



St John's College, Oxford
Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition 2017/18

The St John's College Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition will be running for the eighth time during the academic year 2017/18. The competition is open to all UK students who are currently studying in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) or equivalent, whether or not they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject. Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. How do gods and fate help the development of the epic plot? Discuss with examples from Greek and/or Latin literature.
2. How can we write Graeco-Roman history from the point of view of the poor?
3. 'I know nothing except that I know nothing' (Socrates). Is it possible for someone to teach if he does not know anything?
4. 'We shape our tools and thereafter they shape us'. If correct, what are the implications of this statement for the field of Graeco-Roman archaeology?

Aims and Guidelines:

The competition gives UK students of any subjects, currently studying in Year 12 or equivalent, an opportunity to write an essay on the classical world. The organizers are interested in providing an occasion for independent research, to encourage curiosity and reflection in those who have studied the ancient world before and those who have not.

The essay titles have been chosen to take account of the research expertise at St John's College and to encourage the widest possible approach to investigation of the ancient world. A £100 book token will be awarded to the best essay in each category and an additional £75 book token to the overall winner. All applicants will receive a certificate of entry.

All primary texts can be considered in translation or in the original language. Where either primary or secondary sources have been used they should be acknowledged with full references given.

All essays should:

- Be word-processed with double-spaced lines.
- Include **ONLY** your initials and date of birth in your header or footer (to allow anonymous marking).
- Be submitted, together with a cover sheet, by **4pm on Thursday 22 February 2018** to the following address: Classics Essay Competition, College Office, St John's College, Oxford, OX1 3JP

All entrants will also be invited to attend a Study Afternoon at St John's College, Oxford on Thursday 19 April 2018.

If you have any outstanding questions, please [contact access@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:contact.access@sjc.ox.ac.uk).