

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Newnham Modern and Medieval Languages Essay Prize 2016-17

The Newnham Modern and Medieval Languages Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a UK school. This prize may be of particular interest to those currently studying, or considering studying, languages, but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects.

Entrants are invited to submit a response to any **one** of the questions overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions). Essays should be written primarily in English. All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **five** entries may be submitted per school.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Good essays will present a clear argument using specific examples, but beyond this many different approaches are welcome.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here:
<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/>

The **cover sheet** should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

The deadline for receipt is **12pm on Friday 3rd March 2017**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Sophie Parry (Schools Liaison Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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Questions

1. A recent newspaper headline reads: “*Essex girls’ launch campaign to delete the term from the dictionary*”. What does this headline suggest about our understanding of the influence of language in everyday life? What role do you think dictionaries should play in national life?

2. Do you think the printed book still has a future in the global digital age?

3. “*The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.*” What do you understand by this statement by the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein and do you think that knowing more than one language pushes back the frontiers of the world in which you live?