

STAGE 1 · READ FIRST

COMPETITION GUIDE AND OFFICIAL QUESTIONS

Review the competition schedule, the seven official questions, the core rules and the academic-integrity requirements before you write.

STAGE 01
GUIDE AND
QUESTIONS

STAGE 02
CONFIRM
PARTICIPATION

STAGE 03
FINAL SUBMISSION

STAGE 04
PROCESS
VERIFICATION

PURPOSE

Completing this stage does not confirm participation and does not count as a formal submission. Participation is confirmed in Stage 2; essays are submitted in Stage 3.

AT A GLANCE · 2026 CYCLE

QUESTIONS RELEASED

17 August 2026

REGULAR DEADLINE

**25 September
2026**

LATE WINDOW

**26 Sep – 2 Oct
2026**

01 IMPORTANT DATES

MILESTONE	DATE	DETAILS
Questions released	17 August 2026	All seven official questions published
Regular deadline	25 September 2026	The time and time zone shown on the WYE Platform apply
Late window	26 Sep – 2 Oct 2026	One fixed US\$10 late fee for 1–3 essays

02 SEVEN OFFICIAL QUESTIONS

Each essay must answer one question directly. A participant may submit up to three essays, each answering a different question or the same one from a different angle.

Q1 AI AND THE FIRST STEP INTO WORK

If artificial intelligence raises productivity while eroding the entry-level jobs through which young people acquire skills and experience, does the market under-invest in the skills of the next generation? Should governments step in — and if so, how?

Q2 EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY

When the cost of education rises faster than family incomes, under what conditions does education still narrow economic inequality — and when does it begin to entrench privilege instead?

Q3 HOUSING: ASSET OR NECESSITY?

A home is both the largest asset most households will ever own and a basic necessity. When the two roles conflict, which should housing policy protect — rising asset values or affordable shelter — and what trade-offs follow?

Q4 THE PRICE OF “FREE” DIGITAL SERVICES

“Free” digital services are paid for — with data, attention and advertising exposure rather than money. Is the true price users pay too high, too low, or about right — and what, if anything, should policymakers do?

Q5 INFLATION AND UNEQUAL BURDENS

Both inflation and the fight against it impose costs — but rarely on the same people. When policymakers bring inflation under control, who gains, who pays, and how should the trade-off between price stability, employment and household welfare be struck?

Q6 TRADE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

When, if ever, does economic security justify sacrificing some of the gains from trade — and how should policymakers distinguish genuine security needs from protectionism?

Q7 PAYING FOR THE CLIMATE TRANSITION

The transition to a low-carbon economy must be paid for by someone: consumers, firms, taxpayers, or future generations. Which principles should guide how the burden is shared — ability to pay, responsibility for emissions, benefits received, or some combination — and what would your approach imply in practice?

03 CORE RULES

- **One question per essay.** Each essay must answer one official question directly. A participant may submit up to three separate essays.
- **2,000 words of main text.** The title, footnotes, figure and table captions, references and appendices do not count toward the limit. Appendices must not extend the main argument.
- **English is the judging version.** A clearly labelled first-language version may be attached, but it is not assessed separately.
- **APA 7 throughout.** Cite quotations, data, figures, tables and external ideas, and include a reference list.
- **The first essay is free.** The second and third each require a US\$20 additional-entry fee. Payment does not provide a judging advantage.
- **One late fee, not one per essay.** Submissions made from 26 September through 2 October require one fixed US\$10 late fee, whether you submit one, two or three essays.
- **One author per essay.** Material guidance, editing, translation, coding, data assistance and AI use must be disclosed accurately.

- **Process verification may follow.** A selected proportion of students may later be asked to provide process-verification material. It is not required with the initial formal submission.

04 AI, TRANSLATION AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

CORE PRINCIPLE

AI may help you explore concepts, test counterarguments, improve structure, check language, or assist with coding and data tasks. It may not replace the author. You remain responsible for every claim, quotation, calculation and sentence.

Fabricated sources or data, concealed AI-generated analysis, or submitting extensive AI-generated prose as your own work may lead to disqualification. Select “No AI used” in the formal submission if no AI tool was used.

Next: Stage 2 — Confirm Participation and Planned Entries. Reading this guide does not enter you into the prize.