

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Newnham Archaeology Prize 2020-2021

The Archaeology Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a UK school. It is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write about archaeology in the broad sense in which it is offered at Cambridge, from archaeological science and biological anthropology to heritage and ancient languages.

As archaeology is not formally taught at UK schools, we hope that this essay prize will offer students an opportunity to explore and pursue their interests in this field while developing their independent study and writing skills. Through exposure to the type of work they might be expected to do at Cambridge, we also hope high flying students will be encouraged to consider applying to the University – and hopefully to Newnham. Newnham archaeologists have a long history of being at the forefront of their field, and include Dorothy Garrod (first female Oxbridge Professor), Jane Harrison, Jacquetta Hawkes, and Gertrude Caton Thompson.

As archaeology is such a broad subject spanning both the arts and humanities and the sciences, this prize may appeal to students studying a range of subjects - from history, English and sociology to biology and chemistry. We welcome entries from students studying any combination of subjects. Entrants are invited to submit a response to any **one** of the questions overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions). All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **five** entries may be submitted per school.

This is the first Archaeology essay competition, but entrants may find it helpful to look at entries to previous competitions on the Newnham College website, which may be useful as they decide how to answer their chosen question. However, it is to be noted that there are many angles from which to approach each question and those available on the website are only a limited sample. Good essays will present a clear argument using specific examples, but outside of this many different approaches are welcome.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here:
https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d0jlQUfoNT1f7g1

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The **cover sheet** should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

The deadline for receipt is **12pm on Wednesday 10th March 2021**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Lucy Rogers (Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.

The Archaeology Prize 2020-21: Questions

- 1) Why study the material record of historic periods? What can archaeology tell us that written sources cannot?
- 2) How are biological techniques reshaping our views of the Neanderthals?
- 3) How and why was writing invented?