**Competition Brief**

**Competition Title**

Forensic Science

**Competition Overview**

## Forensic scientists examine crime scenes to collect, preserve, and analyse scientific evidence during the course of an investigation. In addition to their laboratory role, forensic scientists testify as [expert witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expert_witness) by providing factual evidence in court, relating to both deliberate and accidental incidents. Their expertise and high standards are vital to ensure the guilty are prosecuted.

##

## In this competition, competitors will be assessed on their understanding and knowledge of Forensic Science and its use within the United Kingdom criminal justice system. They will need to demonstrate the ability to maintain integrity and continuity throughout the examination, ensuring appropriate examination techniques and procedures are conducted at all times.

##

## Live competition heats will be held at various venues across Wales.

Skills events are available with Hannah Seale at the University of South Wales which will give students an opportunity to learn the expected core skills.

##

## Entry Criteria

## This competition is for those training for a career in Forensic Science and studying up to a Level 3 qualification or apprenticeship; including students who have completed Level 3 Qualification in the last 12 months. Please ensure your entrants have the skills and competencies to complete the tasks.

##

## Entry capacity restrictions by organisation

Maximum of **3 entries per location**. **Reserves** may also be registered to account for potential absences or withdrawals.

This is the maximum number of entries permitted by an organisation for this competition.

This is determined by ‘location’ and ‘organisation’. ‘Organisation’ refers to the competitors’ training provider/employer. ‘Location’ refers to a site where the competitor studies / is employed.

This competition may be subject to a selection process if competitor registration numbers exceed the host venue capacity. Where capacity is identified in a competition the reserve competitors may be invited to compete.

The decision will be made following a consultation between Skills Competition Wales and the competition lead after registration closes. All parties will be notified of any changes.

For further guidance on these capacities, [click here.](https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/competitions/competition-registration-guide)

**Brief**

## This is an individual competition and is an all day event. The event will be split into a morning activity (2 hours) and an afternoon activity (2 hours). The competition requires individuals to:

* Understand processes and systems used in the Forensic Science industry.
* Identify and analyse a range of evidence types.
* Understand evidential significance.
* Use specialist equipment.
* Utilise time management skills.
* Consider all personal safety measures when working with crime scenes.

The challenge will be based on a crime scenario where forensic opportunities exist to support the investigation. Competitors will be asked to complete two tasks during the competition. For the first task (lasting two hours) competitors will be based at the crime scene, and for the second task (two hours) they will work in a laboratory.

At the crime scene, Competitors will be required to maintain integrity and continuity throughout examination of the scene, ensuring appropriate examination techniques and procedures are conducted in accordance with the National Occupational Skills (NOS) competency framework. Competitors will be expected to collect, package, label and record evidence inline with the recommended guidelines. Standard operating procedures will be provided on the day. Competitors are required to understand sequential processing at the scene.

The competitors must be mindful of the rules of evidence, chain of continuity and cross contamination as they identify evidence at the scene, and complete the required crime scene paperwork, that will include sketches, evidence tables, process descriptions and reasoning and submission information.

Forensic scientific analysis of exhibits from the crime scene will take place in the second, laboratory based, task. Competitors are expected to risk assess this activity, and interpret their findings. This could include blood pattern analysis, fingerprint enhancement, trace evidence search and recovery, presumptive testing, footwear analysis, chemical testing and DNA recovery and analysis. These are a few examples of the potential tasks that could be presented to the competitors in the laboratory analysis.

All exhibits will be entered onto Scene Logs, and analyses conducted on exhibits reported in the laboratory books as provided. The use of outside influences or conferring with other competitors during this stage of the competition will result in disqualification.

Previous competition briefs are available to view and download via the Skills Competition Wales website, please [click here](https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/competitions/forensic-science/archives) to access.

**Infrastructure List**

All equipment, including protective clothing, will be provided for the tasks. You will also be provided with a notebook and essential stationary.

You may, but don’t have to, bring the following items:

* Your own (company branded) lab coat (must be clean!).
* Your own goggles (essential if you wear goggles with eye corrections).

Competitors will not be permitted to use the following during the competition:

* Mobile phones or any other devices with internet access (permitted during lunch break).
* Headphones.

If you have any allergies, e.g. to gloves, please advise the organisers well in advance so that they can arrange alternatives or grant permission for you to bring your own. It is at the discretion of the laboratory manager and lead judge to disallow competitors from entering the laboratory or exclude them from the competition, for example for any serious breaches of laboratory safety or inadequate clothing (e.g. flip-flops), or if there are health concerns.

**Competition Rules**

For full terms and conditions of entry and competition rules [visit](http://www.inspiringskills.gov.wales/terms-and-conditions).

**Generic competition rules**

* Mobile phones are to be switched off during competition activity.
* Listening to music via headphones is not permitted during competition activity.
* Any questions during competition activity should be addressed to the competition judging panel.
* Competitors should not communicate with other competitors during competition activity.
* It is the responsibility of each competitor to arrive on time for each competition session. No additional time will be allowed if you arrive late.
* Technical failure of your equipment should be reported immediately to the judging panel. Additional time will be allocated if the fault is beyond the control of the competitor.

**Marking and Assessment**

Marking and judging of this competition will be done by a team of experts from Industry, Further Education or Training Provider, using a marking criteria and allocated marks to ensure consistency.

The scene log/laboratory notebook needs to be completed with as much detail as possible, in English and in ink. It must be legible and all pages must be numbered with the total number of pages being inserted onto the bottom of each page. You will be handed this during the brief at the start of the competition.

**Breakdown of marking and assessment:**

| **Aspect** | **Criterion** | **Max Mark** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation and Management | Clear understanding of correct use of crime scene logs, Maintenance of evidence continuity throughout the exercise, safety considered (including correct PPE), accurate laboratory record keeping, sequential processing rules and professionalism. | 10 |
| Evidence Selection | Ability to identify and justify all the available forensic opportunities from the crime scene. | 20 |
| Completed Paperwork and SOPs. |  Completion of the provided paperwork that will include descriptions, evidence reasoning, sketches, submission logs. It is expected that Competitors refer to the provided standard operating procedures provided. | 20 |
| Laboratory Techniques  | Ability to analyse exhibits using correct scientific protocol | 20 |
| Laboratory Paperwork | Ability to complete comprehensive notes inline with industry standards.  | 20 |
| Analysis, Interpretation and evaluation | Ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate results of laboratory forensic analysis of exhibits. It is expected that Competitors refer to the provided standard operating procedures provided. | 10 |
|  | **Total Marks** | **100** |

**Feedback and Recognition**

Individual and Group verbal feedback will be provided at the end of the competition. No results or awards will be awarded on the day as marking will be quality assured.

All competitors will be issued with a Participation Certificate on the competition day. First, second, third and highly commended awards will be announced during the celebration event. The highly commended award recognises all competitors who have achieved above average. The celebration event will be held on Wednesday 18th March 2026, further details will be communicated to competitors and their points of contact by email.

Marksheets will be available upon request via info@skillscompetitionwales.ac.uk to competitors after the celebration event.

**Competition Lead**

**Lead Contact and Expert Contact**

Hannah Seale

Hannah.seale@southwales.ac.uk

**Our partners**

This competition is delivered in partnership with



**Briff y Gystadleuaeth**

**Teitl y Gystadleuaeth**

Gwyddoniaeth Fforensig

**Trosolwg o’r Gystadleuaeth**

## Mae gwyddonwyr fforensig yn archwilio safleoedd trosedd i gasglu, cadw a dadansoddi tystiolaeth wyddonol ar gyfer cynnal ymchwiliad. Yn ogystal â'u rôl mewn labordai, mae gwyddonwyr fforensig yn cyflwyno tystiolaeth fel tystion arbenigol drwy ddarparu tystiolaeth ffeithiol mewn llys barn. Bydd y dystiolaeth hon yn ymwneud â digwyddiadau bwriadol a damweiniol. Mae eu harbenigedd a'u safonau uchel yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod yr euog yn cael eu herlyn.

## Yn y gystadleuaeth hon, bydd cystadleuwyr yn cael eu hasesu ar eu dealltwriaeth a'u gwybodaeth o Wyddor Fforensig a'r defnydd o’r wyddor honno o fewn system cyfiawnder troseddol yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Bydd angen iddyn nhw ddangos y gallu i gynnal cywirdeb a dilyniant drwy gydol y gwaith archwilio, gan sicrhau bod technegau a gweithdrefnau archwilio priodol yn cael eu defnyddio bob amser.

Cynhelir rowndiau rhagbrofol byw mewn sawl lleoliad ledled Cymru.

Mae digwyddiadau sgiliau ar gael gyda Hannah Seale ym Mhrifysgol De Cymru a fydd yn rhoi cyfle i fyfyrwyr ddysgu'r sgiliau craidd disgwyliedig.

**Meini Prawf Cystadlu**

Mae’r gystadleuaeth hon ar gyfer y rheini sy’n hyfforddi am yrfa mewn Gwyddoniaeth Fforensig ac sy’n astudio tuag hyd at gymhwyster Lefel 3 neu brentisiaeth; gan gynnwys myfyrwyr sydd wedi cyflawni Cymhwyster Lefel 3 yn y 12 mis diwethaf.

Sicrhewch fod gan eich ymgeiswyr y sgiliau a’r cymwyseddau i gyflawni’r tasgau.

**Cyfyngiadau ar nifer y ceisiadau fesul sefydliad**

Uchafswm o hyd at **3 fesul lleoliad.** Gellir cofrestru **cronfeydd wrth gefn** hefyd i gyfrifon absenoldeb neu dynnu'n ôl os bydd angen.

Dyma’r uchafswm o geisiadau a ganiateir gan unrhyw sefydliad am y gystadleuaeth hon.

Mae hyn yn cael ei bennu fesul ‘lleoliad’ a ‘sefydliad’.  Mae ‘Sefydliad’ yn cyfeirio at ddarparwr hyfforddiant/cyflogwr y cystadleuydd. Mae ‘Lleoliad’ yn cyfeirio at le mae’r cystadleuydd yn astudio / cael ei gyflogi.

Gall y gystadleuaeth hon fod yn destun proses ddethol os yw'r niferoedd cofrestru cystadleuwyr yn fwy na chapasiti'r lleoliad cynnal. Lle nodir bod capasiti ar gyfer y gystadleuaeth, gellir gwahodd cystadleuwyr wrth gefn i gystadlu.

Bydd y penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn dilyn ymgynghoriad rhwng Cystadleuaeth Sgiliau Cymru ac arweinydd y gystadleuaeth ar ôl i'r cofrestru gau. Bydd pob parti yn cael gwybod am unrhyw newidiadau.

Am fwy o arweiniad ar y niferoedd hyn, [cliciwch yma](https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/competitions/competition-registration-guide).

**Briff**

## Cystadleuaeth unigol ydy hon ac mae'n parhau am ddiwrnod cyfan. Bydd y dydd yn cael ei rannu gyda un gweithgaredd yn y bore (2 awr) ac un gweithgaredd yn y prynhawn (2 awr). Mae'r gystadleuaeth yn gofyn i unigolion:

* Deall y prosesau a’r systemau a ddefnyddir yn y diwydiant Gwyddoniaeth Fforensig
* Adnabod a dadansoddi amrywiaeth o fathau gwahanol o dystiolaeth.
* Deall arwyddocâd tystiolaethol
* Defnyddio offer arbenigol
* Defnyddio sgiliau rheoli amser
* Ystyried pob mesur diogelwch wrth weithio gyda safleoedd trosedd

Bydd yr her yn seiliedig ar senario o drosedd ble mae cyfleoedd fforensig yn bodoli i helpu’r ymchwiliad. Gofynnir i gystadleuwyr gyflawni dwy dasg yn ystod y gystadleuaeth. Am y dasg gyntaf (sy’n para dau awr) bydd y cystadleuwyr wedi’u lleoli wrth y safle trosedd, ac am yr ail dasg (dwy awr) byddant yn gweithio mewn labordy.

Wrth y safle trosedd, bydd angen i’r cystadleuwyr gynnal cywirdeb a dilyniant drwy gydol yr archwiliad, gan sicrhau y caiff technegau a gweithdrefnau archwilio priodol eu defnyddio yn unol â fframwaith cymhwysedd y Safonau Galwedigaethol Cenedlaethol (NOS). Mae disgwyl i gystadleuwyr gasglu, pecynnu, labelu a chofnodi tystiolaeth yn unol â'r canllawiau a argymhellir. Bydd y gweithdrefnau safonol yn cael eu darparu ar y diwrnod. Mae'n ofynnol i'r cystadleuwyr ddeall trefn y prosesau yn y lleoliad.

Rhaid i'r cystadleuwyr fod yn ymwybodol o reolau tystiolaeth, y gadwyn dilyniant a chroeshalogiad (*cross* *contamination*) wrth iddyn nhw nodi tystiolaeth yn y lleoliad a chwblhau'r gwaith papur angenrheidiol ar gyfer lleoliad y drosedd. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys brasluniau, tablau tystiolaeth, prosesu disgrifiadau a rhesymu a chyflwyno gwybodaeth.

Am yr ail dasg, mewn labordy, cynhelir dadansoddiad gwyddonol fforensig ar arddangosion o’r safle trosedd. Bydd disgwyl i gystadleuwyr gynnal asesiad risg am y gweithgaredd hwn a dehongli’r canlyniadau. Mae hyn yn gallu cynnwys dadansoddi patrymau gwaed, gwella olion bysedd, chwilio ac adfer tystiolaeth olrhain, profion tybiedig (*presumptive testing*), dadansoddi olion esgidiau, profion cemegol ac adfer a dadansoddi tystiolaeth DNA. Dyma ychydig enghreifftiau o'r tasgau posibl y gellid eu cyflwyno i'r cystadleuwyr yn y dadansoddiad yn y labordy.

Mae’n rhaid cofnodi pob arddangosyn yn y Cofnodion Safle a chofnodi unrhyw ddadansoddi a gynhaliwyd o’r arddangosion yn y llyfrau labordy a ddarperir. Bydd defnyddio dylanwadau allanol neu ymgynghori â chystadleuwyr eraill yn ystod y cam hwn o’r gystadleuaeth yn arwain at waharddiad.

Mae briffiau cystadleuaeth flaenorol ar gael i'w gweld a'u llwytho o’r wefan Cystadleuaeth Sgiliau Cymru, [cliciwch yma](https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/competitions/forensic-science/archives) i gael mynediad iddynt.

**Rhestr Seilwaith**

Darperir yr holl offer, gan gynnwys dillad diogelwch, ar gyfer y tasgau. Byddwch hefyd yn cael llyfr nodiadau ac offer ysgrifennu angenrheidiol.

Cewch hefyd ddod â’r eitemau canlynol gyda chi (ond nid yw’n angenrheidiol):

* Eich cot labordy (lân!) eich hun (gyda logo eich cwmni).
* Eich goglau eich hun (angenrheidiol os ydych chi’n gwisgo goglau sy’n cywiro

 eich llygaid).

Ni chaniateir i gystadleuwyr ddefnyddio’r offer canlynol yn ystod y gystadleuaeth:

* Ffonau symudol neu unrhyw ddyfeisiau eraill sy’n gallu cyrchu’r we (caniateir yn ystod yr awr ginio).
* Clustffonau.

Os oes gennych unrhyw alergeddau e.e. i fenyg, dywedwch wrth y trefnwyr ymhell ymlaen llaw fel y gallan nhw wneud trefniadau eraill neu roi caniatâd i chi ddod â’ch rhai eich hun. Cyfrifoldeb rheolwr y labordy a’r prif feirniad yw penderfynu gwahardd cystadleuwyr rhag dod i mewn i’r labordy neu eu diarddel o’r gystadleuaeth, e.e. am dorri rheolau diogelwch y labordy neu am ddillad anaddas (e.e. fflip-fflops), neu os oes pryderon am iechyd.

**Rheolau’r Gystadleuaeth**

Am restr gyflawn o delerau ac amodau cystadlu a rheolau’r gystadleuaeth [ewch i](http://www.inspiringskills.gov.wales/terms-and-conditions).

**Rheolau cyffredinol y gystadleuaeth**

* Dylid diffodd ffonau symudol yn ystod y gystadleuaeth.
* Ni chaniateir gwrando ar gerddoriaeth gyda chlustffonau yn ystod y gystadleuaeth.
* Dylid cyfeirio unrhyw gwestiynau yn ystod y gystadleuaeth at y panel beirniaid.
* Ni ddylai’r cystadleuwyr gyfathrebu gyda chystadleuwyr eraill yn ystod y gystadleuaeth.
* Cyfrifoldeb pob cystadleuydd fydd cyrraedd ar amser ar gyfer pob rhan o’r gystadleuaeth. Pe baech yn cyrraedd yn hwyr, ni roddir amser ychwanegol ichi.
* Pe bai rhyw wall technegol ar eich offer, dylid rhoi gwybod i’r panel beirniaid yn syth. Bydd amser ychwanegol yn cael ei roi os bydd y gwall y tu hwnt i reolaeth y cystadleuydd.

**Marcio ac Asesu**

Bydd tîm o arbenigwyr o Ddiwydiant, Addysg Bellach neu Ddarparwyr Hyfforddiant yn marcio a beirniadu’r gystadleuaeth hon, gan ddefnyddio meini prawf marcio a marciau a dyrennir er mwyn sicrhau cysondeb.

Mae’n rhaid llenwi’r cofnod safle/llyfr labordy gyda chymaint o fanylion â phosibl, yn Saesneg ac mewn inc. Mae’n rhaid iddo fod yn ddarllenadwy ac mae’n rhaid rhifo pob tudalen a rhoi cyfanswm nifer y tudalennau ar waelod pob tudalen. Caiff hwn ei roi i chi yn ystod y sesiwn briffio ar ddechrau’r gystadleuaeth.

**Manylion marcio ac asesu:**

| **Elfen** | **Maen Prawf** | **Marc Mwyaf** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Trefnu a Rheoli | Dealltwriaeth glir o sut mae defnyddio cofnodion safle trosedd yn gywir, Cadw dilyniant tystiolaeth drwy gydol yr archwiliad, ystyried diogelwch (gan gynnwys y Cyfarpar Diogelwch Personol priodol), cadw cofnodion labordy cywir  | 10 |
| Dewis Tystiolaeth | Gallu a chyfiawnhau nodi’r holl gyfleoedd fforensig sydd ar gael yn y safle trosedd rheolau prosesu dilyniannol (*sequential processing*) a phroffesiynoldeb. | 20 |
| Gwaith Papur wedi’i Gwblhau a Gweithdrefnu Gweithredu Safonol (SOPs) | Cwblhau'r gwaith papur sy'n cael ei ddarparu. Gwaith papur a fydd yn cynnwys disgrifiadau, rhesymu tystiolaeth, brasluniau, logiau cyflwyno. Disgwylir i gystadleuwyr gyfeirio at y gweithdrefnau gweithredu safonol sy'n cael eu darparu. | 20 |
| Techneg Labordy | Gallu dadansoddi arddangosion gan ddefnyddio’r protocol gwyddonol cywir | 20 |
| Gwaith Papur y labordy | Y gallu i gwblhau nodiadau cynhwysfawr yn unol â safonau'r diwydiant. | 20 |
| Dadansoddi, Dehongli a gwerthuso | Gallu dadansoddi, dehongli a gwerthuso canlyniadau sy’n deillio o ddadansoddiad fforensig labordy yr arddangosion. Disgwylir i Gystadleuwyr gyfeirio at y gweithdrefnau gweithredu safonol a ddarperir. | 10 |
|  | **Cyfanswm y Marciau** | **100** |

**Adborth a Chydnabyddiaeth**

Bydd adborth llafar, yn unigol ac mewn grŵp, yn cael ei roi ar ddiwedd y gystadleuaeth. Ni fydd unrhyw ganlyniadau na gwobrau’n cael eu dyfarnu ar y diwrnod oherwydd bydd angen sicrhau ansawdd y marcio.

Bydd pob cystadleuydd yn cael Tystysgrif Cyfranogi ar ddiwrnod y gystadleuaeth. Bydd gwobrau cyntaf, ail, trydydd a chanmoliaeth uchel yn cael eu cyhoeddi yn ystod y digwyddiad dathlu. Mae'r wobr canmoliaeth uchel yn cydnabod yr holl gystadleuwyr sydd wedi cyflawni sgôr uwch na'r cyfartaledd. Cynhelir y digwyddiad dathlu ar Dydd Mercher 18 Mawrth 2026, bydd manylion pellach yn cael eu rhoi i gystadleuwyr a'u pwyntiau cyswllt trwy e-bost.

Bydd taflenni marciau ar gael ar gais drwy info@skillscompetitionwales.ac.uk i gystadleuwyr ar ôl y digwyddiad dathlu.

**Arweinwyr y Gystadleuaeth**

**Prif Gyswllt a Chysylltiad Arbenigol**

Hannah Seale

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**Ein partneriaid**

Mae'r gystadleuaeth hon yn cael ei chyflwyno mewn partneriaeth â

