



Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division
Orange County Academic Decathlon



Calculator Policy

Competitors May Use Calculators for the Mathematics Test

Competitors using calculators on the Mathematics test are responsible to bring their own approved calculator to the test. Calculators will not be provided for competitors. Calculator use is permitted only for Mathematics. Competitors are not allowed to use calculators on any other test.

Permissible Calculators

Calculators should be a basic, four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator and must not have any of the features listed below under Prohibited Calculators. Competitors using a prohibited calculator will be disqualified from competition.

Prohibited Calculators

Calculators with any of the following features are NOT allowed in competitions:

- Pocket organizers
- Hand-held or laptop computers
- Electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- Models with an alphabetic (QWERTY) keypad, e.g. TI-92 or HP-95
- Models with paper tape
- Models that make noise
- Models that can engage in wireless communication (transfer data or information with other calculators)
- Models that require a power cord
- Models with CAS (computer algebra systems), e.g. TI-89

NOTE: United States Academic Decathlon has approved the TI-Nspire calculator as long as it does not have (CAS) stamped on the back side of the machine.

If a competitor is uncertain whether a particular calculator will be allowed, the competitor should bring a back-up that does not contain any of the features in question. Back-up calculators will not be provided for any competitor whose calculator is disallowed.

Competing Without a Calculator

Competitors may opt to take the Mathematics test without a calculator. However, a basic, scientific, or graphing calculator is recommended.

Calculator Failure During a Test

If a competitor's calculator stops working during a test, the competitor should continue taking the test without a calculator. Calculators are not provided, and the competitor will not be allowed to take the test at a later date. Competitors are prohibited from using multiple calculators during a test (i.e., a backup calculator can only serve as a replacement for a calculator that stops working).