**St. John’s College, Oxford**

**Theology Essay Competition 2019**

The St. John’s College Theology Essay Competition is open to all UK students currently studying in Year 12 or 13 (2019/2020). The competition is open to students regardless of whether they are currently studying e.g. Religious Studies (or equivalent) at A-level. Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. What problems might arise for a lay reader engaging with the Old Testament?
2. “The Old Testament is irrelevant.” Critically discuss this statement.
3. Why are there so many female tricksters in the Old Testament?
4. Is it possible to ever really reach any understanding of the Old Testament without an understanding of Hebrew?

***Aims and Guidelines*:**

The competition gives UK students currently studying in Year 12 or 13 (or equivalent) an opportunity to write an essay on a theological topic. The organisers are interested in providing an occasion for independent research, as well as to encourage curiosity and reflection.

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 the investigation of theology. Book tokens will be awarded to the best essay in each category. 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 the cover sheet, by **2pm** on **Friday 27 September 2019** to the following email address: [access@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:access@sjc.ox.ac.uk).

All entrants will also be invited to attend a Study Afternoon at St John’s College, Oxford on **Saturday 5 October 2019**. If you have any outstanding questions, please contact [access@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:access@sjc.ox.ac.uk).