

## Fitzwilliam College Ancient World and Classics Essay Competition 2025

Fitzwilliam College is pleased to release the questions for the 2025 Ancient World and Classics essay competition. Please clearly indicate on your submission which question you have chosen to answer.

- 1) “In the ancient world, verse was only a form of entertainment, nothing more, nothing less.” Is this a fair description of any ancient text of your choice?
- 2) Can we truly appreciate ancient literature without an understanding of the world in which it was produced?
- 3) “Plato and Aristotle were writing for a very different world.” Discuss any argument of your choice by Plato or Aristotle that you feel demonstrates this
- 4) “The Regina tombstone tells us a lot about what the Roman empire was like”. Do you agree? You may focus on any aspect inspired by this image. As a starting point, look at eg <https://blog.twmuseums.org.uk/the-regina-tombstone/>



Regina tombstone, Arbeia 2<sup>nd</sup> century

5) Is this image representative of women's lives in the ancient Greek world?



Lekythos (oil flask) Attributed to the Amasis Painter ca. 550–530 BC

These questions may be answered, where appropriate, with reference to any texts and/or other evidence of your choice and any period or region of the ancient world, broadly conceived (it may include not just the Classical world, but e.g. the Ancient Near East and Egypt).

### **Competition Rules**

This essay competition is for students in their penultimate year of education - Year 12 (Eng + Wales), S5 (Scotland), Y13 (NI).

Applicants will be required to enter their details online using the form linked on the essay competitions webpage, and to upload one PDF copy of their essay, formatted using the template provided, electronically **or** post a hard copy of the formatted essay to:

Schools Liaison Officer  
Fitzwilliam College

Cambridge  
CB3 0DG

by **6pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2025**. If the PDF file is too large to submit to the online form, please email your submission to [essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk](mailto:essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk). Further submission information can be found on the essay competition website: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/event/fitzwilliam-college-competitions>

Your submission must be entirely your own work. When submitting your essay, you will need to provide contact information for one of your teachers and if necessary, we may contact them to verify that your submission is entirely your own work. Students are only permitted to enter one competition and may only submit one entry to their chosen competition. There is a strict limit of five submissions per school for each essay competition. If more than five students from the same school enter the same competition, a teacher from that school will be contacted and asked to select the five entries; failure to do so will result in all submissions from the school to that competition being disqualified.

Essays should be between 2000 and 2500 words long and contain a list of works consulted and cited at the end. This bibliography is excluded from the word limit, but any footnotes are included. Please provide a word count at the end of the essay. If you include any diagrams or tables in the essay, they each count as 100 words. Guidance on referencing is available on the website. Applicants must ensure that pages are numbered and that their full name is on each page.

Alongside your essay you must provide a completed research log. Your research log will detail how you approached and thought about the question and will give the markers an understanding of why you chose to answer the question in the way that you did.

Your essay and research log should be submitted together using the template linked on our website. Any submissions not using the template provided will not be counted in the competition.

**Prizes:**

The prize fund (per competition) is £300 with a first prize of £200 and highly commended applicants being awarded a £25 book voucher. A prizegiving ceremony will be held in April 2025

**For further information about the competition, please contact:**

[essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk](mailto:essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk).

**For questions about the Classics course, please contact:**

[admissions@fitz.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@fitz.cam.ac.uk).