

PETERHOUSE VELLACOTT HISTORY PRIZE – HOW TO ENTER

Write an essay of between 2,000 and 4,000 words on one of the following topics. Include a Bibliography and, if necessary, a Webography. Essays may be hand-written (if clearly legible) or word-processed. Please use A4 paper and only write on one side of each page you use. Please remember to keep a copy of your essay as submitted essays cannot be returned. It is unfortunately not possible to provide feedback on the essays submitted.

All entrants must submit a completed application form and cover sheet with their essay. Essays should be sent in an A4 envelope *ensuring the right postage has been used* to:

ESSAY PRIZE
Peterhouse Admissions Office
Trumpington Street
Cambridge
CB2 1RD

The deadline is **21st March 2014**. Faxes and email attachments will not be accepted. Further information about how to enter can be found below. Good luck!

Vellacott History Prize Questions 2014

1. 'Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given, and transmitted from the past' (Karl Marx). Discuss.
2. Is 'The Hellenistic Period' anything more than a label of convenience for historians of the ancient world?
3. When did the Roman Republic become the Roman Empire?
4. How useful is the New Testament as an historical source?
5. When did the Eastern Roman Empire become the Byzantine Empire?
6. 'Without Mohammed, Charlemagne would have been inconceivable' (Henri Pirenne). Discuss.
7. Was Alfred the Great great?
8. How did Norman governance differ from Anglo-Saxon governance of England?
9. Does the concept of feudalism help to explain political history in the West during the Middle Ages? (You may answer with reference to any country or countries that you wish.)
10. How was political opposition to rulers justified in the later Middle Ages? (You may restrict your answer to any one polity, if you wish.)
11. Who benefited from the Black Death?
12. Did nationalism exist in the Middle Ages?

13. 'And if a man consider the original of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof...' (Thomas Hobbes). Do you agree?
14. What was humanism?
15. 'Henry VIII was a psychopath' (Kevin Dutton). Discuss.
16. Which posed the greater threat to Renaissance Christendom: Protestantism or the Turk?
17. Why did the Tokugawa shogunate try to limit foreign access to Japan?
18. Assess the consequences of sea power in EITHER the Mediterranean of the sixteenth century OR the Caribbean of the seventeenth century.
19. What was achieved by censorship in early modern Europe? (You may limit your answer to one country, if you wish.)
20. Why were early modern law-makers so concerned to limit bastardy?
21. Was there an 'English Revolution' in the seventeenth century?
22. Was there a new age of childhood in the eighteenth century?
23. 'Virtually one great state having the same basis of general law, with some diversity of provincial customs and local establishments.' Do you agree with Edmund Burke's view of Europe?
24. What effect did technological change have on EITHER European OR Asian society in the period 1650-1800? (You may limit your answer to one country, if you wish.)
25. What were the causes of the Batavian Revolution?
26. How did firearms shape social and political formations in nineteenth-century East Africa?
27. What was the relationship between religion and colonialism in the nineteenth-century?
28. Discuss the ecological effects of population migration to North America during EITHER the seventeenth OR the nineteenth century.
29. 'Stupid people are generally Conservative. I believe that is so obviously and universally admitted a principle that I hardly think any gentleman will deny it' (John Stuart Mill). Discuss.
30. Why were people in the twentieth-century convinced by 'scientific racism'?
31. 'Adolf Hitler was a product of globalisation'. Discuss.
32. Discuss the historical significance of ONE of the following places or buildings: the Lake District; the Empire State Building; the Valley of the Fallen; the IBM Watson Research Center.

33. 'In an economy of plenty and leisure, which the machine had already made feasible, everybody would only have to work a few hours a day.' Comment on this passage from Mary McCarthy's *The Group* (1963).

34. 'Like the Roman, I seem to see "the River Tiber foaming with much blood"' (J. Enoch Powell). Discuss.

35. What is African history?

Competitors are advised that the main focus of the essay should **not** be material previously or currently being studied by the entrant as part of their sixth form studies. The entrant may refer to topics that will be studied in future so long as, at the time of the closing date, the entrant has received no formal tuition on the topic in question. All entries must be accompanied by a signed statement from their Head of Sixth Form or Head of History confirming that the essay is the entrant's own work and that the main focus of the essay is not something which s/he has hitherto studied in the sixth form classroom. Please remember a maximum of **two entries per school or college per competition** is requested.

Application form for the Peterhouse Essay Prizes 2014 (Vellacott, Kelvin and Thomas Campion)

Please complete this form clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to us by **21st March 2014**.
Please paperclip the form to your essay, ensuring that you also include your **name** and the **essay question number** at the top of the front page of your essay.

1. I am entering the:
VELLACOTT HISTORY / KELVIN SCIENCE / THOMAS CAMPION ENGLISH essay competition
(please delete as applicable)
2. Which essay number and title have you chosen (please remember to mark this on your essay)?

3. Name:
4. Sex: M/F
5. Date of Birth:
6. Home Address:

7. Home Tel:
8. Mobile:
9. Email (ESSENTIAL, so please print clearly):
10. A) School Name:
B) School Address:

11. Year at school:
12. A) Name of Head of Sixth Form/Department named on Essay Cover Sheet:
B) His/her email address:
13. If you go to University, what subject are you likely to apply for?

Thanks for your entry!

COVER SHEET

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ENTRANT

Name of Entrant [PLEASE PRINT]:

Email Address of Entrant:

Name and Address of School or College:

Essay Question Chosen:

I certify that the attached essay is my own work, that all quotations and citations (including those from the worldwide web) are fully acknowledged, and that the essay is within the word limit.

Signature:

Date:

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY HEAD OF SIXTH FORM OR HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Name of Teacher [PLEASE PRINT]:

Email Address of Teacher:

I certify that the attached essay is the entrant's own work and that the main focus of the essay is not material which has hitherto been studied by the entrant in the sixth form classroom.

Signature:

Date:

Once completed, this form, application form and essay should be sent in an A4 envelope to the following address by **21st March 2014**:

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