



Zimbabwe Science Fair 2026 — Judging Rubric

Pre-Judging (Written submission) — 100%

Criteria	Weight (%)	What judges look for
Research Question / Problem	10	Clear, focused, testable question; grounded in literature or need; significance for community or field.
Design & Methodology	20	Sound experimental/engineering design; variables/controls; data plan; ethics/safety; feasibility.
Execution	25	Rigorous work: data quality, replication, proper analysis/statistics, correct units and records.
Creativity	20	Original approach or clever use of materials/constraints; thoughtful risk-taking and iteration.
Presentation (Written Report)	25	Logical structure, clarity, figures/tables, citations, spelling/grammar; conclusions supported by data; limitations acknowledged.

Final Judging (Fair Day) — 100%

Criteria	Weight (%)	What judges look for
Research Question / Problem	10	Student states the question and its importance succinctly; scope and hypothesis appropriate.
Design & Methodology	20	Student justifies design choices; controls, safety, and constraints understood; iteration documented.
Execution	25	Results are trustworthy; analysis appropriate; student owns the work (can explain every step).
Creativity	20	Ingenuity in design/analysis; resourcefulness with local materials; unexpected insights.
Presentation — Poster	7	Layout, readability, visuals, data integrity; units, labels, and sources are clear.
Presentation — Interview	18	Clarity, confidence, depth of understanding; honest about limits; future work articulated.