



The Newnham Classics Prize 2021-22

The Classics Essay Prize is open to all female students **currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a **UK state 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 **four** 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.

Newnham will be running a programme of essay writing skills advice and guidance webinars in the new year. Dates and information can be found [here](#).

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes have a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200 and a third prize of £100. Prize money is split 50:50 between the Essay Prize winner and the funding of resources for their school.

The [completed cover sheet](#) must also be submitted. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section before submission. Entries without an appropriately completed coversheet will be invalid.

Entrants should submit their entry to the webform, found here:
https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHgegVW9EBBIKTpY

The deadline for submission is **12pm on Friday 11 March 2022**. For any queries not answered here, please contact essayprizes@newn.cam.ac.uk.

The Classics Prize 2021-22 Questions

- 1) If the hero is, in Charlotte Higgins' words 'an extreme and disturbing figure, closely connected to the gods', what relevance do stories of classical heroes have for modern readers?
- 2) How important are the senses of touch, taste, and smell to classical writers? (You may focus on two or three writers in your answer.)
- 3) What does decolonisation have to do with the study of Graeco-Roman classical antiquity?