excel academically through team competition.

MISSION

The mission of the U.S. Academic Decathlon® is to promote learning and academic excellence among students of varying achievement levels by developing and providing multidisciplinary academic competitions using U.S. Academic Decathlon®-based curricula.

CORE VALUES

As a premier national scholastic competition for high school students, the United States Academic Decathlon® believes in:

The academic growth of students;
Challenging multidisciplinary learning;
Teamwork as a means to achieve self-knowledge and life-skills development;
Providing equal opportunities for students of varying achievement levels;
The importance of inclusivity and diversity to learning and the human experience;
High standards of honesty and integrity;
Transparency in our relations and interactions with all of our stakeholders;
Excellence in our programs, services, and activities; and,
Respect for diverse points of view.

USAD®
United States Academic Decathlon®

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