

PETERHOUSE THOMAS CAMPION ENGLISH PRIZE (funded by the Friends of Peterhouse) – HOW TO ENTER

Write an essay of between 1,500 and 2,500 words on one of the following questions. Include a bibliography and, if necessary, a webography. Essays may be hand-written (if clearly legible) or word-processed. Please use A4 paper and only write on one side of each page you use. Please remember to keep a copy of your essay as submitted essays cannot be returned. It is unfortunately not possible to provide feedback on the essays submitted.

All entrants must submit a completed application form and cover sheet with their essay. Essays should be sent in an A4 envelope *ensuring the right postage has been used* to:

ESSAY PRIZE

Peterhouse Admissions Office
Trumpington Street
Cambridge
CB2 1RD

The deadline is **20th March 2015**. Faxes and email attachments will not be accepted. If you would like confirmation of receipt, please enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard. Further information about how to enter can be found below. Good luck!

Thomas Campion English Prize Questions 2015

1. 'It is such a bore that nearly all great novelists have a didactic purpose, otherwise a philosophy, directly opposite to their passionate inspiration' (D.H. LAWRENCE). Discuss the conflict between philosophy and passion in the writing of fiction.
2. 'Rereading draws the text out of its internal chronology ("this happens *before* or *after* that") and recaptures a mythic time (*without before or after*)' (ROLAND BARTHES). Examine the nature of rereading in the light of Barthes's claim.
3. Can there ever be a 'true story'?
4. 'Time watches from the shadow/And coughs when you would kiss' (W.H. AUDEN). Discuss the treatment of love and time in literary writing.
5. 'Literature is what is taught, period.' (ROLAND BARTHES). Is there a more substantial definition of 'literature' than this?
6. 'Sincerity - if you can fake that, you've got it made.' (GEORGE BURNS). Consider the tension between sincerity and artifice in literary writing.
7. Does digital text mean the end of the book?
8. 'A good metaphor is something the police should keep an eye on.' (GEORGE CHRISTOPH LICHTENBERG) What might be dangerous about metaphor?
9. 'The fascination of what's difficult/Has dried the sap out of my veins' (W.B. YEATS). Attempt a defence of literary difficulty.

Competitors are advised to focus on one or two particular literary texts in answering their chosen question, but may wish to refer comparatively to other works. The main texts chosen for comment should **not** be works either previously or currently being studied by the entrant as part of their sixth form studies. They may be texts which the entrant will work on in future so long as, at the time of the closing date, the entrant has received no formal tuition on the texts in question. Alternatively, entrants may well choose to write about works of literature which fall entirely outside their school/college syllabuses. In any event, all entries must be accompanied by a signed statement from their Head of Sixth Form or Head of English confirming that the essay is the entrant's own work and that the main focus of the essay is not something which s/he has hitherto studied in the sixth form classroom. Please remember a maximum of **two entries per school or college** is requested.

Application form for the Peterhouse Essay Prizes 2015 (Vellacott, Kelvin and Thomas Campion)

Please complete this form clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to us by **20th March 2015**.
Please paperclip the form to your essay, ensuring that you also include your **name** and the **essay question number** at the top of the front page of your essay.

1. I am entering the:
VELLACOTT HISTORY / KELVIN SCIENCE / THOMAS CAMPION ENGLISH essay competition
(please delete as applicable)
2. Which essay number and title have you chosen (please remember to mark this on your essay)?

3. Name:
4. Sex: M/F
5. Date of Birth:
6. Home Address:

7. Home Tel:
8. Mobile:
9. Email (ESSENTIAL, so please print clearly):
10. A) School Name:
B) School Address:

11. School Year (e.g. Year 12):
12. A) Name of Head of Sixth Form/Department named on Essay Cover Sheet:
B) His/her email address:
13. If you go to University, what subject are you likely to apply for?

Thanks for your entry!

COVER SHEET

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ENTRANT

Name of Entrant [PLEASE PRINT]:

Email Address of Entrant:

Name and Address of School or College:

Essay Question Chosen:

I certify that the attached essay is my own work, that all quotations and citations (including those from the worldwide web) are fully acknowledged, and that the essay is within the word limit.

Signature:

Date:

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY HEAD OF SIXTH FORM OR HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Name of Teacher [PLEASE PRINT]:

Email Address of Teacher:

I certify that the attached essay is the entrant's own work and that the main focus of the essay is not material which has hitherto been studied by the entrant in the sixth form classroom.

Signature:

Date:

Once completed, this form, application form and essay should be sent in an A4 envelope to the following address by **20th March 2015**:

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