Keble College Essay Competition
IN THEOLOGY & RELIGION 2020

Keble College, one of the colleges of the University of Oxford, is running an essay competition to encourage more interest in Theology and Religion in schools, and to offer an opportunity for students to consider in more depth questions of contemporary and historical significance. We are looking for essays which are carefully researched, well-structured and well-presented, but which also reflect critical awareness and an ability to reason through an argument.

How to enter:

School students within two years of entering University (in the UK, post-16) are invited to submit an essay of up to 1,500 words (excluding references) on ONE of the questions below.

The essay judged best by a panel of Keble College theologians will receive a prize of £300. Smaller prizes may be awarded to runners-up.

Essays can be submitted as an email attachment to college.office@keble.ox.ac.uk or if necessary, by post (word-processed and printed) to College Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG. The essay must be accompanied by a completed entry form (below).

The deadline for entries is Friday 5th June 2020. Two previous prize winning essays have been provided on our website as examples of successful entries.

Regulations:

Individual schools should submit *no more than three entries in total*.

The essay must be the product of independent work and not written as part of a taught course.

The student need not be taking a formal qualification in Religious Studies.

Only one essay per person will be accepted.

All entrants must submit a completed entry form and cover sheet with their essay.

Entrants will be notified by email of the outcome of the judges’ decision by Friday 10th July 2020.

We regret that feedback cannot be guaranteed on the essays submitted.

Questions:

1) ‘Divine revelation, if it were to occur, could never be a source of knowledge.’ Discuss.

2) Should believers write the history of their own religions?

3) 'In sixteenth-century arguments about salvation by faith alone, both Catholics and Protestants missed the point.' Discuss, comparing at least one Catholic and one Protestant writer.

4) 'The apparent reality of cosmic ‘fine tuning’ furnishes one of the most powerful and promising platforms for a dialogue between theology and physical cosmology.' Discuss.
KEBLE COLLEGE ESSAY COMPETITION IN THEOLOGY & RELIGION
ENTRY FORM

Please complete this form and return it with your essay by the deadline of Friday 5th June 2020. You should send the form together with the essay in electronic form to college.office@keble.ox.ac.uk with the subject heading: “Theology & Religion Essay Competition 2020” or if necessary in hard copy (word processed and printed) to College Office, Keble College, Parks Road OX1 3PG.

Name: __________________________________________________________

Email address: ______________________________________________________

School: ___________________________________________________________

Essay number and title: _____________________________________________

Year at school: ____________________________________________________

I declare that the essay submitted is my own independent work, and that all material (including internet resources) quoted and used in its preparation is fully referenced. The essay is within the 1500 word limit.

Signature: _________________________________________________________
Date: ___ /___ / _____

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY TEACHER

Name of Teacher: ______________________________________________________
Position: ____________________________________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________

I declare that the submitted essay is the student’s own independent work, and has not been produced in the course of her/his ordinary studies.

Signature: _________________________________________________________
Date: ___ /___ / _____