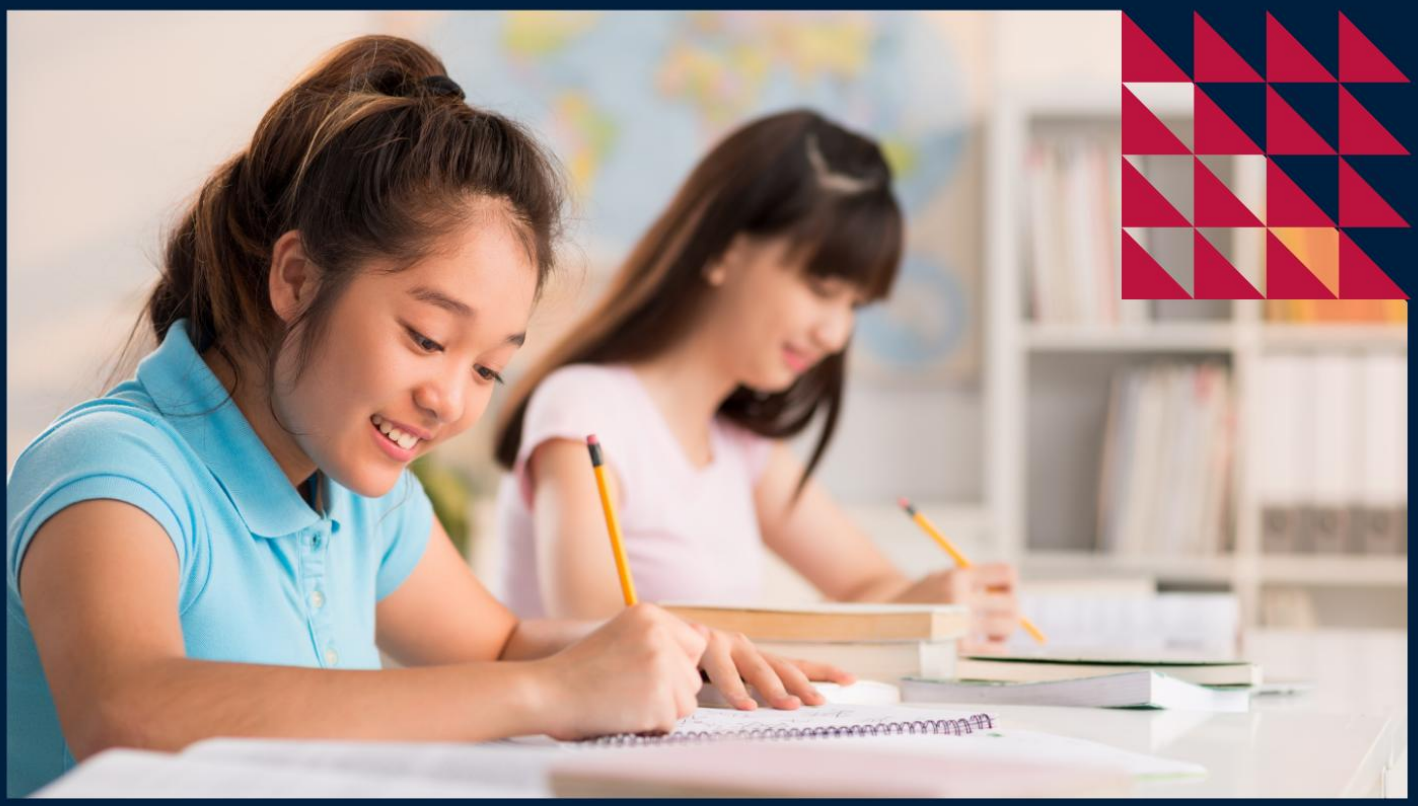
ISA ARTS



ISA ESSAY COMPETITION

Open to Year 5 - 13

SCAN HERE

DEADLINE

Thursday 6 May 2027

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

Competition open to ISA Members Schools only

ISA Essay Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

The ISA Essay Competition is an annual opportunity for pupils at ISA Members' schools to showcase their writing skills. Young writers are invited to submit entries to a range of categories.

Year Groups and Eligibility

Only schools whose Head is a Member with ISA are eligible to enter ISA competitions. Any pupils competing must be on the main school's admissions register on the date of the event.

Our year groups follow the UK National Curriculum. For guidance on selecting the correct year group for your student(s), please refer to the UK system here. When completing your application, please enter students according to the UK year group, even if your school uses a different age or stage structure.

Access and Inclusion

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities as accessible as possible. We warmly welcome applications from all students, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

If a student (including those with an EHCP or on the SEND register) is working at a level that does not align with their chronological year group, or if your school prioritises developmental stages, skills, or personalised progression rather than fixed year groups, please do get in touch with us at the following email address hannah.lovegrove.campion@isaschools.org.uk. We are happy to discuss individual circumstances and advise on the most appropriate way to apply.

Accessible Formats

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please let us know as early as possible if you require this, so we can provide the information in a format that works for you.

Judging Criteria

- Originality and creativity
- Style and presentation
- Use of language
- Form and structure

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

ISA Essay Competition 2027
Rules and Guidelines

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website here by **Thursday 6 May 2027** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

- For individual entries, all files need to be submitted with the **school's name followed by** the **student's name e.g. SchoolName_JohnSmith.** This helps us identify clearly each student's entry that has been submitted.
- Entries must be submitted in either a **PDF** or **Word** format only.
- Essays can be creative or academic. Themes for each category below.
- Please only submit a clear photo/scan of the entry, ensure no children appear on the photo.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools may submit a **maximum of two entries per year category below from year 5 to year 11**, and up to 6 entries for **Years 12 and 13**. Therefore, schools may submit a maximum of **12 entries in total**. We encourage schools to run a competition in house and submit their strongest entries.

- Year 5 to 6
- Year 7 to 8
- Year 9 to 11
- Year 12 and 13

RULES

- Entries should be unaided work. They should not have been heavily edited/re-drafted following teacher comments or feedback.
- Each entry must include the essay title, pupil's name, school name and their year clearly written at the top of the page.
- Entries must be the work of individuals only.
- Essays can be handwritten or typed.
- Essays must mention final word count at the end of each essay.
- For the sixth form competition, students can choose to write about any topic or genre. For the other three age groups there are a range of titles to choose from.
- Essays can be written in any language, provided an English translation is given.
- **AI generated entries will not be allowed in the competition.**
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.
- All entries must be the students original work, which have never been published.

Titles and Guidelines per category

Year 5-6

For this Category, candidates will turn/have turned 10 or 11 years old in the 2025–26 academic year (equivalent to Years 5 and 6). Schools can submit a maximum of two entries in this category. Candidates should submit an original piece of writing in response to the following titles:

Word limit of 500-800

Titles TBC

Year 7-8

For this category, candidates will turn/have turned 12 or 13 years old in the 2025–26 academic year (equivalent to Years 7 and 8). Schools can submit a maximum of two entries for this category. Candidates should submit an original piece of writing in response to the following titles:

Word limit of 500-800

Titles TBC

Year 9-11

For this category, candidates will turn/have turned 14, 15 or 16 years old in the 2025–26 academic year (equivalent to Years 9-11). Schools can submit a maximum of two entries for this category. Candidates should submit an original piece of writing in response to the following titles:

Word limit of 500-800

1. **Lie of the Land**
2. **The Misunderstanding**
3. **Priorities**
4. **Mirror Image**
5. **Downtime**

Year 12-13

Entrants must be still in full-time education at an ISA School at the time of entering. Schools may submit a maximum of six entries for this category. An original piece of writing (1,000 words maximum) is required on any topic and in any genre. Submissions will be judged in the following categories:

1. Fiction writing
2. Arts, English, and Humanities
3. Science and Technology
4. History, Politics, and Economics

Submissions can be pieces of work that have already been completed during sixth form studies; however, they should not have been heavily edited/re-drafted following teacher comments or feedback.