

The 2023-24 QEGS Essay Competition

The Student Leadership Team present this Essay Competition as an opportunity for the whole student body to demonstrate their individual ability to weave a coherent and thought-provoking analysis and response to the given questions for each subject and sector of the school.

The options are divided by school and by subject; you may only enter essays responding to questions in this category – you may, however, respond to as many questions here as you desire, though only one essay should be entered per subject: do not enter two essays focussed upon the English question, but essays for both the English and History options will be accepted.

Deadline for entry?

The deadline has been set as February Half-Term.

Prizes and Rewards!

These shall be allocated as follows:

- Lower School Winner
- Middle School Winner
- Upper School Winner
- And the Winner Overall!

Prizes to be announced

Entries need to be handed in to either:

Megan: Megan.Lake@queenelizabeths.co.uk

Josh: Joshua.Mowbray@queenelizabeths.co.uk

The Options themselves!

(word counts to be aimed for, not necessarily matched perfectly)

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Lower School: 630–770 word count

- **English** – Does poetry have as much value as the novel?
- **History** - Can History teach us about our lives today?
- **Geography** - What are the long-term consequences of river pollution?
- **RS** - What is the most important aspect of being a Christian?
- **Languages** - Why is it important for society to learn languages?
- **Science** - What has been the most important scientific breakthrough?
- **Music** - “Music is like a mathematical formula with rules to follow in order to make good music.” To what extent do you agree?

Middle School: 1350–1650 word count

- **English** - Do you think that Shakespeare has any educational value in today’s society?
- **History** - “History always repeats itself.” Discuss with reference to at least 2 historical events.
- **Geography** - How far do you agree that plastic water bottles should not be sold in the UK?
- **RS** - Are Al-Qadr (the belief in predestination in Islam) and free will paradoxical?
- **Music** - Would music be the same without the development of Jazz?
- **Science** - “Science is the necessary force to stop the climate crisis.” How far do you agree?
- **Sociology** - In the 21st century, is the monarchy relevant in everyday society?
- **Psychology** - Discuss the sources of mental health issues in the modern world.
- **Philosophy** - How far can we be certain that physical reality is real?
- **PE** - “School PE should incorporate more non-competitive sporting games that require less skill.” How far do you agree?
- **Languages** - Is it possible to grasp the true meaning of a text without speaking the original language?
- **Business** - To what extent is it ethical for a business to make high profit levels from selling ethical goods?

Upper School: 2250–2750 word count

- **English** - Is Literature always a force for good?
- **History** - What does history teach us about humanity’s ability to adapt to climate change?
- **Science** - Are science and the humanities allied?
- **Philosophy** - Should a system of ethics apply to all people under all circumstances?
- **Psychology** - Discuss the psychological impacts of 9/11
- **Music** – Do some pieces of music have more value than others?
- **Business** - ‘To what extent does political polarisation affect economic growth?’
- **Economics** - Is it possible to create a working society on the scale of today’s post-industrial HICs without any central banking or fiat currency?
- **Theology** - Why are things loved by God?
- **Sociology** - “Communism is misunderstood.” Discuss this statement.
- **Languages** - “Language is the most important part of having better international relations.” How far do you agree?