Judge Certification Questions
Answer Key

1. Which is a recommended technique to reduce the stress of the judging process for teams?
    a. Using technical vocabulary in questions for teams
    (Incorrect. Technical vocabulary can be intimidating or confusing for some team members. Instead, rephrase the question to make it easier to understand.)
    b. Sitting behind a table for the duration of the judging sessions
    (Incorrect. Remaining sitting behind a table can make the judges seem even more intimidating. Instead, get up to greet teams, move around to interact with them, and rephrase questions to make them easier to understand.)
    c. **Rephrasing questions when a team provides an answer that does not seem to match the question you asked**
    (Correct! Be ready to ask questions in different ways to help the team understand what information you are seeking.)
    d. Asking coaches for additional information when the team does not fully answer a question
    (Incorrect. The coaches should not provide any information during judging sessions. Instead, rephrase questions to make them easier to understand.)

2. What is ***not*** required as you prepare to become a FLL judge?
    a. Participating in training before the tournament
    (Incorrect. Training is a required step to help you prepare to be an FLL Judge. You are not required to think about building and programming a robot to be a Judge.)
    b. Reading the Challenge document and Judge Prep Pack for your area
    (Incorrect. Reading the Challenge document and Judge Prep Pack is an important step in preparing to be a Judge. You are not required to think about building and programming a robot.)
    c. **Thinking about how you would build and program a robot to complete the Robot Game missions**
    (Correct! Judges will see many creative solutions to accomplish Robot Game missions from team members.)
    d. Becoming familiar with the rubrics for your area
    (Incorrect. Training is a required step to help you prepare to be an FLL Judge. You are not required to think about building and programming a robot to be a Judge.)

3. What is the best technique to help your judging sessions stay on time?
    a. Wait until the end of the day to write comments on the rubric

(Incorrect. Waiting until the end of the day to write comments is not considered a best practice, as there is often not time available at the end of the day and it diminishes the quality of comments written. Instead, start on time and quickly complete rubrics with comments between sessions.)

b. **Start on time, provide a few minute warning, and quickly complete the rubrics between sessions.**
(Correct! When you start and end on time, you will have enough time to complete rubrics and write brief, meaningful comments between sessions, and keep the judging process on time.)

c. If a team's session runs late, inform the next team they will have less time to make up the delay.
(Incorrect. Give teams a warning and stop judging sessions on time instead of taking time away from the next team.)

d. Take teams as they arrive at your judging room, even if they are not scheduled at that time.
(Incorrect. At most tournaments, a specific, detailed schedule is given to teams for judging sessions and robot game rounds. Judging teams on a different schedule can impact the timing of the entire tournament. Instead, start each session on time, end on time, and complete rubrics with short, meaningful comments in between teams.)

4. Which of the following teams is considered eligible for Core Awards?
   a. A team who had more than 10 members participate in judging sessions
   (Incorrect. FLL teams are limited to 10 team members. Teams who compete in all three parts of FLL are eligible for awards.)
   b. A team who previously in the season competed in a qualifying tournament of the same tier of events
   (Incorrect. FLL teams are only eligible for awards at their first official event at each tier events each season. Teams who compete in all three parts of FLL are eligible for awards.)
   c. **A team who participated in all three parts of FLL (Robot, Project, and Core Values)**
   (Correct! FLL teams must participate in all three judging sessions, plus the Robot Game, in order to be eligible for awards.)
   d. A team with clear evidence that adults did part of the work for the team
   (Incorrect. The Judge Advisor, together with the Tournament Director, has the discretion to disqualify a team from winning awards if there is clear evidence of major Core Values issues. Teams who compete in all three parts of FLL are eligible for awards.)

5. How should a team's age be accounted for in FLL Judging?
   a. Younger teams who perform well in your judging area should be ranked higher than a similarly performing team who is older.
   (Incorrect. All teams should be ranked based on their performance during judging sessions, regardless of age. Age may be used as a factor to decide between two otherwise equal teams.)

b. Older teams who perform well in your judging area should be ranked higher than a similarly performing team who is younger.
(Incorrect. All teams should be ranked based on their performance during judging sessions, regardless of age. Age may be used as a factor to decide between two otherwise equal teams.)

c. **After teams have been judged and ranked based on their performance, age may be one factor used to decide between two otherwise equal teams.**
(Correct! Age should only be used as one factor to help judges decide between two teams who performed equally.)

d. Older teams who do not perform well should be ranked lower than a similarly performing team who is younger.
(Incorrect. All teams should be initially ranked based on their performance during judging sessions, regardless of age, but age may be used as a factor to decide between two otherwise equal teams.)

6. Which technique best addresses a team where one child dominates the conversation?
a. Tell the talkative youth to stop talking and wait until another child speaks.
(Incorrect. Instead of abruptly scolding the team member, kindly interrupt and direct a question to another team member.)

b. **Kindly interrupt the talkative youth and ask a question directed to another team member or ask if anyone else has something to add.**
(Correct! A tactful interruption and direction toward another team member will ensure that all youth have the chance to participate in the judging session.)

c. Allow the child to continue talking since there is a lot of information to share.
(Incorrect. Although the team member may be the most knowledgeable, teams are expected to have all members participate in the judging sessions. Some teams may need you to assist with encouraging others to speak. Instead, tactfully interrupt the youth and direct a question to another team member.)

d. Direct your attention away from the talkative team member and only judge information shared by the rest of the team.
(Incorrect. While it is a best practice to kindly interrupt and direct a question to another team member, information shared by all team members should be considered in judging.)

7. In which situation should you give the team the benefit of the doubt, as your observation is <u>unlikely</u> to be part of a larger Core Values concern?
a. **A team's robot is large and has a complicated design**
(Correct! On its own, a team's complicated robot design or sophisticated Project solution is not a Core Values concern. If the team cannot answer questions or demonstrate understanding, however, report your concern to the Head Judge or Judge Advisor.)

Please refer to the In-Person Certification Instructions to use these questions at local FLL Judge Trainings.

b. Team members cannot answer questions about their team's Project solution
(Incorrect. When team members cannot answer questions or demonstrate understanding, it may show that adults did the work. After rephrasing questions to get more information, report your concern to the Head Judge or Judge Advisor. If the team had a complicated robot or sophisticated Project solution, give the team the benefit of the doubt, unless the team does not demonstrate they understand their work.)

c. A team member says that his dad programmed the team's robot
(Incorrect. This is direct evidence of adult intervention and is not a time to give the team the benefit of the doubt. After asking questions to get more information, report your concern to the Head Judge or Judge Advisor. If the team had a complicated robot or sophisticated Project solution, give the team the benefit of the doubt, unless the team does not demonstrate they understand their work.

d. Another team's coach reports that one team member was rude while waiting in line before a robot game round
(Incorrect. While this may in fact not be a Core Values concern, share the report with the Judge Advisor to make a final decision about its level of consideration. If the team had a complicated robot or sophisticated Project solution, give the team the benefit of the doubt, unless the team does not demonstrate they understand their work.)

8. Which judging style best supports a quiet, withdrawn, or nervous team?
a. Avoid making any changes in your judging style to give all teams a consistent judging experience
(Incorrect. FLL Judges are expected to adapt their judging style to best match the needs of the teams and most effectively gather the information needed to complete the rubrics. Instead, try commenting on an interesting part of the team's materials and ask for more information about it.)

b. Directing questions to the entire team and wait until a team member answers.
(Incorrect. Instead, often it is helpful to give teams a starting point by commenting on a notable part of the team's materials, and asking for more information or who worked on that part.)

c. Comment on a notable part of the team's robot, Project presentation, or teamwork activity and ask for more information about it.
(Correct! This technique can make teams more comfortable by allowing them to focus on one specific part of their work, avoids singling out a specific team member, and provides a starting point for the team to tell you about other parts of their work.)

d. Sit behind a table while asking questions to give a professional appearance.
(Incorrect. Sitting behind the judging table often makes judges seem intimidating to teams. Instead, try getting up from the table to greet the

team and asking the team to tell you more about an interesting part of their robot, Project presentation, or teamwork activity.)

9. Which situation does ***not*** need to be reported to the Judge Advisor as it is unlikely to indicate an inappropriate level of adult involvement?
    a. **A coach assists the team with carrying in their robot or project presentation materials**
        (Correct! In many cases, there is a clear reason why the adult is assisting the team, such as if Project presentation props are large or difficult to carry. Unless you observe additional evidence that the adults may be overly involved with the team, it is not necessary to mention this minor level behavior to the Judge Advisor.)
    b. A parent is seen using the team's computer at the team's pit table
        (Incorrect. An adult using a team's computer is often not an indication of adult intervention, as the adult may be simply checking email or offering appropriate assistance to the team. However, this behavior should be reported to the Judge Advisor for further investigation. A coach carrying team materials is considered a minor Core Values concern and does not need to be reported to the Judge Advisor unless you also observe other concerning Core Values behaviors.)
    c. A team says their coach built or programed part of their robot
        (Incorrect. If a team says any adult did part of the work, this should be reported to the Judge Advisor, as it is direct evidence of not adhering to the FLL Core Values. Instead, a coach carrying team materials would be considered a minor Core Values concern and does not need to be reported to the Judge Advisor unless you also observe other concerning Core Values behaviors.
    d. Team members look at the coach for answers while answering questions during the judging session
        (Incorrect. On its own, this behavior may simply indicate the team is nervous, but it is still appropriate to report this to the Judge Advisor. Judge Advisors will collect observations of teams throughout the tournament. If other observations are made of this team, the Judge Advisor may choose to further investigate potential adult invention. Instead, a coach carrying team materials would be considered a minor Core Values concern and does not need to be reported to the Judge Advisor unless you also observe other concerning Core Values behaviors.)

10. What is the best practice for each pair of Judges to create an initial overall ranking of teams?
    a. **Rank teams as you see them by keeping a list or making a pile of rubrics in rank order.**

(Correct! This method of ranking ensures that teams are evaluated while still fresh in the minds of Judges and provides an easy and efficient method of ranking teams)

b. Use the rubrics to create a numerical score and rank the teams in order of their scores.
(Incorrect. While Judges may choose to use some type of score to assist with comparing teams, the rank is the only number that is compared with other Judge pairs in the deliberations process. Instead of using any numerical score, it is considered a best practice to rank the teams as they are seen by putting the rubrics in a pile by rank or keeping a list.)

c. Wait until you have seen all the teams, and then rank order the teams.
(Incorrect. If you wait until you have seen all the teams, you may forget details making it more difficult to distinguish between similar teams. Instead, it is considered a best practice to rank the teams as they are seen by putting the rubrics in a pile by rank or keeping a list.)

d. Select the teams you wish to nominate for an award in your area first, and then list all other teams in any order below your award candidates.
(Incorrect. When creating the overall ranking of teams you have seen select teams who are strong in all the sub-areas and place each team rank order. It is considered a best practice to rank the teams as they are seen by putting the rubrics in a pile by rank or keeping a list. Teams are nominated for awards separately from their overall rank.)

11. Which team would be the best choice to receive a Champions Award?

   a. A team who is 4th in Robot Game, 2nd in Robot Design, 1st in Project, and 3rd in Core Values
   (Correct! Assuming the team is in the top 40% of Robot Game scores, this team's combined judging rank is the highest (2nd + 1st + 3rd = 6))

   b. A team who is 1st in Robot Game, 1st in Robot Design, 10th in Project, and 5th in Core Values
   (Incorrect. This team has met the 40% Robot Game score hurdle to be considered for Champions Award, but is not well rounded due to their rank in Project. This team's combined judging rank (1st + 10th + 5th = 16) makes them not as good a choice as the team who was 4th in Robot Game, 2nd in Robot Design, 1st in Project, and 3rd in Core Values.)

   c. A team who is 6th in Robot Game, 6th in Robot Design, 6th in Project, and 6th in Core Values
   (Incorrect. Even if this team has met the 40% Robot Game score hurdle to be considered for Champions Award, this team's combined judging rank (6th + 6th + 6th = 18) makes them not as good a choice as the team who was 4th in Robot Game, 2nd in Robot Design, 1st in Project, and 3rd in Core Values.)

   d. A team who is 2nd in Robot Game, 4th in Robot Design, 3rd in Project, 4th in Core Values

(Incorrect. This team has met the 40% Robot Game score hurdle to be considered for Champions Award, but their combined judging rank (4th + 3rd + 4th = 11) makes them not as good a choice as the team who was 4th in Robot Game, 2nd in Robot Design, 1st in Project, and 3rd in Core Values.)

12. At most tournaments, what should you do if your area judges finish initial deliberations before other areas?
     a. Visit the rest of the tournament and watch the final robot game rounds
        (Incorrect. While the schedule accommodates this at some tournaments, you should always get instructions from the Head Judge or Judge Advisor before leaving the Judge deliberations area. If you do leave, be sure to return on time to participate in final deliberations.)
     b. Judges are allowed to leave once initial deliberations are finished
        (Incorrect. Although there is some variation between tournaments, it is a best practice to have all judges participate in the entire deliberations process. You should always get instructions from the Head Judge or Judge Advisor before leaving the Judge deliberations area.)
     c. **Remain in the judging room and follow instructions from the Head Judge or Judge Advisor**
        (Correct! Most tournaments have a short timeline to complete the judging process. Be sure to get instructions from the Head Judge or Judge Advisor to help the process run as efficiently as possible. If you do leave, be sure to return on time to participate in final deliberations.)
     d. Offer to help with cleaning up the judging rooms
        (Incorrect. While there may be time to assist with cleaning up the judging rooms or other parts of the tournament, most tournaments have a short timeline to complete the judging process. Always get instructions from the Head Judge or Judge Advisor before leaving the Judge deliberations area. If you do leave, be sure to return on time to participate in final deliberations.)

13. Which is a role of the Head Judge within each area?
     a. Directing judges to select their own style for discussion when creating an overall ranking of teams
        (Incorrect. At most tournaments, in order to have a quick and efficient decision making process, the Head Judge for each area will lead the discussion among the judges to create an overall ranking of teams or when deciding among two candidates for an award.)
     b. Choosing candidates for each award within the area
        (Incorrect. The Head Judge should lead the Judges in discussion to select candidates for each award or when the Judges are deciding among two candidates for an award.)
     c. **Facilitating discussion among the Judges when deciding among two candidates for an award**

(Correct! The Head Judge's role is to lead the judge in a quick and efficient discussion to determine which teams will win awards.)

d. Allowing the most outspoken judges to lead discussions.
(Incorrect. All Judges should demonstrate gracious professionalism and allow everyone to participate in deliberations discussions. It's the Head Judge's role to lead the discussions and ensure that everyone gets to participate in the entire process, including deciding between two candidates for an award.)

14. Why are Judges are asked to stay and participate in the high-five line at the closing ceremony?

  a. It is a chance to celebrate with the youth and congratulate the teams for their accomplishments
  (Correct! It is also another chance for youth to interact with judges as positive role models.)

  b. Judges are needed to hand out awards to teams and clean up after the event.
  (Incorrect. While Judges often do hand out awards to teams and help clean up, it is important to stay to celebrate with the youth and congratulate the teams for their hard work.)

  c. It is in the Judge's job description to attend.
  (Incorrect. While Judges are usually expected to attend the closing ceremony, it is important to stay to celebrate with the youth and congratulate the teams for their hard work.)

  d. It is required for the Judges to demonstrate FLL Core Values by attending the closing ceremony.
  (Incorrect. It is important for Judges to stay through the closing ceremony to celebrate with the youth and congratulate the teams for their hard work.)

15. Why is it important to know the rules and rubrics for your area of judging?

  a. Judges who know the rules and rubrics give weight to the teams from their hometowns.
  (Incorrect. Knowing the rules and rubrics helps Judges to fairly and consistently evaluate teams regardless of their hometowns.)

  b. Judges who are prepared and engaged in the judging process judge teams fairly and consistently and enjoy the judging process more than unprepared judges.
  (Correct! Not only will you be a better judge if you are prepared, you'll also have a better experience as a Judge overall.)

  c. Judges who are familiar with the judging process are less interested in judging during the tournament day.
  (Incorrect. Being prepared helps judges to be engaged in the judging process throughout the day and will enjoy serving as a Judge much more than those who are unprepared.)

      d. Knowing the rules and rubrics increases the amount of confusion a judge is likely to experience during the tournament day.
(Incorrect. It's the opposite! Being prepared will help you be a fair and consistent judge as well as enjoy serving as a Judge much more than those who are unprepared.)

16. True or False?: Information gained when a judge visits a team's practice early in the season is appropriate to be included in the awards discussion process.
      a. True
(Incorrect. To keep the judging process fair for all teams, only information gained during the tournament day may be used in the awards discussion process.)
      b. False
(Correct. To keep the judging process fair for all teams, only information gained during the tournament day may be used in the awards discussion process.)

17. True or false?: If a team has an outstanding project and an impressive robot design, they can receive both a Project Award and a Robot Design Award.
      a. True
(Incorrect. Teams can only receive one award, so they cannot receive both a Project Award and a Robot Design Award. There are a few exceptions: Teams may receive a Robot Performance Award in addition to another Core Award. The Adult or Youth Coach/Mentors from a team may also receive awards in addition to the team receiving Core Awards.)
      b. False
(Correct! Teams can only receive one award, so they cannot receive both a Project Award and a Robot Design Award. There are a few exceptions: Teams may receive a Robot Performance Award in addition to another Core Award. The Adult or Youth Coach/Mentors from a team may also receive awards in addition to the team receiving Core Awards.)

18. True or false?: Judges in each area do not need to take into account Robot Game Scores when creating an overall ranking in each area.
      a. True
(Correct! Initial rankings are done independently of robot game scores. When choosing a Champions Award winner, the team must be in the top 40% of robot game scores at the tournament. If Judges are stuck deciding between two teams to win an award or advance to the next tournament level, Robot Game scores may become factor.)
      b. False
(Incorrect. Initial rankings are done independently of robot game scores. When choosing a Champions Award winner, the team must be in the top 40% of robot game scores at the tournament. If Judges are stuck

deciding between two teams to win an award or advance to the next tournament level, Robot Game scores may become factor.)