

Ancient World / Classics Essay Competition 2017

Titles:

- 1) How important is authorial intention in our understanding and appreciation of ancient literature?
- 2) Do our modern genre divides make sense when discussing ancient texts?
- 3) "We see women in the ancient world only through the eyes of men." Discuss.
- 4) "Ancient texts just give us the perspectives of the rich and famous. Archaeology shows us everyone." Discuss
- 5) Why did Plato write dialogues?
- 6) "In the ancient world, the sea always linked rather than divided people." Discuss.

All essays can be discussed with reference to any periods, texts and / or objects of your choice. They are deliberately wide-ranging in order for you to be able to find the angle you want to take. You may focus on any period of your choice.

Essays should be less than 2500 words long, and contain a list of works consulted and cited at the end.

Notes:

This essay competition is for Lower Sixth Formers. It is open to all those in the Lower Sixth form taking Classics and/or Classical Civilization, and to those who are not studying these subjects but have an interest in studying them at university. Applicants will be required to enter their details on line and to send a copy of their essay to essaycompetition@fitz.cam.ac.uk, or by post to Admissions Office, Fitzwilliam College, Storey's Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DG.

Please ensure that pages are numbered and that your full name is on each page.

The prize fund is £300 with a first prize of £200. Certificates of merit may be awarded to runners up who have sufficiently impressed the judges. The College reserves the right not to award prizes if there is no entry of sufficient merit. Prizes and certificates will be awarded at the University Open Day on 6th July 2017.

At Fitzwilliam we are keen to promote the study of Classics in all its forms - linguistic, literary, historical, philosophical and archaeological, and this is reflected in the range of essay titles. The Director of Studies welcomes enquiries from prospective students and is keen that students with keen interest in the ancient world can find a course here to interest them. Alongside the three and four year Classics course, we also welcome students who wish to make use of the flexibility of the tripos system to study subjects that reflect their particular interests in the Ancient World. Students may, for example, apply to do Part I Archaeology and Anthropology (in one year) and Part II Classics (in two years), if their interests in the Ancient (Greek and Roman) World are more specifically historical and archaeological.

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