

Judge's Sample Questions

Formulating the Concept

1. When conceiving your city, were you open to creative and possibly impractical ideas or did you focus on what you knew was possible?
2. What makes your city stand out from other future cities?
3. In planning a city of the future, what is the most important thing to consider?
4. What role did your imagination play in planning your Future City?
5. Explain whether “fantasy” or “reality” better describes your Future City.
6. Where did you get your inspiration for your Future City concept?

Working as A Team

1. What did you learn about your teammates and yourself during this project?
2. Is a FC team best composed of similar thinking members or does disagreement play a role in formulating and refining ideas?
3. If a team member came up with a terrible idea how did you handle the situation?
4. Describe how “the team dynamics” contributed to the design of your Future City.
5. What process did you use for dividing the tasks efficiently?

Technical Research

1. In looking back, what research was critical in refining your city?
2. Cite field trips that helped you formulate your city.
3. Are the transportation systems in your city accessible for individuals with disabilities? Provide examples.

Engineering and Operations

1. Identify the different types of engineering employed in your city and explain which one is most critical to its operation.
2. What insight did you gain from your project on maintaining a balance between future planning and preservation of the past?
3. Explain one part of your city that depends more on engineering for its day-to-day operation than its design?
4. How did you integrate the city-wide systems so they were easier to manage?
5. How did the peculiarities of your city's environment impact your city's systems?
6. Did the environment of your city dictate creative solutions for growth?
7. Are there any real factors that limit the size of your city?
8. What made the communication system you selected the best choice?
9. Overburdened transportation systems are universally a problem for cities—what approach did you take to prevent this problem from happening in your city?
10. How do construction materials and goods efficiently and with minimal environment impact reach a site in your city?
11. Explain what alternative energy sources you employed in your city's design?
12. How were your utilities developed? What considerations were given to your power resources?
13. What would you say was your biggest engineering design challenge to solve in this project?

Judge’s Sample Questions (continued)

Building the Model

1. In building the model of your city, what was the most difficult aspect to overcome?
2. What factors went into determining the scale of your model?
3. What were some of the challenges in working with the scale you selected?
4. Why did you choose this particular section of your computer city design to build?
5. What were some of the factors that went into laying out the various zones in your city?
6. If you began again, what one thing would you have done differently to improve your model?

Budgeting Issues and Incentives

1. How did you approach budgeting for growth in your city?
2. How do you generate revenue to pay for your city services?
3. What does your future city have as an enticement to offer potential business investors?

Resident Needs and Profiles

1. How does your city help support a healthy lifestyle for its residents?
2. Why does your city need a diversity of people to run effectively?
3. Explain why you would want to live in your city?
4. Detail some of the features you have incorporated in your city design to provide access for people with disabilities?
5. Describe what provisions you have made in your city for low to moderate income families.

6. What specific training needs to be offered in your city to help future economic stability?
7. How does your city help people with disabilities get to and from work?

Benefits to Team Members

1. Why would you encourage other students to participate in the Future City Competition?
2. How has the Future City Competition helped you plan for your future?
3. What is the most valuable experience you gained from the Future City Competition?

Benefits to Society

1. From a global perspective how will humanity profit from your city?
2. Why do we need fresh and innovative ideas for cities?
3. What insights did you gain about your own city or town from working on the Future City™ project?
4. What would be the benefits of having an engineer included on your city’s Town Council?
5. What did the Future City™ Competition teach you about the role of engineering in society?
6. Who benefits from having curb cuts on sidewalks?

Your Engineer-Mentor and Teacher

1. What insights did you gain from working with your engineer-mentor on the Future City™ Competition?
2. What one thing did your teacher do that helped you learn the most?