

# The Perse School Cambridge Aristotelian Award for Research

Year 9

# RESEARCH ESSAY COMPETITION

A competition for Year 9  
pupils across the UK\* to  
promote independent  
research skills.

**1,500 word essay.**

Choose between 5 essay titles in each category:  
**Arts/Humanities** or **Sciences**

- The winner of each category will be awarded £70.
- Four Distinctions in each category will be awarded £20.

## SUBMISSIONS

Please email  
**researchessay@perse.co.uk**  
with any questions or queries  
regarding this competition.

\* We can welcome a limited number of entries from British international schools, but please contact us first. International schools should administer a British curriculum and are limited to two entries per category, like independent schools in the UK.

The deadline for submission is

**5pm on Monday 21 February 2022.**

Winners will be announced by the end of  
March 2022.

Further information on  
submission, essay titles and  
rules are available from  
**[www.perse.co.uk/upper/academic/independent-research](http://www.perse.co.uk/upper/academic/independent-research)**



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## Purpose of the competition

This competition has been set up to promote independent study skills in Year 9 pupils while simultaneously providing an avenue to explore super-curricular interests in the arts, humanities and sciences. This competition is split into two categories (arts/humanities and sciences). Prizes are awarded to winners in each half of the competition.

## Eligibility

This competition is open to all students in Year 9 (or equivalent).

## How are the winners chosen?

Essays will be judged based on the quality of the essay. The best essays will critically discuss both sides of the argument (where applicable) before coming to a conclusion. They will have logical and coherent arguments with a wide range of sources. The essays will be marked by a team at The Perse School, Cambridge. Personal information (school, name, etc.) will be removed from the essay submission before the essay is passed on to the marking team to safeguard the integrity of the competition.

## Prizes

The winner of each category will receive a prize of £70. Additionally, there will also be eight 'Distinction' prizes (four for each category). These prizes will be worth £20 each. There will also be 'Highly Commended' certificates for each category. Winners will be announced by the end of March 2022. Additionally, high quality submissions may be published on the school's website. Students selected for this will be emailed in March.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

Students are to answer one question from one of the categories.

### ARTS/HUMANITIES



History always repeats itself. Discuss



Who is the most influential artist since 1900 and why?



How should the UK achieve its net zero carbon emissions target?



Modern philosophy has its roots in classical Athens. Discuss.



To what extent should slang and dialect words be accepted as 'standard English'?

### SCIENCES



What are the most important factors which affect the spread of zoonotic diseases (such as Covid-19)?



Execution time is more important than readability in coding. Discuss.



How healthy is the UK's biodiversity?



Choose a 20th Century invention and evaluate its impact.



We could not live without light emitting diodes (LEDs). Discuss.

## Essay guidelines

1. The competition is divided into two categories: arts/humanities and sciences. There will be prizes available for the winners and Distinctions in both categories.
2. Each participant can only submit one essay.
3. Entries must be written in English and in a formal manner.
4. Entries should have a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1,500. Appendices will be included in the word count, while the bibliography, footnotes and references, will not be included.
5. There is no minimum for the number of sources cited but we strongly recommend that you cite at least five.
6. All sources should be referenced where used within the essay and in a bibliography at the end of the essay.
7. The deadline for submission is 5pm on Monday 21 February 2022.
8. Independent schools may submit a maximum of four entries – two entries per category. State schools are allowed unlimited entries.
9. Submissions should be the sole work of the applicant – friends, family and teachers are not permitted to help with the writing of the essay.
10. As one of the main aims of the competition is to promote independent study and research, the body of the essay should not be a topic studied in school but rather a genuine interest of the participant, researched outside of school.
11. Plagiarism is expressly forbidden. If any plagiarism is detected in the submission, then the participant will be immediately disqualified from the competition.
12. We can welcome a limited number of entries from British international schools, but please contact us first. International schools should administer a British curriculum and are limited to two entries per category, like independent schools in the UK.

## Submitting

Students should attach their essay as a pdf file and email to [researchessay@perse.co.uk](mailto:researchessay@perse.co.uk). The deadline for submission is 5pm on Monday 21 February 2022. Unfortunately, we may not be able to accept submissions after this time.

We hope to post on our website and social media a copy of really good submissions and a photo of those students. Therefore, when you submit please also complete this [form](#) on whether you give permission for your submission to potentially be posted on the school's website/social media, and for a photo of you to be used.

## Points of contact

Please email [researchessay@perse.co.uk](mailto:researchessay@perse.co.uk) with any questions or queries regarding this competition.