Project Judge Certification Questions
Answer Key

1. Which best describes the Project as outlined in the Challenge document?
    a. Requirements. All teams must complete every step in the entire Project document in order to be eligible for awards.
    (Incorrect. The Challenge document contains guidelines for the Project and specifically states which steps are requirements. Only the required steps must be completed to be eligible for awards.)
    b. **Guidelines. Teams must complete the steps that are specifically stated as requirements to be eligible for awards.**
    (Correct! The Challenge document specifically states which steps are requirements, in addition to some helpful suggestions for completing the Project. Only the required steps must be completed to be eligible for awards.)
    c. Helpful suggestions. Teams who are inspired to complete their project without following the required steps in the project document are still eligible for awards.
    (Incorrect. The Challenge document is a set of guidelines that specifically state which steps teams are required to complete in order to be eligible for awards.)
    d. Optional reading. Teams who do not read or follow the project document are eligible for awards.
    (Incorrect. The Challenge document is a set of guidelines that specifically state which steps teams are required to complete in order to be eligible for awards.)

2. True or false?: If a team does not identify the problem they studied, did not come up with a solution, or did not share their work, they are not eligible for Project awards consideration.
    a. **True**
    (Correct! Teams are required to complete all three steps of the Project in order to be eligible for awards, including identifying the problem, creating a solution, and sharing their work.)
    b. False
    (Incorrect. Teams are required to complete all three steps of the Project in order to be eligible for awards, including identifying the problem, creating a solution, and sharing their work.)

3. True or False?: A PowerPoint presentation is considered the standard method for teams to present their Project.
    a. True
        (Incorrect. Teams may choose any creative method to present their Project to Judges, including skits, songs, or PowerPoint presentations.)
    b. **False**
        (Correct! Teams may choose any creative method to present their Project to Judges, including skits, songs, or PowerPoint presentations.)

4. How should judges respond to teams who apply for patents as part of their work on the FLL Project?
    a. Rank the team higher than teams who have not applied for patents to recognize their efforts.
        (Incorrect. It is not expected that FLL teams apply for patents and they should be judged similarly to other teams. Instead, encourage the team to apply for the FLL Global Innovation Award.)
    b. **Encourage the team to apply for the Global Innovation Award and otherwise judge the team similarly to other teams, using the FLL rubrics.**
        (Correct! It is not expected that FLL teams apply for patents and they should be judged similarly to other teams. Instead, consider encouraging the team to apply for the FLL Global Innovation Award.)
    c. Rank the team lower than teams who have not applied for patents, due to too much adult involvement with the project.
        (Incorrect. It is not necessarily the case that teams who apply for patents have too much adult involvement. They should be judged similarly to other teams. Also, encourage the team to apply for the FLL Global Innovation Award.)

5. A team who presented their project solution to multiple researchers working in the field related to their solution should be marked at what level in the Sharing category on the rubric?
    a. Beginning
        (Incorrect. Since this team shared with multiple individuals who may benefit from their solution, they should be placed at the Exemplary level.)
    b. Developing
        (Incorrect. Since this team shared with multiple individuals who may benefit from their solution, they should be placed at the Exemplary level.)
    c. Accomplished

(Incorrect. Since this team shared with multiple individuals who may benefit from their solution, they should be placed at the Exemplary level.)

d. **Exemplary**
(Correct! Since this team shared with multiple individuals who may benefit from their solution, they should be placed at the Exemplary level.)

6. A team whose project solution already exists in the same way the team presents it should be marked as "Beginning" in what category on the rubric?

a. **Innovation**
(Correct! Since innovation includes improving existing options, new applications of existing ideas, or solving problems in a new way, when a team's solution or application already exists, they belong at the Beginning level under the Innovation category.)

b. Problem Analysis
(Incorrect. Since innovation includes improving existing options, new applications of existing ideas, or solving problems in a new way, when a team's solution or application already exists, they belong at the Beginning level under the Innovation category. Teams at the Beginning level of Innovation may also be placed at Beginning in Problem Analysis if they did minimal review and no analysis of the problem.)

c. Creativity
(Incorrect. The Creativity category focuses on the delivery of the team's presentation. Since innovation includes improving existing options, new applications of existing ideas, or solving problems in a new way, when a team's solution or application already exists, they belong at the Beginning level under the Innovation category.)

d. Implementation
(Incorrect. Since innovation includes improving existing options, new applications of existing ideas, or solving problems in a new way, when a team's solution or application already exists, they belong at the Beginning level under the Innovation category. If the team also only considered minimal factors for implementation, they might also be at the beginning level in the Implementation category.)

7. If a team leaves you confused about what problem the team's solution addressed and unsure how they shared their solution, the best way to reflect this on the rubric is by marking them at what level in the Presentation Effectiveness category?

a. **Beginning**

(Correct! The team's presentation was unclear and did not communicate effectively if you still have basic questions after the presentation.)

b. Developing

(Incorrect. The team's presentation was unclear and did not communicate effectively if you still have basic questions after the presentation, so it should be marked as "Beginning." During real judging sessions, you may use your judgment to determine whether a presentation was "unclear" and earned the Beginning level or was "partially clear" and should receive the Developing level.)

c. Accomplished

(Incorrect. The team's presentation was unclear and did not communicate effectively if you still have basic questions after the presentation, so it should be marked as "Beginning.")

d. Exemplary

(Incorrect. The team's presentation was unclear and did not communicate effectively if you still have basic questions after the presentation, so it should be marked as "Beginning.")

8. A team that a little bit of research into existing solutions to solve the problem they selected, but does not know if anyone has already developed a solution similar to theirs, should be marked as "Developing" in what category on the rubric?

a. Innovation

(Incorrect. The Innovation category focuses on whether their solution makes improvements in a new way. Instead, the Review Existing Solutions Category specifically asks teams to analyze existing solutions and make an effort to verify the originality of their solution.)

b. Team Solution

(Incorrect. The Team Solution category focuses on the team providing a clear explanation of their solution. Instead, the Review Existing Solutions Category specifically asks teams to analyze existing solutions and make an effort to verify the originality of their solution.)

c. Problem Analysis

(Incorrect. The Problem Analysis category focuses on the depth of study into the problem that the solution is solving. Instead, the Review Existing Solutions Category specifically asks teams to analyze existing solutions and make an effort to verify the originality of their solution.)

d. **Review Existing Solutions**

(Correct! The Review Existing Solutions Category specifically asks teams to analyze existing solutions and make an effort to verify the originality of their solution.)

9. Which team is the best candidate to receive the Research Award?
    a. Team A identified their topic after a team member's sister experienced the problem. The team asked their parents for more information about the subject, and then chose to adapt an existing solution to more effectively solve the issue.
        (Incorrect. This team would benefit from doing more extensive research and using more sources of information. A team who used a wide variety and quantity of sources would be a better candidate for the Research Award.)
    b. **Team B chose their topic after speaking with someone in their community who had experienced the problem first hand. They learned more about the issue from a professional in the field, looked it up on the Internet, watched a video about it, read several magazine and newspaper articles, and read an academic journal article about existing solutions.**
        (Correct! This team has a large number, high quality, and a wide variety of sources, making them a great candidate for the Research Award.)
    c. Team C chose their topic after watching a TV news story on the issue. They read about the issue in several Wikipedia articles and spoke to a college professor on a related subject. The team is not sure whether a similar solution was created before they came up with it.
        (Incorrect. This team would benefit from doing more extensive research into the problem and using more high quality sources of information. A team who used a wide variety, high quality, and large quantity of sources would be a better candidate for the Research Award.)
    d. Team D asked their parents for topic ideas and chose one of the suggestions. The team each read a book that addressed the subject before brainstorming solutions that they already knew existed.
        (Incorrect. This team would benefit from doing more extensive research and using more sources of information. A team who used a wide variety and quantity of sources would be a better candidate for the Research Award.)

10. What should you do when a team frequently pauses and looks at their coach for assistance during their Project presentation and while answering questions?

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

a. Mark the team lower in Presentation Effectiveness
   (Incorrect. Commenting under Presentation and asking additional questions are also good techniques in this situation.)
b. Provide a constructive suggestion to encourage the team to practice their presentation to become more confident presenting.
   (Incorrect. Marking the team lower under Presentation Effectiveness and asking additional questions are also good techniques in this situation.)
c. Ask additional questions about who worked on which parts of the project to determine whether there was too much adult involvement.
   (Incorrect. Marking the team lower under Presentation Effectiveness and commenting to encourage practice are also good techniques in this situation.)
d. All of the above.
   (Correct! The presentation cannot be effective if they are frequently looking for guidance. Be sure to ask additional questions to see if there was too much adult involvement and report any concerns to the Judge Advisor if needed.)

11. A team does not provide any information about how they shared their Project.
    What is the best practice for evaluating the team on the rubric for that category?
    a. During the judging session, ask the team about the missing information and mark the rubric appropriately based on their answers, and if the team still does not provide information, mark "ND" on the rubric for not demonstrated.
       (Correct! As the judging session progresses, keep notes about each rubric item. If a team has not provided any information about Sharing or any other category, ask questions that lead the team to provide the missing information. If you still have no information, select the "ND" category.)
    b. After the judging session, mark the "Beginning" box on the rubric, since the team has not shown a higher level of accomplishment in that area
       (Incorrect. For each rubric category, each level describes specific behavior from the team. If a team does not provide any information about any category, ask questions that lead the team to provide the right information, and if you still have no information mark them as "Not Demonstrated.")
    c. After the judging session, mark the "ND" box on the rubric, since the team has not demonstrated anything in that category
       (Incorrect. Judges should keep notes during the judging session to help them complete the rubric. If a team does not provide any information about any category, ask questions that lead the team to provide the right information. If you still have no information, you may mark them as "Not Demonstrated.")

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   d. After the judging session, find the team and ask them to provide more information about how they shared their Project and adjust your rubric evaluation accordingly.
(Incorrect. Rather than changing a rubric after a judging session, keep notes during the judging session that help you complete the rubric. If a team does not provide any information about any category, ask questions that lead the team to provide the right information. If you still have no information, then mark them as "Not Demonstrated.")

12. What is the best way to re-word a comment on a rubric that says, "Your team deserves the Champion's Award. You were the best team we have seen today."?

   a. Your team did an outstanding job in Project. We hope you win an award!
(Incorrect. Since awards decisions haven't been made at the time rubrics are completed, it is too early to suggest the team might win an award. You're only judging one of the three judging areas, so avoid commenting on overall performance and comparing a team to others at the tournament when evaluating and commenting using the rubric. Instead, compliment what the team did well and provide a helpful item for improvement.)

   b. Your team did a much better job at explaining your work than any other team we have seen today.
(Incorrect. Avoid comparing a team to others at the tournament when evaluating and commenting using the rubric. You're only judging one of the three judging areas, so avoid commenting on overall performance. Instead, compliment what the team did well and provide a helpful item for improvement.)

   c. We were impressed with your presentation. Great job!
(Incorrect. This comment doesn't give the team any meaningful feedback to help them be even better in the future. You're only judging one of the three judging areas, so avoid commenting on overall performance and avoid comparing a team to others at the tournament when evaluating and commenting using the rubric. Instead, compliment what the team did well and provide a helpful item for improvement.)

   d. Your team was outstanding and well-rounded. Consider fine tuning your solution, and sharing it with more people who might benefit! (Correct! This comment appropriately praises the team for being outstanding in Project. Teams at the Exemplary level can still improve. A great team can be even better by continuing to sharing their work.)

13. What is the best way to re-word a comment on a rubric that says, "Your proposed Project solution won't work."?

   a. Your explanation of your solution was difficult to understand.
(Incorrect. This leaves a lot open to interpretation and focuses on the negative. Instead, find a way to more positively give suggestions for improvement.)

b. You described costs of your proposed solution - It would benefit from additional attention on other factors relating to implementation, such as ease of manufacturing and feasibility of the solution. (Correct! This comment provides evidence of what the judges observed and gives specific rubric-based suggestions on how the team can improve without focusing on the negative.)

c. Your solution wasn't innovative and would likely not make life better. (Incorrect. This comment is focused on opinion and could be more action-oriented. Instead, find a way to positively give suggestions for improvement.)

d. Your team did not do sufficient study of the problem or existing solutions to provide a foundation for its solution. (Incorrect. The judge in this comment is making an assumption about the team's efforts. Instead, find a way to give suggestions for improvement, like additional analysis of research the team has done.)

14. What is the best way to re-word a comment on a rubric that says, "Your Project was off-topic."?

a. Your team's research was irrelevant. (Incorrect. This leaves a lot open to interpretation and focuses on the negative. Instead, find a way to give suggestions for improvement.)

b. You missed an instruction listed in the Challenge document that will significantly impact the team's ranking for awards. (Incorrect. This leaves a lot open to interpretation and focuses on the negative. Instead, find a way to describe what was missing and possible suggestions for improvement.)

c. Your team did an excellent job presenting and interacting with judges. Your team did not demonstrate that you met following Challenge requirements: *(List the Project requirements not completed by the team.)* **(Correct! This comment provides evidence of what the Judges observed and gives specific suggestion on how the team can improve without focusing on the negative.)**