

Peterhouse Thomas Champion English Prize 2020 (Funded by the Friends of Peterhouse)

Writing your essay

Write an essay of no more than 2,000 words including footnotes and appendices on one of the following questions. Include a bibliography and ensure all sources are referenced. **Essays must be submitted as a PDF** via the online form. Please ensure that the pages in your essay are numbered and that your name and school appears clearly on the first page. Please also **name the PDF file in the following format: Prize-Question number-Surname-Initial e.g. TCampion-2-Smith-F.pdf.**

Competitors are advised that the main focus of the essay should **not** be material previously or currently being studied by the entrant as part of any English curriculum an entrant has been following. The entrant may refer to topics that will be studied in future so long as, at the time of the closing date, the entrant has received no formal tuition on the topic in question. All entries must be verified by a 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 they have hitherto studied in the sixth form classroom.

How to submit

A maximum of **two entries** per competition per school can be accepted, except by prior arrangement with your school. All entries must be approved by a teacher, so make sure your teacher and Head of Department know you are entering and you have the relevant email address to hand when you create your account. Once essays are uploaded to our system, it is not possible to make changes – please ensure you are happy with your work before pressing 'submit'. It is unfortunately not possible to provide feedback on essays.

The deadline for you to submit your essay is 16:00 GMT on **Monday 20th April 2020**. Essays which are not submitted by this time will not be considered under any circumstances. Your teacher will then receive emails from Peterhouse asking them to confirm that you are eligible and that the work complies with our guidelines, as listed in this document and on our website. They must do this by 16:00 GMT on **Monday 27th April** – please inform them of this. Essays which have not been approved by a teacher will not be considered. For this reason, submission by post, fax or email will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances, and only by prior arrangement.

Please direct any questions to essayprize@pet.cam.ac.uk.

Prizes

Each competition has a prize pool of £750. Winners will be contacted by email - please make sure your contact details are entered correctly!

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Essays should be no more than 2000 words in length, and should include some close analysis, focussing upon no more than three writers or texts.

1. What does it mean to 'read' a literary text?
2. 'All the world's a stage,/And all the men and women merely players' (Jaques in *As You Like It*). How far does playing and/or performance allow you to understand the 'world'?
3. Would you agree that the idea of women's writing is disturbing in that it implies a limit on what women might be able to write?
4. Why learn poems by heart?
5. 'To me the meanest flower that blows can give/Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears' (Wordsworth). Consider the relationship between little things ('meanest flower') and passion ('tears').
6. Will the idea of a 'book' have any meaning in a digital world?