

**NEWNHAM COLLEGE**  
**CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF**

**The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize 2019-20**

The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a UK school. It is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write about philosophy and philosophical matters in the broadest sense, while developing their independent study and writing skills. Through exposure to the type of work they might be expected to do at Cambridge, we hope highflying students will be encouraged to consider applying to the University – and hopefully to Newnham, where women’s history and educational excellence are, of course, central.

This prize may be of particular interest to those either currently studying, or considering studying, Philosophy, but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects. Entrants are invited to submit a response to the question overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words (including footnotes and captions). 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:  
<https://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/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 Monday 11 May 2020**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Lucy Rogers (Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer) by email at [slo@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@newn.cam.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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**The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize 2019-20 Question**

'Amid all the profuse waste of the means of happiness which men commit, there is no imprudence more flagrant than that of Selfishness in the ordinary sense of the term' (Henry Sidgwick). Are we happier if we are unselfish? Does this show that ethics is indirectly a matter of self-interest?

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Henry Sidgwick (1838-1900) was Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, and helped to found Newnham College in 1871, together with suffragist Millicent Garrett Fawcett.