

### DEVELOPING A THESIS

Select your three favourite academic subjects from the 25 listed above and rank them in order. Do the same with the 25 non-academic interests listed below and record them in a chart. You can add or delete certain topics from these lists.

Academic Subjects		
A1 Anthropology	A10 Geology	A19 Politics
A2 Astronomy	A11 German	A20 Psychology
A3 Biology	A12 History	A21 Religion
A4 Chemistry	A13 Law	A22 Sociology
A5 Computers	A14 Literature	A23 Spanish
A6 Economics	A15 Mathematics	A24 Visual Arts
A7 English	A16 Phys. Ed.	A25 World Issues
A8 French	A17 Physics	
A9 Geography	A18 Poetry	

Non-Academic Interests		
N1 Baseball	N9 Football	N18 Reading
N2 Basketball	N10 Gymnastics	N19 Rugby
N3 Camping	N11 Hiking	N20 Singing
N4 Carpentry	N12 Hockey	N21 Skiing
N5 Cars	N13 Painting	N22 Travelling
N6 Computer Programming	N14 Part-Time Job	N23 Volleyball
N7 Cycling	N15 Physical Fitness	N24 Volunteering
N8 Figure Skating	N16 Playing Music	N25 Writing
	N17 Politics	

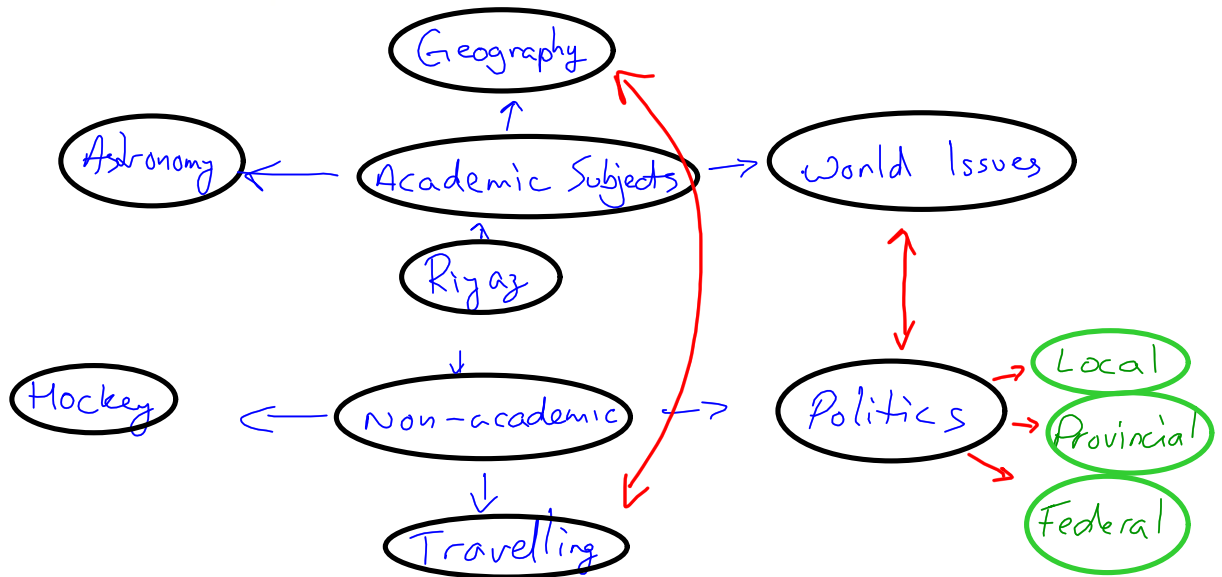
1. What is the significance of the score that the formula produces?
2. What are some weaknesses of this system of finding similarities between people?
3. How could you determine if there is a relationship between a student's gender and interests?

- Found interests & ranked

- With partner, score how compatible interests are

	first choice	second	third
first choices	10	6	3
second	6	3	2
third	3	2	1

Riyaz identified astronomy, geography, and world issues as his three favourite academic subjects, and politics, travelling, and hockey (sports in general) as his three favourite non-academic interests. Use a mind map to illustrate how these topics relate and expand each subject or area of interest one level further.



To analyze a thesis question properly, consider the following:

1. What are the main variables in my question?
2. Can these variables be measured statistically?
3. Is there enough data to make an interesting analysis?

Question	Main Variables	Can These be Measured?
(a) Is there a relationship between the number of refugee camps located in a nation and the rate of malnutrition for that country?	# of camps Rate of malnutrition	Yes Not easily
(b) How has the issue of malnutrition changed from 1950 to the present?	# of years Change in malnutrition	Yes Not easily
(c) Where are malnourished people in Canada most likely to live? Do they live mostly in rural or urban areas?	Locations of malnourished people	Not easily
(d) Using statistical analysis, determine the characteristics of a typical resident of a refugee camp in Southeast Asia. Make a comparison with a typical resident of a refugee camp in Africa.	Characteristics of refugee camp residents	Yes - Depending on characteristics
(e) Given a country with a high rate of malnutrition, examine changes over time in that country's agricultural production, education and medical practices, industrial production, international borrowing, political stability, and so on. Are there any relationships?	Ag production Education + med Industrial Borrowing Stability	Yes Yes Yes Yes Not easily

**Key Terms**

- Personal Interest Inventory — use the personal interest inventory to brainstorm possible topics for your project
- Index — an arbitrarily defined number that provides a measure of scale
- Thesis — a formal statement or question that your project will answer or discuss. When considering a thesis question, determine
  - the main variables in your question
  - whether the variables can be measured statistically
  - whether there is enough data to make an interesting analysis
- Mind map — a visual display used in brainstorming to illustrate relationships
- Variable — a measurable characteristic that can change

**Practice:# 4, 5, 8, 11, 13 (choose 1), 15**

**CHANGED**