

Fitzwilliam College Ancient World and Classics Essay Competition 2024

Fitzwilliam College is pleased to release the questions for the 2024 Ancient World and Classics essay competition. Please clearly indicate on your submission which question you have chosen to answer.

1. What qualities made heroes heroic in ancient literature? Discuss with reference to any text or texts of your choice.
2. How can the study of dead languages help us to understand ancient societies? Answer with reference to any period and region of your choice.
3. “Imagery is the most important source for studying women in the ancient world.” Do you agree? Discuss with reference to any period and region of your choice.
4. “The study of art **and/or** archaeology reveals people the texts ignore.” Discuss with reference to any people, period and region of your choice.
5. What led to **either a)** the development of Athenian democracy **or b)** the fall of the Roman Late Republic?
6. “Ancient philosophy is not relevant to modern political or ethical debates” Do you agree? Discuss with reference to any text or texts and any political **and/or** ethical debates of your choice.

These questions may be answered, where appropriate, with reference to any texts and/or other evidence of your choice and any period or region of the ancient world, broadly conceived (it may include not just the Classical world, but e.g. the Ancient Near East and Egypt).

Competition Rules

This essay competition is for students in their penultimate year of education - Year 12 (Eng + Wales), S5 (Scotland), Y13 (NI) or equivalent overseas. International applicants are welcome but the essay must be written in English. Applicants will be required to enter their details online and to either upload one PDF copy of their essay electronically **or** post a hard copy to:

Schools Liaison Officer
Fitzwilliam College
Cambridge
CB3 0DG

by **6pm on Friday 1st of March 2024**. If the PDF file is too large to submit to the online form, please email your submission to essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk. Further submission information is available on the essay competition website: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/admissions/events-prospective-students/essay-competitions>.

Your submission must be entirely your own work. When submitting your essay you will need to provide contact information for one of your teachers and if necessary we may contact them to verify that your submission is entirely your own work. Students are only permitted to enter one competition and may only submit one entry to their chosen competition. There is a strict limit of five submissions per school for each essay competition. If more than five students from the same school enter the same competition, a teacher from that school will be contacted and asked to select the five entries; failure to do so will result in all submissions from the school to that competition being disqualified.

Essays should be less than 2500 words long, and contain a list of works consulted and cited at the end. This bibliography is excluded from the word limit, but any footnotes are included. Guidance on referencing is available on the website. Applicants must ensure that pages are numbered and that their full name is on each page.

Prizes:

The prize fund (per competition) is £300 with a first prize of £200 and highly commended applicants being awarded a £25 book voucher. A prizegiving ceremony will be held in summer 2024.

For further information about the competition, please contact:

essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk.

For questions about the Classics course, please contact:

admissions@fitz.cam.ac.uk.