

KEBLE COLLEGE ESSAY COMPETITION IN THEOLOGY & RELIGION 2023

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, Year 12/13 or equivalent) 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. The essay must be accompanied by a completed entry form (below).

The deadline for entries is **Friday 9th June 2023**. 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 7th July 2023**.

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

Questions:

1. What does the concept of creation ex nihilo tell us about the nature of God?
2. Can contemporary times be described as 'a secular age'?
3. In what sense, if any, is religious faith rational?
4. Who/What is the most important in the interpretation of biblical texts: the author, the text, the reader(s), or something else altogether?
5. Given that God is agreed to be unknowable, how have theologians justified claims to have knowledge of God?

**KEBLE COLLEGE ESSAY COMPETITION IN THEOLOGY & RELIGION
ENTRY FORM**

*Please complete this form and return it with your essay by the deadline of **Friday 9th June 2023**. 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 2023" 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: ___ / ___ / ____