



ACADEMIC DECATHLON



Topics for Oral Interview/Suggested Questions

Objective: Conduct an objective interview by creating the same situation for each student, (i.e., same judge asking the same set of questions of every student)

Instructions: From the list of questions below, **select nine (9) questions** for the interview period. Each judging team will select their own set of questions. From the student's self-introduction (question #1), feel free to ask the student to elaborate on an item they included in their introduction. A follow-up question is not required, but a judge may ask for an elaboration if he/she finds a point in the introduction interesting.

1. "Tell us a little bit about yourself." (*This should always be the first question.*)
2. **Major interests in school**
 - a. "What did you do as a member of _____?"
 - b. "What do you enjoy most about school?"
 - c. "Describe your biggest challenge at school."
3. **After school and summer activities**
 - a. "How do you like to spend your time after school?"
 - b. "What meaningful experiences did you have as a _____?"
 - c. "What skills have you acquired as a _____ that will help you in a future job?"
 - d. "Do you feel it is important to be involved in extra-curricular activities? Please explain."
 - e. "How has participation in _____ affected you personally?"
 - f. "Describe the type of community service activities that you are involved in or would like to be involved in."
 - g. "How do you feel your current activities (in or out of school) will benefit your future?"
4. **Plan for the future**
 - a. "What would you like to accomplish in the next five years?"
 - b. "Share with us some of your dreams for the future."
 - c. "What are some of the things you would like to do upon graduation?"
5. **Individual and team preparation for the Decathlon**
 - a. "How did you become interested and/or involved in the Academic Decathlon?"
 - b. "What have been the benefits of being a Decathlon team member?"
 - c. "What is the most difficult event in the Decathlon?"
6. **Influences, values, and miscellaneous ideas**
 - a. "What values do you consider to have most strongly influenced your life?"
 - b. "Who do you consider to be the most influential person in your life?"
 - c. "How has this person influenced your personal growth?"
 - d. "If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?"
 - e. "What personal quality do you possess that will benefit our society or your community and why?"
 - f. "If you could solve a social problem, what would it be, and how would you solve it."

Avoid questions about GPA level, religious beliefs, dating habits, and parental relationships.