



Nottingham-World Bank Asian Economics Essay Competition 2026 Terms and Conditions

1. The topic of the essay competition is:
 - a. **Pre-university category:** *“Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies are transforming economies across Asia. Will these technologies widen or reduce economic inequality in the region? Discuss the potential impacts and propose policies that governments should adopt to ensure inclusive digital growth.”*
 - b. **Undergraduate category:** *“Geopolitical tensions and rising protectionism are contributing to the fragmentation of global trade. To what extent will this trend reshape Asia’s economic development model, and what policy strategies should Asian economies adopt to remain competitive in a more fragmented global economy?”*
2. The competition is open to two categories of students in Asia: (i) all pre-university students (including those currently enrol in A level, STPM, UEC, international schools, foundations and other pre-university programmes) and high school students; (ii) all undergraduate students.
3. Submission can be from a single author or joint authored by a maximum of two authors.
4. The following prizes will be awarded to each category:

First prize	: RM 1,000.00
Second prize	: RM 800.00
Third prize	: RM 600.00
5. The winning essays will be selected by a panel of judges from the School of International Relations, Politics and Economics at the University of Nottingham Malaysia and the World Bank Group Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Finance Hub in Malaysia. The decision on the winning essays by panel of judges is final and no appeal will be accepted.
6. The essays will be judged according to the following criteria:
 - i) Originality / creativity of ideas
 - ii) Structure and presentation of the essay
 - iii) Depth of analysis and arguments
7. Only one entry per student is permitted.

8. Entries to the competition must be unique (i.e., not published elsewhere or submitted to other essay competition) and original in content. Entries found to contain plagiarism will be disqualified. A bibliography acknowledging references to existing work is required.
9. The essays should be accessible to a wide audience. They are not meant to be academic journal-style papers.
10. The essays may include charts and tables; equations should be avoided as far as possible.
11. Entries must be in English. The word count should be between 1,500 to 2,000 words (excluding charts, tables, and references, but including footnotes). **Essays with less than 1,500 words will be automatically disqualified to discourage frivolous entries.**
12. Participants may use AI tools (e.g., Copilot, ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.). Any use must be declared in a 50-100 word statement appended to the end of the submission (not counted in the word limit), explaining which tools were used, how they supported your work, and confirming that the final submission reflects your own understanding, analysis, and critical thinking. Undeclared or inappropriate use of AI may be treated as a breach of competition rules.
13. To participate in this competition, fill out the participation form at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/nGPKBu7q73> and follow the instructions there to submit the essay. The submission deadline is **14 August 2026, 23:59 Malaysia time.**
14. For joint authorship, key in the names and info of both authors in the same boxes in the participation form, separated by appropriate punctuation marks or spacing.
15. For anonymous judging, **please do not write your name or your school anywhere in the essay itself.**
16. The essay must be submitted as a single **pdf file** of less than 20MB in size to the link mentioned in the participation form. The file must be named in the following format “[first letter of your name]_[last letter of your name]_[8 numerical numbers of your choice].pdf”.

For example, if your name is Keynes Hayek, your file name can be K_K_13146688. For joint authored essays, use only the first author’s first letter and last letter of the name.
17. Entries that do not adhere to points 14 and 15 above will be automatically disqualified.
18. The results will be announced at the latest in the final quarter of 2026. The organiser reserves the right not to award any or all the prizes and shall own the copyright to the entries. Only prize winners will be contacted by the organiser.

19. Close family members (defined as children) of employees in the School of International Relations, Politics and Economics, University of Nottingham Malaysia and the World Bank Group Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Finance Hub in Malaysia are not eligible to participate in the essay competition.
20. A brief video guide on how to write a good economic essay can be found [here](#).
21. Questions regarding the competition can be addressed to
Dr. Saizi Xiao
Associate Professor and Director of External Engagement,
School of International Relations, Politics and Economics, University of Nottingham Malaysia
xiao.saizi@nottingham.edu.my