

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

What is Academy9?

Academy9 is an exciting educational initiative from Transport Scotland, linked specifically to the A9 Dualling programme. Academy9 has been developed in partnership with all the schools along the A9 corridor in addition to wider communities across Scotland, educational professionals, educational consultants, industry professionals and Transport Scotland. Academy9 is built on a series of progressive STEM activities and experiences providing the opportunity to learn both hard and soft skills. It is hoped that it will encourage pupils along the A9 corridor and beyond to consider STEM related careers. Please feel free to visit our website to find out more:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/academy9/>

What is the purpose of the Sustainable Solutions: Roads of the Future challenge?

As with all Academy9 initiatives, this challenge serves the purpose of building relationships and widening career horizons with pupils, teachers, parents, and the wider community, to embed STEM learning into the classroom using a real-life project example. This challenge will encourage pupils to engage with the principles underpinning sustainability and consider how these would be applied to the design and build of a road. In addition to learning about the importance and application of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this challenge also offers pupils the opportunity to learn highly sought skills, such as design, and enhance their soft skills, such problem-solving and effective communication.

Where can I find out more about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The SDGs are a set of targets related to future international development. They were created by the United Nations and promoted as the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. There are 17 goals and 169 specific targets for those goals. The SDGs run from 2015 to 2030. You can find out more by visiting the United Nations' SDG page:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Do pupils need to spend the full 10 hours on the challenge?

No, pupils do not need to spend the full 10 hours on the challenge. 10 hours is the maximum allotted time for undertaking the challenge. This challenge has been designed to be flexible for each school, therefore the hours spent on this challenge can be tailored to your school's timetable; for example, the hours could be spread over several weeks or contained within two 5-hour sessions.

How many pupils can be involved?

There is no limit to the number of pupils who can take part, however teams will comprise 4 to 6 pupils. After the duration of the challenge, internal judging should take place to put forward one team per school to the Academy9 judges.

What age group is this challenge for?

P6, P7, S1, S2 and S3.

Do the pupils have to make a model?

The pupils will be judged on their understanding of the challenge and their presentation to the Academy9 judges. If a group would rather focus on the design element, such as a presentation or illustration, instead of building a physical model they will not be penalised for this. Please refer to the judging criteria in the resource pack.

Can the model be made with any material/resources?

No, only recycled materials should be used in the designing and building of the road. Nothing new should be used to undertake this challenge.

Do we have to use the timetable and other pupil resources?

No, you don't need to use the timetable and other resources provided; these resources are optional and serve as a guide if your pupils want them.



Judging

How many teams can I put forward to the final judging?

One team per school.

Can I ask older pupils to act as judges?

Yes, anyone can be involved in the internal school judging including teachers, peers, and parents.

What will the judging entail?

The nominated teams' presentation should be submitted ideally as a video (5-7 minutes long), or other forms (powerpoint or posters) can be accepted as long as they cover the criteria in the judging proforma. Judges from the Academy9 team will review the road designs and choose the best teams to be invited to the final round. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Overall Primary, Overall Secondary, and People's Choice. All participants will receive a certificate of participation (i.e. most sustainable).

Industry Mentors

What is the role of the industry mentor?

The industry mentor is there to support each group in your school. They should be used to sign off on the plans for the model before pupils begin constructing them. They can provide advice on the challenge, such as the materials to use and the application of the SDGs, and they can also provide advice on the judging process, such as providing presentation tips.

How much can we rely on our industry mentor?

You will be introduced to your industry mentor when you embark on the challenge. A call or email agreement should be made on how much time they can and are expected to commit.

Can pupils contact the industry mentors directly?

No, emails should be sent through the school teacher.

