

2021 USAD Nationals Explanation of Scoring

The United States Academic Decathlon® has 10 events. Each event is evenly weighted at 1,000 points per competitor for a possible 10,000-point total per student. However, only six scores per team are counted for the team ranking (top two honor, scholastic and varsity) making the highest possible team score 60,000.

The social science, music, and literature tests have 50 questions each. The raw score for these tests is converted to 1,000 points with each question worth 20 points. The art, science, and economics tests have 55 questions with each question worth 18.18 points. The math test has 45 questions with each question being worth 22.2 points.

The essay is scored based on a rubric. Each essay is independently read twice. If there is a divergence of 200 or more points in the two scores, the essay is read and scored by a third judge. The third score replaces the divergent score. The two scores are averaged for the final score.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded in each division, event and category (honor, scholastic and varsity). All ties are awarded.

Team overall ranking is determined by the six team members that make up the top two scores in each category (honor, scholastic and varsity).