

**NEWNHAM COLLEGE**  
**CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF**

**The Newnham Classics Prize 2020-21**

The Classics 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 the literature, history, society and culture of the ancient Mediterranean and the societies of the Roman and Greek worlds, while developing their independent study and writing skills. Through exposure to the type of work they might be expected to do at Cambridge, we hope high-flying students will be encouraged to consider applying to the University – and hopefully to Newnham. Newnham women, from Marion Kennedy and Jane Harrison to Joyce Reynolds and Mary Beard, have a long tradition of excellence in classical subjects.

This prize may be of particular interest to those studying classical subjects, including Classical Civilisation, Ancient History, Latin and Greek; but we welcome entries from interested 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.

Entrants may find it helpful to look at entries to last year's Classics essay competition on the Newnham College website, which may be useful to you as you decide how to answer your 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](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d0jlQUfoNT1f7g1)

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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Lucy Rogers (Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer) by email at [slo@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@newn.cam.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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**The Classics Prize 2020-21: Questions**

- 1) 'Ancient myths have subversive power precisely because they can be told – and read – in different ways' (Helen Morales, *Antigone Rising*). Do recent retellings of Greek myth support this claim?
- 2) 'Tell me about a complicated man' (Homer, *Odyssey* 1.1, translated by Emily Wilson). Is complexity an important characteristic of the characters and stories of classical epic?
- 3) 'There's a persistent belief that describing contemporary political figures in classical terms automatically furthers understanding' (Neville Morley, *Sphinx* blog). Do comparisons with past Roman emperors and other ancient leaders help or hinder our understanding of contemporary political events?