

HS2 Apprenticeship programme 2022

Assessment Exercise

May 2022



Assessment Exercise

The brief



Welcome to Quadronia, a kingdom on the continent of Atlantis. Separated by the Lake Quantos, Quadronia's two major cities Orelia and Golop have a chequered history. Indeed, twelve years ago the country was embroiled in a brutal civil war which flared up over the correct pronunciation of the word 'scone'.

When the dust eventually settled, the 'sconn'-supporting North had seceded from the 'scoan'-supporting South, the nation was more divided than ever. Happily for the Quadronians, however, this situation did not last long, and following months of patient work by the United Nations, both sides have recently declared themselves ready to reunify.

This reconciliation will have one important condition: because neither party was prepared to see its historic capital lose its status, the decision has been taken to keep both the northern seat of **Orelia** and the southern stronghold of **Golop** as joint capital cities.

In an effort to help bind the nation together again, the unified parliament has commissioned a new ultra-speed railway to act both as a political symbol and as a tool to re-energise the Quadronian economy.

As an expert, it now falls to you to deliver this vital piece of infrastructure.

Assessment Exercise

The task



Your task

As we know, Golop and Orelia are separated by the Lake Quantos, your task is to determine where the Quadronian government should build the bridge for the railway, before then presenting this recommendation to governmental representatives (your interview panel).

- Given the proposed route for the ultra-speed railway, there are only four towns in which the bridge could be built. These are: **Pico, Tremm, Norville** and **Wilken**.
- On the next slides you will be provided with some information about each town.
- You have **10 minutes** in which to assess the specific advantages and disadvantages of building the bridge in each of these towns, before deciding which town to opt for.
- You will return to your interview and share your thoughts with the interview panel.
- Ensure to clearly articulate the rationale behind your choice and the value that building the bridge in the chosen town would provide.
- One final thing to note, the ultra-speed railway will only stop in the town where you've proposed to build the bridge, so make your choice wisely!

Assessment Exercise – the options:

Remember:

1. Review all options.
2. Choose the one you consider most suitable.
3. Be prepared to share with the panel the reason for your choice and answer their questions.





Norville: Home to the legendary Norville Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The housing market is extremely expensive (average property prices in Norville exceed £1,000,000) and some houses in the riverbank neighbourhood are owned by some of the country's wealthiest families.

The ground of Norville's riverbank is perfect for building a bridge, however, there is strong resistance from the local community who believe that the noise of both constructing and running the Ultra Speed Railway would disturb the residents and reduce local property prices.



Pico: Pico is a commuter town, with an abundance of affordable housing and skilled workers.

The town is mostly home to young families and there is a pressure from Pico's residents to build the bridge here so that commuters can benefit from a "Pico stop" on the new Ultra Speed Railway.

Though Pico is a very pretty town, its ground is unstable with a low bearing capacity, making it challenging to build a bridge without significant investment in new technology.

Investment in this technology, though vital, will take you over budget.



Wilken: Wilken is the most Eastern town, slightly out of the way of the original planned route.

It's an internationally-acclaimed party destination and home to two large universities, who maintain a bitter rivalry.

For the most part, Wilken's community supports building the bridge in the town and they have already selected a perfect construction site.

However, being a university town, Wilken already has a good railway connection and some people are saying that an additional "Wilken stop" on the Ultra Speed Railway is unnecessary.



Tremm: Tremm is a town with outstanding natural beauty, famous for its cherry tree lined streets and the country's largest and most bio-diverse park.

The local community are keen to capitalise on its natural beauty and encourage more eco-tourism to the area. They need to strike a balance and not inundate the small town.

Tremm's ground is excellent for building the bridge's foundation, however the proposed construction site is surrounded by wildlife. Taking the necessary precautions to protect the wildlife would significantly extend the project's timelines.

Your time starts now

Good luck!

