

Ancient World / Classics Essay Competition 2018

Titles:

1. "Even when ancient literature is set in a mythological past, it is always about an historical present." Discuss with reference to any ancient text or texts of your choice.
2. "Classical literature is timeless." Do you agree?
3. How are different life stages portrayed in texts and / or images in the Ancient World? You may, if you wish, focus on one particular stage of life (e.g childhood, motherhood, old age).
4. "It is anachronistic to suggest that racism existed in the ancient world." Discuss.
5. What is Plato's best argument for the immortality of the soul? What is the best argument against it?
6. What led to the collapse of either a) the Minoan palaces or b) the Mycenaean palaces?

All essays, unless specified otherwise, 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.

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

Competition rules:

This essay competition is for Lower Sixth Formers. It is aimed at all those in the Lower Sixth form taking Classics and/or Classical Civilization A-levels/Highers/IB. 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: Admissions Assistant, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG by **Tuesday 1 May 2018**.

Prizes:

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 Fitzwilliam College Open Day in July.

Notes:

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 (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.

For further information about the competition or the Ancient World/ Classics course, please contact:
Dr Sara Owen (sso10@cam.ac.uk), Director of Studies in Classics Fitzwilliam College