

ESSAY COMPETITION

Aspiring Barristers
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www.aspiringbarristers.org

ASPIRING BARRISTERS ESSAY COMPETITION

Competition Rules:

1. All entries for Aspiring Barristers' Essay Competition are subject to the following rules and must be fully complied with. Non-compliance with any of these rules will result in the essay entry in question being automatically disqualified.
2. Entries are accepted from both Aspiring Barristers' Members and Non-Members.
3. Entries must be no more than 3,000 words in length. References, footnotes and bibliographies are not included in the overall word count.
4. Candidates must answer the set Essay Competition question/title. Candidates can find the Essay Competition question/title on Aspiring Barristers' website.
5. All entries must be kept anonymised. Nothing which may disclose the identity of the candidate must be included anywhere on either the essay entry itself or the entrant's cover page.
6. The referencing system to be adopted by applicants when writing their entries must be either OSCOLA or Harvard Referencing. Neither referencing system is preferred over the other.
7. The entry submitted must be the applicant's own original work and must have been produced solely by the specified author without any external assistance. The usual rules surrounding academic conduct and plagiarism applicable across further education institutions apply.
8. Entries which have previously been submitted as part of another essay competition run by another organisation, institution or society will not be accepted.

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9. Only one entry can be made per applicant. Numerous entries will be disregarded. In the event that more than one entry is made per candidate, the earlier essay will stand and the other will be disregarded. Modified entries of an already submitted essay will not be accepted. This is so even if the deadline has not yet passed. Entries submitted beyond the deadline will not be considered.
10. All entries must be typed in a clear font and size 12 text must be used. Each page must be numbered. The overall word count must be clearly stated on the cover page provided. The cover page must be signed by the candidate either electronically or by hand.
11. Applicants must not submit an essay which is the same or is the same in substance to an essay entry submitted as part of the competition in previous years.
12. An essay which is written using previously submitted university coursework is allowed, provided that its previous submission was produced by the applicant only (for example, it has not been produced as part of a group project or group work), and provided that such previously submitted coursework is not subject to any university copyright issues. If you are unsure whether the latter applies to your work, you must contact your relevant academic institution where the work was previously submitted for clarification.
13. Previous essay winners (i.e., the winning essay, the runner-up essay and the essay receiving highly commendable recognition) cannot enter the competition again. Candidates whose essays were selected as forming part of the shortlisted entries but did not then reach the top 3 rankings, can submit future entries (subject to paragraph 12 above).

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Competition Terms and Conditions:

1. By submitting an entry as part of the competition you confirm that you agree to be bound by and have read and understood all of the competition rules, terms and conditions and data notice.
2. By submitting your entry as part of the competition you agree and give your consent to Aspiring Barristers posting your essay online across its social media platforms and website and for it to be reproduced for marketing purposes elsewhere in the event that your entry were to reach at least the shortlisting stage of the competition. You understand that were your essay entry to either be the winning essay of the competition, runner-up essay, or receive highly commendable recognition, you grant Aspiring Barristers the right to publish and/or reproduce part or all of your essay entry and may do so at any time. In so doing you accept and consent to Aspiring Barristers reformatting your essay as it chooses for publication and/or promotion purposes.
3. You understand and accept that Aspiring Barristers reserves the right not to announce (all or either) a winning essay, runner-up essay or a highly commendable essay if it is in the Judges' opinions unanimously that there is not a suitable essay meeting the requisite standard in accordance with the marking criteria to fill any or all of those rankings. In this instance, candidates who submitted essay entries cannot request a review of that decision or request feedback as to why their essay was not considered as reaching the requisite standard in accordance with the standardised marking criteria. The decision made by the Judges collectively in this instance is final.
4. You understand and accept that the Judging Panel's decision as to which candidates produced the winning essay, runner-up essay and highly commendable essay is final.
5. You understand and accept that Aspiring Barristers is unable to inform unsuccessful candidates that their essay entry has not been shortlisted. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted direct regarding the outcome of their entry. Shortlisted candidates understand and give their consent to Aspiring Barristers reaching out to them directly via email for this purpose.

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6. You understand and accept that in the event that your essay entry is selected as being either the winning essay or the runner-up essay, distribution of the prize for either remains entirely at the discretion of Aspiring Barristers' Management Committee. You understand that in the event of unforeseen circumstances, Aspiring Barristers reserves the right to change the prize(s) being awarded or not to award the anticipated prize(s) at all.
7. Applicants submitting an essay entry are expected to be familiar with the rules on plagiarism applicable to their current and/or previous academic institution(s) where they have studied and been awarded qualifications from previously. By submitting an essay entry, you confirm that you understand the rules on plagiarism applicable to academic writing and that if you did not or were unclear, that you have since acquired that knowledge before submitting your essay entry.
8. You understand that if you submit an essay entry which is found to have been plagiarised or to have committed academic malpractice of any kind you will be automatically disqualified and will not be permitted to submit any future entries in future years of the competition.
9. You understand and give your consent that Aspiring Barristers may scan your essay entry using relevant electronic plagiarism software (for example, Turnitin) for the purpose of checking your entry for plagiarism.
10. Where plagiarism is found, any entrant who was successfully selected as the winning essay, or the runner-up essay, must return back to Aspiring Barristers Management Committee any tangible prize given (for example, prize money, a trophy, a certificate) and/or any intangible prize given (for example, removing mini-pupillage work experience awarded as the prize from their CV and from any future applications). Where an applicant has been found to have plagiarised their essay entry and received the 'highly commendable' recognition ranking, that applicant must to remove that recognition from their CV, any future applications and must not reference that previously (now invalid) ranking elsewhere in any way however so construed.
11. You understand and accept that Aspiring Barristers reserves the right to report any instances of plagiarism or academic malpractice of any proportion to the relevant Inn of Court (prospective or otherwise), relevant Chambers (prospective or otherwise) and/or relevant study institution (prospective or otherwise) where such is found to form part of your entry submitted for this competition.

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12. You understand and accept that any contents of your essay entry which is abusive, inappropriate, offensive and/or discriminatory of any kind and to any degree will result in the automatic disqualification of your entry. In this instance, you will not be permitted to submit an entry in future years of the competition and your Aspiring Barristers' membership will be automatically terminated.
13. You understand and accept that by submitting an entry as part of Aspiring Barristers' Essay Competition(s) that you are thereby bound by the rules as specified above on pages 1 and 2, as well as the terms and conditions as specified above on pages 3-5.
14. You understand and accept that by submitting an entry as part of Aspiring Barristers' Essay Competition(s) that Aspiring Barristers will acquire copyright over the contents of your essay.

Competition Marking Criterion:

1. Each essay entry is assessed against the same standardised marking criteria and are peer reviewed by the panel of Judges. If there are any disagreements between Judges as to whether a particular essay should be shortlisted over another, then the decision of the Head Judge will stand as final. The Judge acting as Head Judge rotates for each essay competition; the order of which is determined purely alphabetically.
2. The standardised marking criteria used by the Judging Panel when marking essay entries can be found below. A total of 5 marks is given to each marking category.

Aspiring Barristers Essay Competition: Mark Scheme	
Research	Strong candidates will show clear evidence of thorough research surrounding their essay's chosen subject area. Research sources will be varied and provide clear insight into how such research has contributed to the essay produced.

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<p>Knowledge and understanding of chosen subject area</p>	<p>Strong candidates will present an essay built upon a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of their essay's subject area. This understanding will be substantiated by good use of a diverse range of research material and possibly from their own personal experiences. Strong candidates will be able to demonstrate a deep and polished understanding of their subject-matter consistently throughout their essay.</p>
<p>Structure</p>	<p>Strong candidates will present their work adopting a clear, coherent and logical structure. Their essay will flow well from start to finish and read easy for its readership.</p>
<p>Critical analysis</p>	<p>Strong candidates will demonstrate sophisticated engagement with relevant material and showcase an ability to properly consider, critique, question and/or challenge its content. They will be able to engage effectively with and consider their subject-matter through multiple lenses of analysis.</p>
<p>Clarity of thought and/or argument</p>	<p>Strong candidates will produce an essay which is clear, assured, and is the clear product of thorough thinking and planning. Any argument(s) and/or points made will be articulated with clarity and unambiguously.</p>
<p>Originality</p>	<p>Strong candidates will be able to appropriately offer their own thoughts, ideas, analysis and/or argument(s) in their essay having built and developed those upon material already available. Exceptional candidates will be able to consider alternative insights and/or school of thought in their subject area. They will be able to offer refined wider insight(s) and/or contribution(s) within their chosen</p>



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	subject area beyond those which are already established and available in other relevant literature.
Presentation, referencing and grammar use	Strong candidates will produce an essay which is free from grammatical errors including spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax. Referencing will be compliant with either OSCOLA or Harvard referencing throughout. The essay will engage paragraphs appropriately and/or sub-headings where useful.

Processing, Retaining and Protecting Applicants' Data: Notice

Please contact Aspiring Barristers on aspiringbarristers.team@gmail.com if you have any questions about any of the following data notice.

1. Each applicant's data submitted as part of any of Aspiring Barristers' Essay Competitions will be processed purely for the sole purpose of conducting the competition. For successful candidates (whether as the winning essay, runner-up essay, or highly commendable essay), this includes promoting other comparable competitions that Aspiring Barristers may run or introduce in the future.
2. All essay entries will be retained for 12 months from the date that the application window for each individual competition (Spring/Winter) closes. Thereafter each entry will be permanently deleted.
3. Aspiring Barristers will retain for 5 years from the date that the winning, runner-up and highly commendable essays are announced, the full name and essay entry of the winning essay, runner-up essay, and highly commendable essay. Thereafter each entry will be permanently deleted.