

Schools Geology Challenge 2027:

Rules for participating schools

1. The Competition

The Schools Geology Challenge is a competition organised by The Geological Society of London, for students who are currently studying Geology, Geography or science subject A Levels, Advanced Highers or Leaving Certificate.

The competition runs in 2 stages:

- The Qualifiers
- The Final

In order to be considered for the Final, students must enter the Qualifiers. **The closing date for entries is no later than Wednesday 20 January 2027.** Further details can be found in Section 4a.

Entries to the Qualifier are assessed by a panel of judges. The top 10 scoring entrants are invited to take part in the Final.

The Final will be an in-person event and will take place **Thursday 18 March 2027**. Teams who attend the Final are invited to claim reimbursement of up to £1000 per team.

2. The Prize

The winning team of the Schools Geology Challenge will receive:

- An engraved trophy
- A certificate
- £500 to support the furtherance of geoscience education in their school
- A year's student membership to the Geological Society

The team which places as runner up will receive:

- A certificate
- £200 to support the furtherance of geoscience education in their school

All finalists will receive a certificate of participation.

Cash prizes must be used to further geoscience teaching within the winning teams' school. Details on how to claim cash prizes will be given to the winners after the competition Final.

3. Entry requirements

- Students should be studying A Levels (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), Highers/Advanced Highers (Scotland), Leaving Certificate (Ireland).
- Students should enter the competition in teams of 2-6 people.
- Schools can enter more than one team, providing that there no more than 6 pupils in each team.
- Students must submit an entry to the Qualifiers in order to be considered for progression to the Final.
- Entries to the Qualifiers should be submitted by **20 January 2027**. Teams who progress to the Final will be notified by **11 February 2027** at the latest.

4. Stages of the competition

a. The Qualifiers

In order to enter the Challenge, students should present a geoscience topic of their choosing which fits the **brief** in section 5.

Entries should be created in a digital format, suitable for uploading online. Full details are in the **brief**.

Entries must be submitted via the GSL website: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/geochallenge>

Entries must be submitted no later than Wednesday 20 January 2027

Submissions to the qualifiers must meet the following criteria:

- The work should be suitable for a non-expert audience aged 16-24.
- The work must not exceed 5 minutes in length; this includes all forms of media which must be able to be viewed within the 5-minute limit.
- Submissions must be fully credited; when submitting entries, all team members must be named.
- References **MUST** be used when appropriate, either in video descriptions, captions, poster footnotes or similar*

*If content is created as though for social media, but submitted privately, please note how the piece would be referenced when submitting.

b. The Final

The final will be held on Thursday 18 March 2027

The final will be an in-person event. Teams who attend in person at Burlington House will be reimbursed up to £1000 for travel and accommodation if required.

Teams who have made it to the finals will be contacted no later than 11 February 2027.

Teams who reach the Final will take part in a problem-solving activity. Details of the activity will be explained at the Final.

The Final will be judged by a panel of geoscience professionals.

The judges will choose one winning team and one team as runner-up.

5. Qualifiers: Brief for submissions.

To enter the Qualifiers of the Schools Geology Challenge, we would like you to present a geoscience topic of your choice created for an online audience who are non-experts aged 16-24. Your submission must meet the criteria outlined in this brief and be submitted no later than Wednesday 20 January 2027.

Steps to enter:

1. Choose a geoscience topic
2. Present your chosen topic for an online audience of non-experts aged 16-24
3. Submit your entry via the website at: www.geolsoc.org.uk/geochallenge

Submission Criteria:

- Your online audience are non-experts aged 16-24; your work must be suitable for this audience.
- Your submission must not exceed 5 minutes; your work must be able to be viewed within the 5-minute limit. This includes all media: videos, posters, websites etc.
- Submissions must be fully credited; when submitting your entry please name everyone in your team who was involved.
- You must use references where appropriate, either in video descriptions, captions, footnotes or similar. If you are unable to include references in the content itself then please submit them in a separate document with your submission. You will be marked down if your work doesn't include references.
- The name of your school must be included on the file name of your submission. If more than one team is entering from the same school, please give your team an identifiable name and include this in the submission.

Submissions will be judged according to:

- Scientific content and accuracy (50%)
- How effectively the topic is communicated to the assigned audience (25%)
- Creativity (25%)

Top Tips

Choosing your geoscience topic:

Your topic can be anything you like! It could be something that you are learning about in your classes or inspired by your own experience. You could choose a topic that is a case study, a concept, or phenomenon – as long as it's geoscience, we want to hear about it!

How to present your topic:

Be creative in how you present your topic: you could create a presentation and film yourselves delivering it in class, or over Zoom, or even turn it into a newsroom-style clip. You could document a coursework experiment via vlog or use social media apps like Instagram or TikTok* – or turn it into a mini documentary!

Presenting a topic doesn't have to involve speaking - you could use visuals to communicate your topic, such as an infographic or a cartoon strip.

Remember your audience, think about how best to communicate your topic to them. How will you make it engaging for them? Do you need to explain certain terminology for them to understand?

* Submissions can be designed for social media, but uploaded privately or sent separately for privacy reasons