



St. John's College, Oxford
Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition 2019/20

The St. John's College Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition will be running for the tenth time during the academic year 2019/20. The competition is open to all UK students currently studying **in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) or equivalent**, whether or not they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject. All entrants will be invited to attend a **Study Afternoon at St John's College, Oxford on Thursday 23rd April 2020**; we are able to cover travel expenses of all students eligible for free school meals or in care. Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. Do heroes in ancient literature learn through suffering?
2. In what ways did the power of oratory shape ancient politics?
3. 'Ancient philosophers who proposed radical theories had unrealistic expectations about what they might achieve.' Do you agree?
4. Who was Greek and Roman state-commissioned art for?

Aims and Guidelines:

The competition gives UK students of any subjects, currently studying in Year 12 or equivalent, an opportunity to write an essay on the classical world. The organizers are interested in providing an occasion for independent research, to encourage curiosity and reflection in those who have studied the ancient world before and those who have not.

The essay titles have been chosen to take account of research interests of our tutors and to encourage the widest possible approach to investigation of the ancient world. A £100 book token will be awarded to the best essay in each category and an additional £75 book token to the overall winner. All applicants will receive a certificate of entry.

All primary texts can be considered in translation or in the original language. Where either primary or secondary sources have been used they should be acknowledged with full references given.

All essays should:

- Be word-processed with double-spaced lines.
- Include **ONLY** your initials and date of birth in your header or footer (to allow anonymous marking).
- Be submitted, together with a cover sheet, by **4 pm on Thursday 5th March 2020** by email to access@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

If you have any outstanding questions, please contact access@sjc.ox.ac.uk.