

**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.
4 HIGHLY COMMENDED ENTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE
AWARDED £20.**

SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your entry online
here:

[https://research.
perse.co.uk/arist
otelian](https://research.perse.co.uk/aristotelian)



The deadline for submission is
5pm on Monday 20 February 2023
Winners will be announced by the
end of March 2023.

If you have any questions or queries
regarding the competition please
email: researchessay@perse.co.uk

Further information on submission, essay
titles and rules are available from
<https://research.perse.co.uk/aristotelian/>

PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

This competition has been set up to promote independent study and research skills for 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 category 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 and use 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 'Highly Commended' prizes (four for each category). These prizes will be worth £20 each. Winners will be announced by the end of March 2023.

High quality submissions may be published on the Perse School's research website. Students selected for this will be emailed in March.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Students should choose one question from one of the categories.

ARTS/HUMANITIES



'History is written by the victors.' Discuss.



Can keeping any animals in captivity be justified? If yes, in what circumstances?



Should nuclear power be part of our future energy mix?



Is it right that someone can be prosecuted for something they didn't know was illegal?



In your view, what is the most influential written document and why?

SCIENCES



Newton's explanation of gravity is the most important scientific discovery to date. How far do you agree with this?



What are the most significant engineering challenges to designing a functional/viable space elevator?



To what extent were the outcomes of the Covid-19 pandemic positive?



Are the technologies from your favourite science fiction film possible in the next 20 years? (For example: forms of transport or devices...)



'Non-calculator maths exams are illogical, because in the real world you will always have access to a calculator.' Discuss.

ESSAY GUIDELINES

1. The competition is divided into two categories: arts/humanities and sciences. There will be prizes available for the winner and four Highly Commended entries in each category.
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. The bibliography, footnotes and references will not be included in the word count.
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 20 February 2023.
8. Independent schools and international schools may submit a maximum of four entries overall. These do not need to be limited to 'two entries per category.' State schools are allowed unlimited entries.
9. As one of the main aims of the competition is to promote independent study and research, the body of the essay should not be on a topic studied in school but rather a genuine interest of the participant, researched outside of school.
10. Submissions should be the sole work of the applicant – friends, family and teachers are not permitted to help with the writing of the essay.
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 follow British curriculum and are limited to four entries overall, like independent schools in the UK.

SUBMITTING

Students should upload their essays to: <https://research.perse.co.uk/aristotelian/>

The deadline for submission is 5pm on Monday 20 February 2023. Unfortunately, we cannot accept submissions after this time.

We hope to post copies of particularly good submissions on our website and social media along with a photo. Therefore, when you submit your entry, you will be asked whether you give permission for your entry to be potentially posted on the school's research website/social media, and for a photo of you to be used.

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