

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Cracking the Code: Understanding the Scoring System in Gymnastics

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Artistic expression and presentation play a significant role in the Execution score as they contribute to a gymnast's overall performance. This includes the grace, fluidity, and emotional engagement displayed during the routine. Judges assess how well gymnasts convey the artistic aspects of their routine.
2. Difficulty judges focus on evaluating the complexity of the routine, while Execution judges assess how well it is performed. Both sets of judges contribute to the final score, with Difficulty judges determining the maximum potential score (D-Score) and Execution judges awarding or deducting points for form, execution, and artistry.
3. Gymnasts and coaches strategize by carefully selecting skills and combinations that maximize Difficulty without sacrificing Execution. They aim to strike a balance that optimizes their chances of achieving high scores.
4. Deductions reflect the overall quality of a routine. They penalize mistakes and imperfections, indicating areas where a gymnast can improve their performance. Deductions are essential for maintaining fairness and consistency in scoring.

