

ACADEMIC DECATHLON FOR CREDIT

Humanities Classes

Coaches often ask what courses can be used to cover academic decathlon and to give students credit on a transcript. While it is true, the Texas Education Agency does not have a course specifically entitled *Academic Decathlon*, there are many approved electives which a district and a school can use where the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) (TEKS) match academic decathlon topics. This will give the students credit on a transcript.

Remember, a district or a school must meet TEKS in the courses they offer. To meet the TEKS requirements, suggested subjects are topical research, technical writing, prepared speech, improvisational speech and interview, in addition to TEKS from mathematics, English, language arts, social studies, science, economics, music theory and history, and art history and theory. It is not wise, and probably not legal, to use a course for academic decathlon which does not fulfill the TEKS guidelines. We suggest you do not use advanced placement courses or other classes which would be a far-stretch of the imagination to meet the TEKS guidelines. Moreover, now that the College Board requires teachers to submit their syllabi for approval in order to teach an AP course and, due to audits, a school can get into legal concerns if they use an AP course to cover the decathlon program.

Additionally, use different courses each year so a student can earn numerous credits. One method is to designate a different course for each year of the program. An example would be (1) 10th Grade: Research and Technical Writing; (2) 11th Grade: Humanities; and (3) 12th Grade: Independent Study Speech. Any student enrolling in decathlon for three years would have an impressive transcript with these three courses.

We recommend you contact your superintendent and administrators about any course you use for decathlon. If they agree to a selection from the list below, you should also discuss the possibility of designating any course you use to receive accelerated or honors grade points. Academic decathlon is one of the most demanding courses a student can take in high school. As often as not the topics match similar content and knowledge of the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate curricula. Moreover, many districts designate courses such as Humanities as a course which can fulfill a Language Arts credit needed for graduation.

Listed below are courses you can use.

10.46. [Independent Study in English](#) (1/2 to 1 Credit)

Students enrolled in Independent Study in English write in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences and purposes. High school students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis, and carefully examine their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. Independent Study in English students are expected to write in a variety of forms including business, personal, literary, and persuasive texts for a variety of audiences and purposes. Writing is used as a tool for learning as students create, clarify, critique, and express appreciation for others' ideas and responses. Independent Study in English students evaluate their own written work as well as the work of others. Students continue to read extensively in increasingly difficult texts selected in multiple genres for a variety of purposes. When comprehension breaks down, students effectively and efficiently monitor and adjust their use of a variety of comprehension strategies. Students respond to texts through talking and writing in both traditional print and electronic formats. Students connect their knowledge of the world and the knowledge they gather from other texts with the text being read.

110.52 [Creative and Imaginative Writing](#) (1/2 to 1 credit)

The study of creative and imaginative writing allows high school students to earn one-half to one credit while developing versatility as a writer. Creative and Imaginative Writing, a rigorous composition course, asks high school students to demonstrate their skill in such forms of writing as essays, short stories, poetry, and drama. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the recursive nature of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage and the mechanics of written English. The student's evaluation of his/her own writing as well as the writing of others ensures that students completing this course are able to analyze and discuss published and unpublished pieces of writing, develop and apply criteria for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers.

110.53 [Research and Technical Writing](#) (1/2 to 1 credit)

The study of technical writing allows high school students to earn one-half to one credit while developing skills necessary for writing persuasive and informative texts such as essays, reports, proposals, and memoranda. This rigorous composition course asks high school students to skillfully research a topic or a variety of topics and present that information through a variety of media. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the recursive nature of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage, and the mechanics of written English. The students' evaluation of his/her own writing as well as the writing of others ensures that students completing this course are able to analyze and discuss published and unpublished pieces of writing, develop and apply criteria for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers.

110.55 [Humanities](#) (one credit)

Humanities is an interdisciplinary course in which students recognize writing as an art form. Students read widely to understand how various authors craft compositions for various aesthetic purposes. This course includes the study of major historical and cultural movements and their relationship to literature and the other fine arts. Humanities is a rigorous course of study in which high school students respond to aesthetic elements in texts and other art forms through outlets such as discussions, journals, oral interpretations, and dramatizations. Students read widely to understand the commonalities that literature shares with the fine arts. In addition, students use written composition to show an in-depth understanding of creative achievements in the arts and literature and how these various art forms are a reflection of history. All students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and presentations that lead to an understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of critical, creative achievements throughout history. Understanding is demonstrated through a variety of media.

110.61 [Independent Study in Speech](#) (1/2 to 1 credit)

Students who have mastered concepts and developed skills in introductory courses should be provided an opportunity to extend their knowledge and expand their skills in more advanced study. Independent study in speech provides opportunity for advanced students to plan, organize, produce, perform, and evaluate a project that enables them to develop advanced skills in communication, critical thinking, and problem solving.

113.68 [Special Topics in Social Studies](#) (1/2 credit)

In Special Topics in Social Studies, an elective course comparable to the former Advanced Social Science Problems, students are provided the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills of the social sciences to a variety of topics and issues. Students use critical-thinking skills to locate, organize, analyze, and use data collected from a variety of sources. Problem solving and decision making are important elements of the course as is the communication of information in written, oral, and visual forms.

113.69 [Social Studies Research Methods](#) (1/2 credit)

In Social Studies Research Methods, an elective course, students conduct advanced research on a selected topic in social studies using qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry. The course is designed to be conducted in either classroom or independent settings.