

Guidelines to finalists

Changes to title, presentation and abstracts

1. AIM

The aim of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition is to provide an atmosphere of friendly competition for students and early career materials, minerals, mining, packaging, clay technology and wood science scientists and engineers so that their presentation skills will improve whilst addressing an informed audience.

2. RULES

- i.** The competition is open to anyone who is following, or has followed, a course in any aspect of Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science, Science and Engineering.
- ii.** The event is open to all persons age 18 to 28 or under on 1 June 2026.
- iii.** The UK final will be held between six regional finalists.
- iv.** Each entrant will give a presentation in English lasting between 12 and 15 minutes on a subject of their choice about any aspect of materials, minerals, mining, packaging, clay technology and wood science engineering.
- v.** No indication on timing will be given to competitors.
- vi.** Facilities at the National Final will permit OHP slides or computer-generated presentations to be used. NB PowerPoint is the software used at the National final.
- vii.** Questioning from each of the three of the judges (appointed prior to the event) will take place immediately after each presentation. Each judge will ask one question.
- viii.** The judges will retire to consider their verdict, and the result will be announced to competitors and audience at the end of the evening. It is up to the judges as to whether they just announce a winner or other place winners. In Regional finals a runner-up candidate will be identified in case the winner is unable to make the National final.

ix. If successful, the entrants will compete in the regional and national final with the same abstract and title with only minor changes to the presentation based on the judges' feedback.

3. JUDGING CRITERIA & PENALTIES

The following judging criteria will be the same for Local, Regional and National Competitions. Each entrant will be marked from a total of 100 points.

a.	Clarity and relevance of the entrant's abstract	10 marks
b.	Structure of the lecture, clarity of explanation and argument, neither assuming too much or too little knowledge on the part of the audience	25 marks
c.	Standard of presentation, clarity of diction, personal enthusiasm for the subject, ability to deliver lecture spontaneously (points deducted if constant reference to notes or memory aids interferes with the presentation)	25 marks
d.	Clarity and relevance of any visual aids used	10 marks
e.	Technical content of the presentation	15 marks
f.	Calmness and competence in handling judges' questions	15 marks

*One mark will be deducted if the presentation runs one minute under 12 or over 15 minutes.

5 marks will be deducted per minute the presentation runs under 11 and over 16 minutes.

4. 2026 YPLC UK FINAL

The 2026 UK final will be held in-person at The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Braziers, London on Thursday 21 May.

Travelling expenses and accommodation where necessary, will be paid for by IOM3 for those selected to compete in the National Final.

YPLC Organiser

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