

JUNIOR SCHOLARS - INTERVIEW ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Ages 12-14 | Duration: 10-15 minutes | Total: 80 marks | 2027 Theme: Technology & Globalisation | Calibration: KS3

Purpose: assess spoken communication, confidence, cross-subject knowledge, perceptive reasoning and the candidate's understanding of the annual theme.

Assessment Domain	Marks	Exceptional	Strong	Developing	Emerging
1. Use of Language & Communication	**20**	**17-20:** Speaks clearly and fluently; uses a broad, accurate vocabulary; organises answers logically; explains ideas independently and with effective detail.	**13-16:** Clear and mostly fluent; good vocabulary and organisation; minor language errors do not impede meaning; explanations are generally developed.	**9-12:** Meaning is usually clear but fluency, range or accuracy is uneven; ideas are partly developed and may require prompting.	**0-8:** Frequent breakdowns, very brief or unclear answers; limited vocabulary/grammar; difficulty sustaining or explaining ideas.
2. Confidence & Interview Presence	**10**	**9-10:** Composed, engaged and spontaneous; listens carefully; responds independently and handles follow-up questions with assurance.	**7-8:** Positive and attentive; mostly assured; answers independently with only occasional hesitation.	**5-6:** Variable confidence; answers may be short or prompt-dependent; some difficulty when challenged or asked to extend.	**0-4:** Reluctant or highly dependent on prompting; limited engagement or difficulty sustaining interaction.
3. Cross-Subject Knowledge & Application	**20**	**17-20:** Demonstrates secure breadth across humanities, English, STEM and general knowledge; makes accurate cross-subject links and applies knowledge to unfamiliar situations.	**13-16:** Good knowledge across several areas; mostly accurate; makes relevant links and can apply familiar concepts beyond simple recall.	**9-12:** Knowledge is uneven; accurate on familiar topics but connections and application are limited; some misconceptions may appear.	**0-8:** Knowledge is narrow or fragmented; frequent inaccuracies; struggles to connect subjects or apply knowledge.
4. Perception, Reasoning & Perspective	**15**	**13-15:** Identifies the key issue; reasons step by step; distinguishes fact, opinion and inference; considers alternative viewpoints and reaches a justified judgement.	**10-12:** Gives sensible reasons, supports views and recognises more than one perspective; conclusions are generally relevant.	**7-9:** Shows some reasoning but tends to be descriptive or one-sided; support is limited and conclusions are underdeveloped.	**0-6:** Gives unsupported assertions, misreads the issue or shows limited awareness of evidence, consequences or other perspectives.
5. Annual Theme: Technology & Globalisation	**15**	**13-15:** Explains both concepts and their relationship clearly; uses relevant real-world examples; weighs opportunities, risks and effects on different people or societies.	**10-12:** Shows accurate understanding; gives suitable examples and explains several effects, including some benefits and challenges.	**7-9:** Shows basic understanding but examples are general; connections between the two concepts or their wider effects are limited.	**0-6:** Understanding is superficial or uncertain; little relevant evidence; struggles to connect the theme to real-world contexts.

ASSESSOR GUIDANCE

Award any whole-number mark within each band. Reward the quality, relevance and development of responses rather than answer length. Follow-up probing may be used to test depth, adaptability and reasoning. Do not penalise accent: assess intelligibility, accuracy and effectiveness of communication. Interviewers should sample more than one subject area and give the candidate a fair opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the annual theme.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 80



SENIOR SCHOLARS - INTERVIEW ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Ages 15-17 | Duration: 10-15 minutes | Total: 80 marks | 2027 Theme: Technology & Globalisation | Calibration: KS4-KS5 transition

Purpose: assess spoken communication, confidence, cross-subject knowledge, perceptive reasoning and the candidate's understanding of the annual theme.

Assessment Domain	Marks	Exceptional	Strong	Developing	Emerging
1. Use of Language & Communication	**20**	**17-20:** Communicates fluently, precisely and with mature control; uses varied vocabulary and syntax; structures complex ideas concisely and adapts effectively to challenge.	**13-16:** Clear, fluent and accurate; uses a good range of language; answers are logical and developed; handles follow-up questions well.	**9-12:** Adequate but uneven control; some hesitation or imprecision; ideas are understandable but not consistently developed or well structured.	**0-8:** Frequent errors or fragmented delivery; limited vocabulary; difficulty expressing, clarifying or sustaining more abstract ideas.
2. Confidence & Interview Presence	**10**	**9-10:** Poised and intellectually assured; listens critically, engages naturally, responds to unexpected probes and self-corrects without losing coherence.	**7-8:** Confident and engaged; responds independently and maintains composure through most follow-up questioning.	**5-6:** Some assurance but performance is inconsistent; may rely on prompts or become less coherent under challenge.	**0-4:** Limited confidence or engagement; heavily prompt-dependent; difficulty sustaining a purposeful academic conversation.
3. Cross-Subject Knowledge & Application	**20**	**17-20:** Demonstrates broad, conceptually secure knowledge across humanities/social sciences, English, STEM and current affairs; synthesises fields and transfers knowledge to unfamiliar problems.	**13-16:** Strong knowledge across several fields; makes accurate connections and applies concepts effectively, with only minor gaps.	**9-12:** Knowledge is reasonable but patchy; application tends to remain within familiar contexts; cross-disciplinary synthesis is limited.	**0-8:** Narrow or inaccurate knowledge base; largely recall-driven; struggles to apply concepts or build connections between disciplines.
4. Perception, Reasoning & Perspective	**15**	**13-15:** Analyses assumptions, evidence quality, causal claims and trade-offs; considers counterarguments and limitations before reaching a balanced, justified conclusion.	**10-12:** Reasons clearly; uses evidence or examples; recognises alternative perspectives and makes sound judgements with some evaluation.	**7-9:** Shows some analysis but often remains descriptive or assertive; limited evaluation, qualification or consideration of counterarguments.	**0-6:** Reasoning is superficial, reductive or unsupported; little awareness of evidence quality, complexity or competing perspectives.
5. Annual Theme: Technology & Globalisation	**15**	**13-15:** Demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how technology and globalisation interact across economic, social, cultural, ethical, environmental and geopolitical contexts; evaluates consequences and uncertainty.	**10-12:** Well-informed understanding across several dimensions; uses relevant examples and evaluates major opportunities, risks and trade-offs.	**7-9:** Understands the main concepts and provides some examples, but analysis lacks depth, breadth or nuance.	**0-6:** Superficial or inaccurate understanding; limited contemporary relevance; struggles to analyse implications or relationships within the theme.

ASSESSOR GUIDANCE

Award any whole-number mark within each band. Reward the quality, relevance and development of responses rather than answer length. Follow-up probing may be used to test depth, adaptability and reasoning. Do not penalise accent: assess intelligibility, accuracy and effectiveness of communication. Interviewers should sample more than one subject area and give the candidate a fair opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the annual theme.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 80