

SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED BY



CNOOC



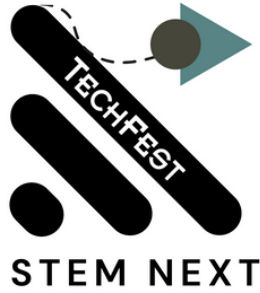
SERICA ENERGY



sse



THISTLE  
WIND  
PARTNERS



# MEDICINE & PSYCHOLOGY



[WWW.TECHFEST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TECHFEST.ORG.UK)



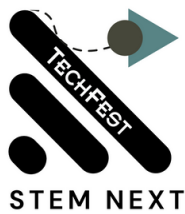
CNOOC



SERICA ENERGY



SSE

THISTLE  
WIND  
PARTNERS

## MEDICINE & PSYCHOLOGY

TechFest's STEM Next essay competition is open to all 16 - 18 year olds.

This is a solo project that will require independent research and writing. However, it is encouraged that participants get feedback from their peers or teachers before the final submission.

Entrants are invited to submit an essay that addresses one of the essay titles or questions outlined below. There is the option to write broadly about a general topic, or you can choose to go into greater detail on a specific aspect or question. Essay questions are provided below. You must select one of the topics provided, however, you have the freedom to tailor the question to your preference. In addition, regardless of your approach, your essay should fulfil the requirements below.

## ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

The essay should be **between 1000 to a maximum of 3000 words** in length (excluding footnotes, figure captions and references). All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited (including all websites and personal correspondence), and a full reference list should be included. In addition, **at least** one external industry professional must be interviewed as part of the research for the essay. A database of industry professionals (including their area of expertise and contact details) will be provided to each participating student as potential sources to contact. However, students are also free to make their own connections, or to get in touch for help identifying an expert in a particular field.

There is no rigid requirement for the structure and format of the essays, but good submissions will present clear arguments, a detailed reference list of sources, include illustrations (which could be graphs, plots, diagrams or pictures) and where possible provide some specific examples or cases. A good level of technical content is expected, but you should aim to make the essay interesting and accessible to an intelligent non-specialist audience. The essays will be judged by a panel of experts from various fields and prizes will be awarded to the winning entries.

## TECHFEST'S STEM NEXT ESSAY COMPETITION IMPORTANT DATES

**Deadline to register interest - 13/06/25**

**Deadline for essay submission - 29/08/25**

(don't forget to submit the cover sheet as well!)

**Winning essays announced - November 2025**



CNOOC



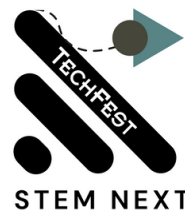
SERICA ENERGY



SSE



THISTLE  
WIND  
PARTNERS



## TECHFEST'S STEM NEXT MEDICINE & LIFE SCIENCE ESSAY COMPETITION PRIZES



First place - £200 Amazon vouchers  
Second place - £100 Amazon vouchers  
Third place - £50 Amazon voucher



Please note Amazon vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash or alternative prize.

### ESSAY CRITERIA SUMMARY:

- **Between 1000 to a maximum of 3000** words in length (excluding footnotes, figure captions, in text references and reference list).
- 12-point font minimum
- 2cm margins minimum
- 1.5 line spacing minimum
- Harvard style referencing for in text citations and full reference list (a downloadable referencing guide as well as online tutorials will be available).
- At least one illustration (this could be a graph, plot, diagram, table or picture) with appropriate figure or table legend and source material reference.
- An interview with at least one external industry professional (TechFest can help you find an appropriate interviewee, or you are welcome to find your own).
- Submissions must include a cover sheet (which can be downloaded from TechFest's website).
- **Authors of the selected top essays will be required to discuss their work in an online meeting with the panel of judges.**

### REGISTRATION

Students that wish to take part should register their interest **no later than 13/06/25** by submitting the online form --> [\*\*CLICK\*\*](#).

The project officially launches on **16/06/25** - at that point registered students will be sent a starting pack with all the information they will need to complete the project.

In addition, throughout the course of the competition we will be posting pre-recorded lectures on topics related to essay writing that will provide additional support and information. What is more, students are encouraged to contact us should they have specific questions about their essay.

**If you have any questions, please check the FAQ section on our website first. If your query is not answered there, contact [gabijablazyte@techfest.org.uk](mailto:gabijablazyte@techfest.org.uk)**



CNOOC



SERICA ENERGY



SSE

TWP

THISTLE  
WIND  
PARTNERS

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please write your essay on one of the questions provided below.

### Question 1.

Discuss the potential contribution of AI to the future development of medicines and/or diagnostic testing.

### Question 2.

Data suggests that the amount of time people spend with friends in person has decreased from 30 hours to 10 hours per month. What impact might this decline have on a person's well-being and what can be done to foster social connections in an increasingly digital world?

### Question 3.

The gut-brain axis is a physical connection between the digestive system and the central nervous system. Discuss how the gut-brain axis influences the human body in health and disease.

### Question 4.

Ozempic (semaglutide), a GLP-1 receptor agonist, is prescribed for type 2 diabetes to regulate blood sugar, slow digestion, and suppress appetite. Recently, it has gained popularity as a weight loss aid among non-diabetic users by reducing hunger and calorie intake. Discuss.

### Question 5.

It is widely recognised that art and music have a role in maintaining and/or improving health. Discuss the physiological processes involved.

### Question 6.

The People's Palace opened in 1898 to serve as a cultural centre for Glasgow's East End, a historically unhealthy and overcrowded area. It exemplifies how urban green spaces offer health benefits through recreation, education and social interaction. Discuss how green spaces can still be utilised to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED BY



**cnooc**



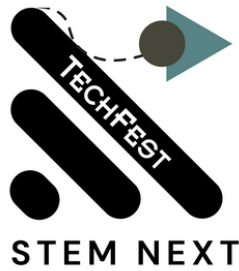
**SERICAENERGY**



**sse**

**TWP**

THISTLE  
WIND  
PARTNERS



**DON'T FORGET TO**

# **FOLLOW US**



**[WWW.TECHFEST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TECHFEST.ORG.UK)**