



Guardian of Honour 2026

Question Set and Marking Scheme

Background

This marking scheme relates to the written application component of the 2026 Guardian of Honour scheme. The final marks for each submission will be determined by reference to applicants' performance in the written application only. The results of the Process Safety Five Star Audit process will not be considered other than as a right of entry to the awards.

Please note that the marking descriptors are indicative by nature. For example, two organisations may adopt differing approaches to the written application and score equally well. Nonetheless, high-scoring organisation will typically answer all aspects of the question, clearly following the marking scheme, provide site-specific references (evidenced and referenced through the audit report) and fully utilise, but not exceed the specified word allowance per response.

Scoring criteria

- A maximum of 60 marks are available for the written application. Applicants must score a minimum of 45 marks to remain eligible for the award.
- A minimum of two individual responses must be scored within the top mark band (11-15 marks).
- Submissions will become ineligible for the Sword of Honour award should any individual responses be scored within the lower mark band (0-5 marks).
- Responses to each sub-question must not exceed 750 words per sub-question (i.e. 3,000 words overall per submission).
- The two optional questions for the Innovation and Development award will be marked separately by a panel. The grades for these questions will not be included in the overall score of the main application.

A sample number of applicants will be randomly selected to validate the responses given on their application in a virtual interview. This selection will be made following the application submission deadline on 14 September 2026, and the selected applicants will be notified with a Microsoft Teams placeholder invite for the week beginning on 28 September 2026

	11-15 marks	6-10 marks	0-5 marks
1. With reference to the outcomes from your recent Process Safety Five Star Audit: Explain how directors and senior executives provide leadership on process safety across the organisation.	• A full description of how directors and senior executives actively promote and champion process safety within the organisation. This includes how directors and senior executives determine process safety priorities and focus areas within the business. • A full discussion of the methods used to set process safety priorities and how the engagement by directors and senior executives is delivered in practice. Information provided should encompass leadership outcomes and targets set by the Board and Senior Executive Team. • The response is supported with clear examples of when and how process safety leadership engagement is delivered and how this contributed to continuous improvement and risk reduction. • All examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• An adequate description of how directors and senior executives actively promote and champion process safety within the organisation. Some reference to how process safety leadership priorities were identified. • Some reference to the methods used to set process safety priorities and how the engagement by directors and senior executives is delivered in practice. Basic information on leadership outcomes and targets set by the Board and Senior Executive Team. • The response is supported with some examples of when and how and how this contributed to continuous improvement and risk reduction. • Some examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• A basic description of how directors and senior executives actively promote and champion process safety within the organisation. No reference to how process safety leadership priorities were identified. • Basic reference to the methods used to set process safety priorities and how the engagement by directors and senior executives is delivered in practice. • The response is supported with some examples of when and how process safety leadership engagement is delivered but lacking reference to how this contributed to continuous improvement and risk reduction. • Few or no examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.
2. With reference to the outcomes from your recent Process Safety Five Star Audit: Describe how the company identifies the major accident scenarios which could occur within a sample facility and how this information is used to prioritise risk management priorities.	• A full description of how major accident scenarios are identified and how this information is used to prioritise risk management priorities. • The response contains a wide range of relevant information on the classification and ranking of major accident scenarios by potential consequences and of the methods then utilised to determine the appropriate process safety controls and mitigation measures adopted to minimise the likelihood of those scenarios occurring. • All examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• An adequate description of how major accident scenarios are identified and how this information is used to prioritise risk management priorities. • The response contains an adequate range of relevant information on the classification and ranking of major accident scenarios by potential consequences and of the methods then utilised to determine the appropriate process safety controls and mitigation measures adopted to minimise the likelihood of those scenarios occurring. • Some examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• A basic description of how major accident scenarios are identified and how this information is used to prioritise risk management priorities. • The response contains basic information on the classification and ranking of major accident scenarios by potential consequences and of the methods then utilised to determine the appropriate process safety controls and mitigation measures adopted to minimise the likelihood of those scenarios occurring. • Few or no examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.

3. With reference to the outcomes from your recent Process Safety Five Star Audit: Describe how the company monitors and measures performance in process safety risk management.	• A full description of how process safety performance is monitored and measured. • The response includes a full description of the targets set for process safety performance and the mix of metrics used to measure achievement of those targets. • The response contains a wide range of relevant examples of performance monitoring and measurement and all examples provided within the response demonstrate how process safety performance has improved based on the findings of performance monitoring. • All examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• An adequate description of how process safety performance is monitored and measured. • The response includes a partial description of the targets set for process safety performance and the mix of metrics used to measure achievement of those targets. • The response contains some relevant examples of performance monitoring and measurement and the examples provided within the response demonstrate how process safety performance has improved based on the findings of performance monitoring. • Some examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• A basic description of how process safety performance is monitored and measured. • The response includes a limited description of the targets set for process safety performance and the metrics used to measure achievement of those targets. • The response contains few relevant examples of performance monitoring and measurement and the examples provided within the response do not demonstrate how process safety performance has improved based on the findings of performance monitoring. • Few or no examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.
4. With reference to the outcomes from your recent Process Safety Five Star Audit: Describe how the company manages process safety risks associated with contractors and third party organisations who work on site or who contribute to the management of process safety risks.	• A full description of how process safety risks associated with contractors and third party organisations is managed. • The response contains a wide range of relevant information on how contractors are selected based on process safety experience and competency. • Information provided includes detailed information on how safe systems of work are established to ensure the contracted out work or services do not degrade the integrity of major hazard plant, equipment or control systems. • The response shows how the process safety performance of contractors is monitored and how that information influences the future deployment of those contractors. • All examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• An adequate description of how process safety risks associated with contractors and third party organisations is managed. • The response contains some relevant information on how contractors are selected based on process safety experience and competency. • Information provided includes some information on how safe systems of work are established to ensure the contracted out work or services do not degrade the integrity of major hazard plant, equipment or control systems. • The response provides limited information on how the process safety performance of contractors is monitored and how that information influences the future deployment of those contractors. • Some examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.	• A basic description of how process safety risks associated with contractors and third party organisations is managed. • The response contains limited information on how contractors are selected based on process safety experience and competency. • Information provided includes limited information on how safe systems of work are established to ensure the contracted out work or services do not degrade the integrity of major hazard plant, equipment or control systems. • The response provides no information on how the process safety performance of contractors is monitored and how that information influences the future deployment of those contractors. • Few or no examples are clearly related to the outcomes of the recent Process Safety Five Star Audit.