



INDEPENDENT
S C H O O L S
A S S O C I A T I O N

ISA Essay Competition

The ISA Essay Competition is an annual opportunity for pupils at ISA Members' Schools to explore their writing skills.

Wordsmiths from Year 5 to Sixth Form are invited to submit entries that showcase the flair and expertise of their creative writing.

DEADLINE 17 March

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ISA ESSAY COMPETITION 2022 – RULES AND GUIDELINES

Please read the Rules and Guidelines carefully!

- **Eligibility**

This competition is open to ISA Members' schools only. Schools may submit a maximum of two entries for each of the three competition levels. Sixth formers may enter up to six essays in total. Competition open to pupils from Year 5 to Year 13.

- **Age group categories**

- Horsey (Junior: Years 5 & 6)
- Max Gate (Intermediate: Years 7 & 8)
- Favonius (Senior: Years 9 -11)
- Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13)

- **How to enter**

Entries must be submitted via the entry form on the ISA website by 17 March 2022, at the latest.

Entries can be handwritten or typed.

Entries should be unaided work, signed by the relevant teacher.

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 shown below.

Please see titles and guidelines per category below.

- **Horsey Category (years 5 and 6) – titles and guidelines**

For the Horsey Category, candidates will turn/have turned 10 or 11 years old in the 2021–22 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:
(We recommend a word limit of between 500-800).

1. Imaginative

A knight in full armour approached the dark forest but didn't expect such an adventure to unfold!

2. Fantasy

Imagine that you become a character from your favourite movie. Describe a typical day in their life.

3. Science fiction

You have entered a prize draw to fly into space with Bezos, the owner of Amazon, on his next adventure. You win! Describe the whole experience!

4. Autobiography

Describe your most important pastime or hobby. Explain with detailed examples how it enriches your life.

5. A news article

Schools are now celebrating their achievements for 2020-2021. Write a news article where you interview the school community about its annual highlights.

- **Max Gate Category (years 7 and 8) – titles and guidelines**

For the Max Gate Category, candidates will turn/have turned 12 or 13 years old in the 2021–22 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:

(There is no word limit set for this category, please visit our website to see the average length of the winning pieces from last year).

1. A Whimper in the Night.
2. How can a twelve or thirteen-year-old really make a difference in our world?
3. The Rap Competition
4. Should we be frightened of robots?
5. 'If only I had been able to find that key...'
6. The Birthday Party
7. The Last Seat on the Plane

- **Favonius Category (years 9 - 11) – titles and guidelines**

For the Favonius Category, candidates will turn/have turned 14, 15 or 16 years old in the 2021–22 academic year (equivalent to Years 9-11).

Schools can submit a maximum of two entries for this category.

An original piece of writing (**500–800 words**, prose, poetry or drama) is required and candidates may use the first or third person, past or present tense.

Candidates should submit an original piece of writing in response to the following titles:

1. Differences
2. Over the bridge
3. Counting the cost
4. Fresh air
5. Mistaken identity
6. The sound of laughter

- **Sixth Form Category (years 12 and 13) – categories and guidelines**

For the Sixth Form Essay Prize candidates will turn/have turned 17, 18 or 19 years old in the 2021-22 academic year (being in sixth form) and 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 strict maximum limit**) is required on any topic and in any genre.

Submissions will be judged in the following categories:

1. English and Linguistics
2. Science, IT and Technology
3. Arts and Humanities (including Languages, please note essays must be written in English)

Submissions can be pieces of work that have already been completed in the course of sixth form studies,

Entries should be unaided work, they should not have been heavily edited/re-drafted following teacher comments or feedback.

We look forward to receiving your entries!

The last day to submit entries is Thursday 17 March 2022.

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