

Judging rubric and checklist

Each criterion is scored out of 10 and weighted. Teams: use the checklist as a build list on the day. If every box is ticked, you have a complete submission. Judges: score each criterion independently, then apply the weight.

Functionality (30%)

Does it work end to end on real input? Judges use it live, not just watch a video.

- Core flow completes without the team stepping in
- Handles messy or unexpected input without breaking
- Deployed somewhere the partner can open it

Score / 10

Weight 30%

Weighted

Use of AI (25%)

Is AI doing real work here, or bolted on? Teams explain what the model does and where they chose not to use it.

- AI solves a task that was genuinely slow or manual before
- Prompts, models or tools chosen deliberately and explained
- Wrong or low confidence output is handled, not hidden

Score / 10

Weight 25%

Weighted

Real-world impact (20%)

How much time, cost or friction does this remove for the partner in the next month?

- Solves the brief as written, scoped with the partner
- Clear before and after: hours saved, steps removed, people reached
- Partner says they would trial it

Score / 10

Weight 20%

Weighted

Design and usability (15%)

Could someone at the partner organisation use it with no training?

- Plain language, no jargon or developer-only screens
- Works on the devices the partner actually uses, including phones
- Accessible: readable contrast, keyboard usable, translation friendly

Score / 10

Weight 15%

Weighted

Presentation (10%)

A one minute demo that shows only the project, plus a 100 word description submitted with it.

- Project shown in one minute, no preamble
- 100 word description submitted alongside the demo
- Honest about limits and what is still unfinished
- Clear next step if the project is adopted

Score / 10

Weight 10%

Weighted

Total and tie-breaks

Total score is the sum of the five weighted scores, out of 100. Ties are broken on real-world impact, then on the partner's own score. Judges may award a separate commendation for the strongest first-time team.

Team

Judge

Total / 100

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