

# Texas Academic Decathlon

## Round 2 Essay Dates

Practice/Setup – February 7

Writing – February 8

TECHNICAL DETAILS BELOW --

## **USAD ONLINE COMPETITION TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

### **Subject to Change**

- ❖ Because your school may limit Internet traffic or lock down your workstations, we suggest that you review ALL of the included instructions regarding the USAD Online Competition with your IT Department prior to the practice and actual tests.
- ❖ If your school will be on a break or vacation, you will need to be sure that your IT Department is aware that you will be using the Internet and that they should avoid performing system maintenance during the testing window.
- ❖ Assure that **ALL** of the computers your students are using for the **Essay** portion of the competition have newer versions of Internet Explorer or Chrome and that your students are aware they are to use Internet Explorer or Chrome only. Other browsers are not allowed **AND WILL NOT WORK**, including, but not limited to Firefox, Safari and Netscape.
- ❖ To make sure everything runs smoothly with the event your IT departments will need the following information:
  - ✓ Site address – <http://usadtest.com> and <https://usad.enlyght.com>
  - ✓ Internet Browser for Essay testing – Internet Explorer or Chrome ONLY
  - ✓ Internet Browser for objective testing – For objective testing, any current browser should work although we recommend using IE over Edge. Edge can be used but it is not officially supported as it has not been thoroughly tested.
  - ✓ Make sure that adequate bandwidth is available during the online competition - 10 mbs available per team – the more bandwidth available the better the testing experience.
- ❖ If possible have your IT staff increase the priority of internet traffic to the USAD testing sites listed above.
- ❖ If you are using guest network access at another location:
  - ✓ The guest network needs to allow access to the sites listed above.
  - ✓ If you are bringing a device (laptop) to a host location, there may be settings on your device that blocks access to the website through a different network.
- ❖ Please note: If using an older monitor or small laptop the timing bar may disappear while typing your essay. The timing bar stays at the top of the monitor if the monitor is set for 1024 x 768 as a minimum height requirement. If using a larger monitor the timing bar will appear and stay at the top of the screen.
- ❖ It is important the proctor and their students test the competition site to assure that everything is working correctly (i.e., hardware, usernames, passwords, etc.). Students should take a practice essay and an objective test to familiarize themselves with the process. It is important that all schools run through the practice on the machines they will be using and at the location of the competition. When running through the essay practice, students need to select the prompt, type and save.