

Modern Languages Essay Prize 2019

The task is to write an essay of between 1,500 and 2,000 words, on a work of literature or visual art newly released, performed or first published within the last two years. Possible subjects include any published literary material, films, concerts and opera, exhibitions, drama and dance performances, and TV shows. The original language of the work under consideration must be one of the main languages taught by the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, or Portuguese).

The emphasis of your essay must be on this recent work, although you may want to refer to other works for comparison and to give context (for example, in discussing a new film you might want to refer to older films as well as critical texts, but your essay must focus on the new film). Your essay should not be on – although it might refer to – something that you have studied or are currently studying in the classroom or offering as A-Level (or equivalent) coursework.

The judges will be looking for precise observation and attention to detail, original ideas, perceptive analysis, and expressive and effective writing. You should also adhere to academic standards of presentation: primary and secondary authorities used should be acknowledged and, where quotation is made, cited. If you are writing about work in a language that you are currently studying at school, quotations from the work under consideration should be kept in the original language. If you are not currently studying the relevant language at school, quotations can be given in translation.

Please submit your entry in electronic form (as a PDF) to schoolsprizes@cai.cam.ac.uk.

Please do not put your name or your school's name on your entry, but instead complete a cover sheet (Word/PDF). This completed coversheet must be sent along with your submission as a separate file.

Entries should arrive by the deadline of **Friday 31st May 2019**.

All candidates will be notified of the results of the competition by early September.