

Academic Bowl: Study Guide

Introduction:

The purpose of the Academic Bowl is to foster the pursuit of academic excellence; promote a spirit of academic competition and good sportsmanship; and to encourage social opportunities for collegiality among students.

This Academic Bowl Study Guide is written to provide a guide for coaches and players about what to study and how to prepare for the Regional and National competitions. This guide is to help coaches and players understand what to expect in regards to what type of questions may be asked during the matches.

In each match, teams will play three rounds. All three rounds will have questions from various categories. This guide maps some of the topics in each category (but not all) to help coaches develop questions and/or to help players understand what topics to study.

Please note that this study guide is not inclusive of all examples/topics. This study guide is simply to map out the general concept of what coaches and players can expect about the kind of questions that will be asked during the matches.

Round One:

This round will be full of Toss-up questions in which the players will compete against each other on their knowledge and their ability to read the questions quickly before buzzing in. The categories included in this round are: The Arts; Current Events; Language and Literature; Mathematics; Popular Culture, Leisure, and Sports; Science and Technology; and Social Studies.

Round Two:

This round will be an individual round which means every player will take turns answering the questions. The categories for this round are similar to Round One. The questions are often asked in multiple choice format. A player has only 20 seconds to write down an answer or to pick a letter if it is a multiple choice question.

Final Round:

This is the final round of the match in which the teams will have the opportunity to collaborate together and brainstorm the answers. The final round will usually be in one category with specific instructions.

Ways to Prepare for the Competition:

- 1) Play practice matches against staff and teachers at your school.
- 2) Practice during lunch with your teammates.
- 3) Develop flash cards and practice with your teammates.
- 4) Read USA Today newspaper or check cnn.com, usatoday.com, and other news websites for current events.
- 5) Play trivia apps such as QuizUp and Trivia Crack on your smart phone.
- 6) Set up VP matches with other schools in your region.
- 7) Hold a retreat a week or two before the Regional competition to practice and prepare for the mental exhaustion of playing 7-8 matches over two days.
- 8) Develop PowerPoints for each topic complete with questions (i.e. Shakespeare PP, World Capitals PP) and practice with your teammates or yourself.

Here's a list of topics in each category to help the coaches and players prepare for what may be asked during the matches. Not all possible topics are included here as this is meant to give coaches and players a general idea of how to study for the competition. There are also examples of questions in this list.

The Arts is a category about art, including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, crafts, photography and other graphic arts. Questions may ask for identification of famous paintings or sculptures; artistic periods or genres; theatre production, performance, and techniques; or music without necessarily being familiar with the music or other hearing-dependent factors involved. Music would include questions that do not require hearing the lyrics or songs, but would include, for example: associating the Beatles with the 1960s, and knowing that Ludwig van Beethoven was deaf and identifying some of his works by name.

Category:	Arts		
Topic:	Famous Artists	Famous Paintings	Art Movements
Examples:	Pablo Picasso	<i>Guernica</i>	Cubist
	Vincent van Gogh	<i>Starry Night</i>	Post impressionism
	Salvador Dali	<i>Persistence of Memory</i>	Surrealism
	Andy Warhol	<i>Marilyn Monroe</i>	Pop Art
	Arts Terminology	Art Periods	Architecture
	Monochromatic	Renaissance	buttress
	Palette	Romanticism	Baroque
		Modern	Art museums
	Sculpture	Music	Theatre Arts
	<i>The Thinker</i>	Ludwig van Beethoven	Theatre Terminology
	<i>David</i>	Spring Awakening, musical Broadway	
	<i>Venus de Milo</i>		

Sample Questions: The Arts

1. A piece of art created by pasting various materials such as pictures, magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, etc. is called a(n) _____.

Answer: collage

2. The term “collage” was coined by two individuals who are credited with co-founding the Cubism art movement in the early 20th Century. Name one of the two individuals.

Answer: Pablo Ruiz y Picasso or Georges Braque

3. A student of art or an artist in training during the Middle Ages lived with a master for several years learning the artist’s craft. This student was known as a(n) _____.

Answer: apprentice

4. Grotesque figures used as water spouts on medieval cathedrals are known by what “g” term?

Answer: gargoyles

5. Which “b” term is used in architecture to designate a support, generally of brick or stone, built against an outside wall to reinforce it?

Answer: buttress

6. Name the Paris museum that houses the famous Greek marble statue entitled *Victory of Samothrace*.

Answer: Louvre Museum

7. What Dutch painter is known for *The Starry Night*, among others?

Answer: Vincent van Gogh

8. Name the 19th Century French Impressionist who painted *Luncheon of the Boating Party*.

Answer: Pierre Auguste Renoir

9. What term designates an artist’s painting or drawing of himself or herself?

Answer: self-portrait

10. How many Wonders of the Ancient World are there?

Answer: 7 or seven

The Current Events category asks questions about notable news events that have occurred since the previous National competition ended. Most current events questions will be drawn from within the previous four-month period prior to the competition. USA Today newspaper is a good source for finding current events questions, but is not the only source used. For 2016, we will use questions referring to current events that occurred from April 28, 2015 up until November 20, 2015 for the 2016 Regional competitions. For the 2016 National competition, we will use questions referring to current events that occurred up until April 1, 2016. Most current events questions will be drawn from within the previous four-month period prior to the competition. USA Today newspaper is a good source for finding current events questions, but is not the only source used. However, depending on the topic, a Current Events final round may occasionally include some questions that are older than one year, but are still considered current news. For example, a final round on the death of Michael Jackson may include some of his life accomplishments that were printed in newspapers and shown on television for several

days following his death and funeral, as well as more recent developments with his family and estate. Although the events of his life are not current, the news reviews of his life are current.

Category:	Current Events		
Topic:	Presidential Election	Natural Disasters	United States News
Examples:	Donald Trump, which party?	Earthquake in Nepal	Ferguson, Baltimore
	Name the candidates	Myanmar's severe flooding	Same-sex marriage law
	Location of Conventions	Wildfires in California	Kim Davis
	World News	Deaf-Related News	Pop Culture
	Scotland referendum	Spring Awakening	Newly released movies
	New elected leaders	NAD Conference	News about celebrities
	Pope Francis visit in DC	Deaflympics	

Sample Questions: Current Events

1. In August 2014, a police officer shot and killed an unarmed 18-year-old teenager in Ferguson, Missouri. Give the first and last names of the teenager.

Answer: Michael "Mike" Brown

2. In September 2014, a national referendum was held in this country, a part of the United Kingdom, putting the question of whether this country should become an independent sovereign state.

Answer: Scotland

3. In December 2014, Flight 8501 en route from Indonesia to Singapore reported bad weather and had stalled while trying to gain altitude. Under which airline was Flight 8501 operated by?

Answer: AirAsia

4. Season 5 of this wildly popular AMC post-apocalyptic horror-drama television series just concluded at the end of March 2015; the season finale was this television series' first-ever 90-minute episode.

Answer: *The Walking Dead*

5. Defying the White House, Speaker of the House John Boehner invited this Israeli Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress in March 2015.

Answer: Benjamin Netanyahu

6. January 27, 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of this notorious German Nazi concentration camp located in southwest Poland by the Soviet Army.

Answer: Auschwitz-Birkenau

7. At the end of March, the 16th winter edition of the world's premier deaf sporting competition kicked off. What is this sporting event called?

Answer: Winter Deaflympics

8. This movie based on the life of U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, considered to be one of the most lethal in his line of work, received six Oscar nominations.

Answer: American Sniper

9. Her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, brought her international recognition and acclaim; also known for her amazing poems, she was asked to do a poem reading during President Clinton's inauguration. She passed away in May 2014.

Answer: Maya Angelou

10. In late April 2014, CNN reported that at least 40 veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces died waiting for care at the Phoenix Veterans Health Administration facilities. Name the U.S. Cabinet-level department responsible for overseeing veterans' health.

Answer: Department of Veterans Affairs

Language and Literature questions are about English grammar and syntax; vocabulary, literary terms; questions about literary periods, works, authors, characters; and theatrical plays.

Category:	Language and Literature		
Topic:	Famous Authors	Literary Terminology	Literary Characters-Books
Examples:	Charles Dickens	Simile	Captain Ahab- Moby Dick
	Kurt Vonnegut	Synonym	Ebenzer Scrooge - A Christmas Carol
	George Orwell	Idioms	Winston Smith- 1984
		Allusion	
	Parts of Speech	Genres	Theatre Productions
	Noun	Science Fiction	Well-known plays
	Adverb	Non-Fiction	Shakespearean plays
	Conjunction	Fantasy	

Sample Questions: Language and Literature

1. Dorothy, Scarecrow, and the Wicked Witch of the East are characters in which L. Frank Baum novel?

Answer: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

2. Complete this line from Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Sonnets from the Portuguese*:

How do I love thee?

Let me _____.

Answer: count the ways

3. Who wrote the muckraking work *The Jungle*?

Answer: Upton Beall Sinclair, Jr.

4. Identify the conjunction used below.

Although he spends his weekends in the mountains, his heart is near the ocean.

Answer: Although

5. What are the first names of the two protagonists in *Of Mice and Men*.

Answer: George Milton and Lennie Small

6. What “s” figure of speech is seen in the following sentence?

“She is as brave as a lion.”

Answer: simile

7. Name Edgar Lee Masters’ 1915 poetry anthology that derives its name from a river flowing through central Illinois.

Answer: *Spoon River Anthology*

8. Name Audrey Niffenegger’s debut novel, published in 2003, about a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to travel in time.

Answer: *The Time Traveler’s Wife*

9. Most of this English writer’s thick novels were originally published as serials in newspapers, including *Great Expectations* and *The Pickwick Papers*.

Answer: Charles Dickens

10. Which part of speech is the first word in these sentences?

“Away with you!”

“Off with their heads!”

Answer: adverb

Mathematics will include questions involving computation; four-function calculators are provided for this purpose. We follow the categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions,

Modeling, Geometry, and Statistics/Probability amongst others. Other questions may involve identification of algebraic or geometric properties, postulates, theorems, or laws, or of famous mathematicians, and will not involve computation.

Category:	Mathematics		
Topic:	Algebra	Pre-Calculus	Expression and Equation
Examples:	Word problems	Functions: $f(x)$	Solve for variables
	Numerical sequences	\sin , \cos , \tan	Find the measurement of angles
	Factoring	derivatives	Simplifying
	Identity Properties		
	Geometry	Number System	Unit Conversion
	Geometrical Shapes	Fractions/Mixed Numbers	Kilometer to Centimeter
	Find Area/Volume	Roman Numerals	Feet to Inches
		GCF, LCM, LCD	Fahrenheit to Celsius
	Ratio/Proportion	Function	Statistics/Probability
	Find the selling price	Find slope	mean, median, mode
	Proportion	Find y-intercept	probability of events
	Interest rates	Coordinate planes	Permutations/Combinations

Sample Questions: Mathematics

1. Solve for v . $23/21 = v/105$

Answer: $v = \underline{115}$

2. At the craft store, Sharon bought a bag of blue and yellow marbles. The bag contained 56 marbles, and 25% of them were yellow. How many blue marbles did Sharon receive?

Answer: $\underline{42}$

3. A company pays a worker \$17 per hour for a 40 hour week. If the worker works overtime, the company pays double per hour. During one week, the worker works a total of 49.5 hours. How much did the worker earn?

Answer: $\underline{\$1003}$

4. Eric wants to buy a new desktop computer. The computer costs \$1,350 and Eric earns \$2,250 per month. However, Eric can only save 5% of his earning per month. How many months will it take Eric to save for the new computer?

Answer: 12 months

5. Evaluate: $3\sin(n/2) - \cos(2n) + 2\tan(n/4)$

Answer: 4

6. Solve x as a fraction: $(11x-8)^2 = (3x-17)^2$

Answer: -9/8

7. In units, find the distance between the following two points: (-1, -2) and (5, 8)

Answer: $2\sqrt{34}$ units

8. A 9-meter ladder is leaning against a building and spans a total height of 7 meters. In meters, how far is the base of the ladder to the building? Simplify your answer in radicals.

Answer: $4\sqrt{2}$ meters

9. Find the 9th term of this geometric series: 1, $\sqrt{2}$, 2, ...

Answer: 16

10. Add the following matrices: $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$

Answer: $\begin{bmatrix} 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$

Popular Culture, Leisure, and Sports questions are those that any culturally-literate person should be expected to know. For example, a culturally literate person would know that *Gone*

with the Wind was both a best-selling novel and an Academy Award-winning film. Questions may be about television, film, theater, the Internet, recreational activities, games of skill and chance, athletics, and individual and team sports.

Category:	Popular Culture, Leisure, and Sports		
Topic:	Film	Sports	Television
Examples:	Oscars Winners	Host of Summer Olympics in 2016?	Reality shows
	highest grossing films	Well-known athletes	Emmys Winners
	Famous actors/actresses	Identify sports teams by its logos.	Popular Shows
	Critically acclaimed movies	NFL Super Bowl Champions	Identify the Channels
	Internet	Recreational Activities	
	Internet slang/meme	Identify the board games	
	Social media	Cards games	
	Well-known websites		

Sample Questions: Popular Culture, Leisure, and Sports

1. Give the name of the basketball player who won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls and is now the current owner of the Charlotte Hornets.

Answer: Michael Jordan

2. Michael Jordan starred in a film featuring Bugs Bunny and his friend. Name the film.

Answer: Space Jam

3. In the game, *Clue*, which suspect holds a military rank? Give both rank and last name.

Answer: Colonel Mustard

4. Give the first names of at least three of the Marx Brothers comedy team.

Answer: Chico, Groucho, Gummo, Harpo, Zeppo

5. According to Forbes, which sporting event that began in 2007 has become “one of the fastest growing sports in America?” Its slogan is “The Fittest on Earth.”

Answer: Crossfit Games

6. What is a person called when they sow discord on the Internet by starting arguments or upsetting people, by posting inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community?

Answer: troll

7. The chess move called “castling” involves which two pieces?

Answer: king and rook

8. Name the spinning Philippine weapon and toy that became an overnight hit in the U.S. when Donald Duncan introduced it in 1928. Some of its trick include the “Walk the Dog.”

Answer: yoyo or yo-yo

9. The egg position of a ski racer going downhill and trying to minimize the effects of wind drag is known as a _____.

Answer: tuck

10. Name this comic strip written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz, which ran from October 2, 1950, to February 13, 2000.

Answer: Peanuts

Science and Technology includes various questions relating to general science, astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, geology, physics, computer technology, and high tech gadgets (i.e., smartphones).

Category:	Science		
Topic:	Geology	Astronomy	Modern Technology
Examples:	Type of Rocks	Terminology	smartphones
	Layers of Earth	Solar System	simple machines
		Well-known Astronomers	technology companies
		Well-known Missions	Famous inventors and inventions
	Chemistry	Biology	Physics
	Periodic table	Cell Structures	Newton's' Laws of motion
	Parts of the Atom	Body Systems	Types of Energy
	Identify the Element	Life Science	Well-known physicists

Sample Questions: Science and Technology

1. Which American multinational corporation specializes in Internet-related services and products? The company is embarking on a project that will develop technology for autonomous cars.

Answer: Google, Inc.

2. Which hard-of-hearing individual is recognized as the “father of the Internet?” He holds more than a dozen honorary doctorates and is currently the vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google.

Answer: Vinton Gray Cerf

3. What is defined as the gravitationally curved path of an object around a point in space?

Answer: orbit

4. What specific structure is most directly responsible for the motility of bacteria?

Answer: flagella or flagellum

5. What family on the periodic table is most associated to this property: all elements are diatomic?

Answer: halogen

6. A honey bee getting nectar or pollen from a flower is an example of which type of association?

Answer: mutualism

7. An organism with complete absence of melanin is called an _____?

Answer: albino

8. This type of respiration takes place when limited oxygen is available. It can be carried out by microorganisms such as yeast. Name this process in which sugars are converted into ethanol, examples of which include the conversion of grapes to wine and wheat to beer.

Answer: fermentation

9. Which chemical element has the symbol I?

Answer: iodine

10. What is another name for minor planets, starlike bodies, or planetoids, the vast majority of which have orbits roughly midway between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars?

Answer: asteroids

Social Studies: This category includes economics, geography, cultures, United States and world history, United States and world government and government systems, famous individuals and groups, armed conflicts, etc. Geography questions are about landmarks; cities of the world's; land masses; bodies of water including streams, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans; the poles, longitude and latitude, and so on. Both United States and world geography are included in this category. Geology-related questions are not included in this category. Economics questions are about business, finance, stock markets, etc. Government questions are about government systems, well-known political figures of the past and present, etc.

Category:	Social Studies		
Topic:	Government	Geography	Economics
Examples:	Systems- Capitalism, Socialism, Communism	Geographic Superlatives	Bull and Bear Market
	Famous Politicians	Landmarks	Great Depression
	Famous treaties	World Capitals/Flags	Inflation
	US Constitution		Well-known businesses
	World History	US History	
	Religion	the Founding Fathers	
	Famous armed conflicts	13 Colonies	
	Famous Empires	Civil Rights Movement	

Sample Questions: Social Studies

1. Name this country whose currency is the krona and has its capital city in Stockholm.

Answer: Kingdom of Sweden

2. Which sea, enclosed by Central and South America, the West Indies, and Mexico is considered an arm of the Atlantic Ocean? Christopher Columbus was the first European to discover this sea.

Answer: Caribbean Sea

3. George Washington asked this woman, who owned an upholstery business, to sew the first U.S. "stars and stripes" flag in 1776.

Answer: Betsy Ross

4. Give this economic term that describes a general increase in price levels of goods and services over time.

Answer: inflation

5. The real name of Pope Leo X was Giovanni and he was the second son of Lorenzo the Magnificent, the ruler of the Florentine Republic. To what wealthy, Italian family did Giovanni and Lorenzo belong to?

Answer: House of Medici

6. King Abdullah's half-brother, Crown Prince _____, became the current King of Saudi Arabia and promised to continue the work of King Abdullah.

Answer: Salman

7. The Blank Hand, a nationalist organization, was founded in which Balkan country that was invaded by Bulgaria during World War I?

Answer: Kingdom of Serbia

8. Vesakha, or Vesak, is a day when Southeast Asian countries including India commemorate the birth, enlightenment or nirvana, and death of which prominent religious figure?

Answer: Gautama Buddha

9. In April 1775, British forces under General Thomas Gage attempted to march from Boston to which two nearby villages in order to seize supplies that the colonials had stored there?

Answer: Lexington and Concord

10. Which violent, nomadic group led by Attila during the collapse of the Roman Empire, crossed the Volga into Europe in 370 CE?

Answer: Huns