



CHARTERHOUSE@HOME

CQ ESSAY COMPETITION FOR FIFTHS

MODERN SOCIETY:
ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?



**THE SCIENTISTS WHO
SHAPED OUR WORLD**

ENGLISH LITERATURE
FROM BEOWULF TO WOOLF

POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY
WHAT IS MODERN DEMOCRACY?

23492 | HL

**A SHORT HISTORY
OF ECONOMICS**
RISE & FALL

FURTHER MATHS



CHARTERHOUSE@HOME

CQ Essay Competition

This essay competition is open to pupils in the current Fifts. There is a first, second and third prize, and a number of runner-up prizes, all of which we hope to present at the start of OQ 2020.

This is an excellent way to prepare for the academic challenge ahead in the Specialists, and to engage with advanced level study and skills in the remaining weeks of CQ.

Help and guidance about extended writing and research will be available in the academic section on Greyhound@Home.

A response to one of the titles below should be submitted as an essay (1000-1500 words) to the Deputy Headmaster (Academic) **Mr Brian** by 26 June 2020 via email to:

DeputyHeadmasterAcademic@Charterhouse.org.uk



Essay Titles:

HISTORY, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIETY

- “Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are a fundamental breach of the principles of liberty.” Discuss.
- Critically examine the claim that governments have a right to collect data on their citizens for the greater good.
- “Utilitarians like J S Mill and J Bentham would have supported the national lockdown.” Discuss.
- “Pandemics are a necessary evil.” Discuss.
- “Modern society has no moral centre or guiding force.” Discuss.
- “If all our cells are replaced several times over our lifetimes, what makes us, us?” Discuss.
- “There’s no good reason to deny that apes are persons.” Discuss.
- “You were always going to complete this essay because you don’t have freewill.” Discuss.
- Is an authoritarian government better for economic development than a democracy?
- Is a high degree of inequality bad for the richest in society?
- “From the stocks to Love Island. Public humiliation has played a vital role in society’s morals” Discuss.
- “The only way to respond to environmental crises while remaining sane, is to remember that worse has happened before, that humans are just another species, and that there is truth in the Chinese proverb: ‘May you live in interesting times.’” Discuss.
- To what extent is it fair to suggest that geographical variations in wealth and well-being are more significant than the overall, average level of human welfare?
- Why is biodiversity under threat, and why are humans so apparently slow to react to the dangers this “sixth extinction” poses?
- “The nation-state has no future.” In a world of globalisation, online communities, populism, neo-colonialism, and global and regional organisations like the EU, UN and WTO, is it possible seriously to disagree with this diagnosis?
- “Study the historian before you begin to study the facts.” Discuss this claim with reference to at least two ancient historians.

MATHEMATICS

- Can Mathematics be beautiful?
- What, if anything, is zero?
- Mathematics: invented or discovered?
- Do numbers exist?
- How does a computer work?
- What are fractals and why are they important?
- Why are Fibonacci numbers interesting and important?
- Why are the patterns of Pascal's triangle so important?
- The history of numbers: where did they come from and how has our view of the number line changed over time?
- How can mathematical modelling be used to inform the management of infectious diseases like COVID-19?



SCIENCE

- How will COVID 19 change the world?
- How can humans defeat the Coronavirus?
- Would the vast amounts of money spent on particle accelerators and space exploration be better spent solving the problems that exist on Earth?
- “Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.” (Edwin Hubble). Do the laws of physics exist independent of a human mind?
- “Humans are the best adapted animals.” Discuss.
- “DNA technologies will change our future.” Discuss.
- Which is the most important scientific equation (or constant) and why?
- What would life be like without the hydrogen bond?
- Phlogiston theory: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
- Select a famous scientist and discuss their contribution to scientific understanding.

LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND THEATRE

- “There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.” (Oscar Wilde, from the Preface to *The Picture of Dorian Gray*) To what extent do you think this is true?
- Our personality shifts when we speak another language. How do your personality and perception of the world change when speaking another language?
- Matthew Arnold defined culture as “the best which has been thought and said in the world”. How might you define culture?
- “No poet, no artist of any art, has his complete meaning alone. His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to the dead poets and artists.” (T.S. Eliot, from ‘Tradition and the Individual Talent’). To what extent do you share T.S. Eliot’s views on originality?
- “Song lyrics should form as much a part of the English syllabus as Shakespeare”. To what extent do you think this is true?
- “In an age of Social Media, theatre audiences are unable to engage fully with a production unless it is visually exciting.” To what extent do you agree with this statement, with reference to at least one recent theatre production you have seen. Please note the venue, director and date of the production(s) you are referring to.
- “Texts without contexts have limited value.” In what ways does an understanding of an author and his environment help or hinder our response to a piece of literature? Discuss with reference to at least two classical authors of your choosing.
- Who was the greatest poet of the Augustan age?
- How important is the concept of genre for appreciating classical literature?
- Why was the countryside important for writers of the ancient world?

MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE AND THE VISUAL ARTS

- In what way has food shaped the city of London?
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said that “Music is liquid architecture; Architecture is frozen music”. Discuss this statement with references to specific examples of both music and architecture.
- Using a specific example of any artwork seen first-hand, analyse how it can change our way of looking at the world through its concept, process and formal elements.
- As an art critic, write a review of an actual current exhibition you have seen. You may compare your opinion to other reviews and critically come to your own conclusion.
- “Musicians are born, not made.” Can anyone be taught to be a good musician, or do the qualities required have to be inborn?
- Is the familiar contrast between ‘serious’ and ‘popular’ music still relevant today? Illustrate your answer with any musical examples you consider relevant.
- The American poet Longfellow wrote that “Music is the international language of mankind”. To what extent can this opinion be justified?

MODERN LANGUAGES

Answer one of the following in either French, German or Spanish

- Explain the importance of learning a second language
- “The future of democracy is unsure”. What’s your view?
- “Young people are no longer interested in politics”. Discuss.
- If you had to leave the country, where would you go and why ?
- If you stumbled upon Aladdin’s lamp, what would be your three wishes?

