

The Baroness of Politarchopolis' Persona Pentathlon

One of the strengths of Politarchopolis is the desire of our populace to create, make and learn. Even for the most passionate person, goals can make this easier. With this in mind, I am minded to sponsor a pentathlon, building on the very successful pentathlon run in Politarchopolis, several years ago.

Items created as part of the pentathlon can be used for other Lochac A&S competitions such as Kingdom competitions, eligible Rowany Festival competitions, or some of the local competitions such as the A&S competitions at Fields of Gold.

Displays will be set up throughout the year and tokens awarded at the end of the Pentathlon. A display will be held at Fields of Gold (this display will also incorporate Lady Gwen's Arts & Sciences Champion's Challenge and the 'Something Gold' competition.)

Commencing in July AS 54, the Pentathlon will run from time of announcement to the May 2020 Rapier Baronial Championship.

Your Servant

Baroness Anne, OL

Politarchopolis' Persona Pentathlon Guide 2019-2020

This Pentathlon requires five (5) separate items that a single person from a single time and place covered by the SCA would have used or owned. Your entry does not have to be your persona, but all five (5) items should be from the same time period and culture for a single individual. Three (3) of your five (5) items must be from different categories from the list of categories: Display, Physical Presence, Personal Adornment, Equipment, and Largesse. There is an optional category Profile, which can also be completed. Be creative and enrich our game with your displays.

Displays will be set up throughout the year to showcase the work of participants. Feedback given at the time of those displays will be based on the Lochac Rubric. (<https://artsandsciences.lochac.sca.org/judging-scheme/>)

Classes will be held throughout the year to support the pentathlon (based on the needs identified in the A&S survey). Heraldic consultations are also available for people who wish to register their heraldry as part of this process.

At the end of the pentathlon, the populace will vote for their favourite collection online (photos of the items will be collected) and tokens donated by the Baroness will be awarded at the July 2020 Quarter Day.

If you are unsure if an item fits a category, please check with the Arts & Sciences Minister and the Baroness.

Categories:

- 1. Decorative Display:** items that are displayed to add beauty, pageantry, status (e.g. Banners, flags, pennants, standards, gonfalons, wall hangings, tent decoration etc.)
- 2. Physical Presence:** items that add to a person's physical presence (e.g. tents, furniture, tent screens etc., napkins, crockery, water bottles)
- 3. Personal Adornment:** items that are worn on the body (jewellery, favours, tabards, armour and clothing etc.)
- 4. Equipment:** items that are tools related to an activity (such as needle cases, authentic tools, calligraphy materials, etc.)

5. **Largesse:** items or largesse for the Barony that can either be gifted to enhance a persona or that add to the presence of the barony. (Items in this category should be discussed with the Baroness first please.)
 6. **OPTIONAL: Profile.** Participants have the option of completing Mistress Marienna Jensdatter's Persona Questionnaire at the beginner, intermediate or advanced levels to understand the profile of their persona's life.
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Persona Questionnaire by Mistress Marienna Jensdatter

These questions are design as an aid to the use of your persona as a study tool. Finding out about what life is like for your persona will teach you all sorts of interesting and non-obvious things about the time and place you're interested in.

There are three levels of questions, with the first level being a good starting point for figuring out who your persona is, the second aimed at understanding more about their immediate reality, and the third geared towards understanding more about the society they live in.

You will probably find that it's very hard to answer some questions. That's not surprising – some questions will be hard to answer for your real life too. You may also find that once you start working on level two and three questions, you will begin to change your answers to the level one questions.

Level one	Level two	Level three
General context		
When were you born? What year is it now? What date is it?	How do you describe what year it is?	When does the day start? When is the new year? How do you know what day it is? How do you know when the moon will be full?
Which country do you live in? Who rules it?	What relationship do you have with the ruler(s)? Are there intermediate stages?	Is the political situation stable? What alliances does your country have? Enemies?
What language do you speak?	What language do your ruler(s) speak?	What language do your neighbours speak?
Who wrote the law you live under?	Who do you talk to if you have a complaint against your neighbour? What kind of punishment would a thief get? A murderer? A rapist? An adulterer?	How does your legal system work? Who has ultimate jurisdiction? Is your family involved in your legal situation? Are there lawyers?
What is your religion? Do you share it with your neighbours? Is it mainstream?	What happens to people who don't share yours/the mainstream religion?	How do you worship? Who or what is your focus point? Is it private or led worship? What aids are there? What difficulties (language, cost, societal restrictions?)
Local context		
Where do you live?	What type of home do you have? Is it yours?	Describe your home – how is it built? Describe your locality (village, shire, barony, country etc)
Who do you live with?	Do you share your house with family? With servants? With your master?	What are the typical arrangements for each class in your country at this time?

Do you live near a market?	Where? What can/do you buy at the market? Do you sell anything?	Who created the market? Who earns from the market? How?
Class and occupation		
Do you own land? How much?	Is your status related to land? Can it change? In what way?	How do you count land?
How do you sustain yourself?	Do you work for food or money? Do you grow your own food?	What is the main economy of your area, or your country?
Do you have servants (or slaves)?	What type of servants and how many?	What do you pay them? Do you pay them? What happens when they get too old to serve?
Do you serve anybody?	What are you expected to do? How much are you paid?	What systems of servitude exist?
Do you have military obligations? To whom?	What type of armour do warriors wear?	How do wars work? Strategic large-scale war, or small, random skirmishing? What impact does this have on people and on you directly?
Can you read/write?	Who taught you, and why?	What do you read? What do you write? How does it affect you?
Were you trained to a profession?	How good are you? How good could you be? What would that mean in terms of status/earnings?	Did you end up doing whatever it was you were expected to do?
Have you travelled?	Where did you travel, and why? When? With whom?	Was there a 'travel industry' that you used? How did you travel?
Relationships		
Describe your family. Are your parents still living? Where?	How do you define family? What contact do you have with them?	Have you got family obligations, alliances?
Are you married? Have you got children? How many?	When were you married? Why? How are your children being raised?	What type of ceremony accompanied your marriage? The birth of your children? Any other big events?
Are you faithful? Is your spouse faithful?	What happens if you/they are not? Could you divorce?	What are societal/religious attitudes towards marital and extra-marital relationships? What would happen to your property/children in a divorce (if such exist)?
Finances		

Do you have money?	What is your currency? Is there more than one?	How does your currency system work?
How much do everyday things cost? A suit of clothing? An ox? A piece of land? Spices?	How much could one earn if one is a farmhand/builders' hand/cobbler/carpenter/teacher/lawyer?	Where do you keep your money? Can you borrow money? Could you lend money? Is there a banking system?
Do you pay taxes? To whom?	How much do you pay? Why?	How does the tax system work?
Daily Life		
What do your clothes look like?	How many clothes have you got? Who made them? How do you clean your clothes? What do peasants wear? What do lords wear? The king?	What type of material are your clothes made from? Where did it come from? Where did the fashion come from, and how?
Do you own jewellery? What?	What types of jewellery are common? What do they look like?	Is there a jewellery trade? Is jewellery imported? Do you decorate your clothing/person in other ways?
Are you subject to sumptuary laws?	How do they affect you?	What are they?
What type of meals do you eat during the day? What do you drink?	Who prepares your meals? Are there cookbooks for your era? How do you obtain your food? How is your food stored?	To what extent do you use imported foodstuffs? Do you have access to such things?
What do you use to light a fire? What fuel do you use?	What do you do to keep warm in winter? Do you have heating?	What other 'conveniences' do you have access to?
How do you go to the toilet?	What happens with the bodily waste afterwards?	What happens in a city?
How do you keep yourself clean? Do you bathe? How and where?	What sort of equipment do you have for your personal care?	What are societal attitudes towards cleanliness and any professional facilities?
What do you spend most of your day doing?	What would your daily timetable or routine be?	How do you mark the hours? How are feast days different? How frequent are they?
What is your favourite pastime?	What is your favourite pastime?	What type of entertainment do you have access to?
Do you do any arts? (Embroider, paint, carve etc)	What styles are common?	What materials are common/available?
Do you play an instrument? What type?	When do you play?	What type of music?
Do you dance?	When do you dance?	What do you dance?
Your future		

<p>If you were to fall ill, whom would you call to see to you?</p>	<p>What might be wrong with you? Who would look after you? Would you go to a hospital?</p>	<p>What sort of treatment might you receive? Would it cost you money?</p>
<p>If you died, who would inherit you?</p>	<p>If your parents die, would you inherit them?</p>	<p>If your brother dies, who would inherit?</p>
<p>What immediate threats do you face each day?</p>	<p>What do you fear?</p>	<p>What is the worst thing that could happen to you? (Consider what could actually happen, but also what your persona might think would be the worst thing!)</p>
<p>What can you expect to happen to you?</p>	<p>What can you hope for?</p>	<p>What would be the best thing that could happen to you? (Think about it!)</p>