



Here are some FAQs regarding the Gresham College Young Orator of the Year Competition 2026

What is the Gresham College Young Orator of the Year Competition?

The Gresham College Young Orator of the Year Competition is a competition for students, inviting them to record and submit a short presentation on a particular topic, answering **one** of the questions provided. It is designed to promote the art of communicating complex information in a clear, concise and compelling way.

What are this year's questions?

This year the questions have been posed to allow you to answer them if you're interested in a variety of subjects. Your presentation should focus on **one** of the following questions:

- Do protests do more harm than good in today's society?
- Is tradition something that we should preserve or challenge?
- Does cancel culture help society progress, or silence free speech?
- Should AI ever be allowed to make life changing decisions? (for example - in Medicine, Law or Policing)?
- Many theatre critics describe theatrical productions as 'vital'... Are they?
- Are global tourism and sustainability fundamentally incompatible?

Who can enter the competition?

Year 12 students in England and Wales, S5 students in Scotland and Year 13 students in Northern Ireland. Not open to mature students.

Are students allowed to join the competition as a pair or group?

No, individual entries only; if we receive a presentation with two or more people in the video, your entry will be disqualified.

However, you can work together on filming/provide feedback on your peers to help them give a better presentation

Should I use a powerpoint presentation, graphic elements, props or animations?

You have a bit of leeway as to how you construct your video, but the main focus should be you speaking. We need to see you speaking to us on camera, not just the audio.

You can use images, graphs or other visual props if you feel that helps explain your points, but you won't be judged on this.

You will however need to have a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation if you are shortlisted and asked to present at the final in London.

Watch our super helpful video to help you get inspired with some great hints and tips in helping create a fantastic presentation!: gres.hm/competition

Can I use notes?

Yes if you want to, but don't read from them throughout the whole presentation – we want to see you be confident and at ease with speaking to an audience

When should I submit my presentation?

The deadline for submission is 6pm on 20 March 2026. Please don't leave it until the last minute to submit your entry as if there are any technical issues it will delay your submission and may result in your entry not being included.

How do I submit my presentation?

The submission is done via <https://form.jotform.com/253493074952363>

1. please fill out the entry form
2. upload the video file at the bottom of your entry form – **please make sure that your first name and surname are in the title of your video file**
3. If you are uploading the video on behalf of someone else, please make sure the **student's name** is on the uploaded file
4. please ensure you have all the relevant information before you begin the form – you need to input all the details and upload the file in one sitting

What are the rules for entering?

- Presentations must be **no longer than 5 minutes** – if you submit a video that is longer than 5 minutes your entry will be **disqualified**
- When you start your presentation, please state your name, your school and which question you are answering
- You must be on camera, we need to see how you present the information
- The video you submit must have no editing – practice a few times and then record
- Act as though you are presenting to a live audience at Gresham College
- Do not sit and read from your notes throughout your presentation
- Your video must be you alone, we cannot accept entries that are done in pairs or groups
- Do not use AI (we are checking!) – we want to hear your argument in your own words
- If shortlisted, you will perform the same presentation as the one you entered

What happens after I submit my presentation?

We will let you know if you have been shortlisted from 6 May 2026.

Following shortlisting, finalists will be invited to an afternoon of tailored coaching to help boost their skills in presenting in a more confident way. This will also be a great chance to meet their fellow finalists. This will take place on Saturday June 6 2026 at Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall in central London.

The final will take place on 1 July 2026 in London where students will present their topic live; each finalist will have five minutes to present and five minutes for Q&A with the judging panel. For the final we can give you guidance in creating slides for your presentation, and we will schedule time for a practice session earlier in the day.

Three Gresham medals will be awarded (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

Please note this competition is open to state school or sixth form college students only.