



Psychology AS Level Essay Prize (£500).

Department of Social & Developmental Psychology
University of Cambridge

Following the success of last year's inaugural competition, Cambridge University's Department of Social & Developmental Psychology is again hosting an essay competition for sixth-form students. This year, we are inviting essays on the following title:

“In an era of genetics, are psychological studies of environmental influences irrelevant?”

These essays should address issues within developmental and/or social psychology and demonstrate both a breadth of knowledge and ideas and an ability to write with clarity and coherence. Schools and colleges may submit essays from a maximum of three pupils *in their first year of study* for A-level, Scottish Higher Level or an equivalent qualification. Last year's winner went on to study psychology at University, but did not actually study psychology at school and so we'd like to emphasize that the competition is open to all students who are thinking about a degree in Psychology.

Essays must be typed, word-processed or neatly hand-written in English and must not exceed 2,000 words in length (excluding references). All debts to other scholars (including teachers, books, articles and web sites) should be acknowledged. We reserve the right to check submitted essays for plagiarism using online tools. Each essay must be accompanied by a note from a staff member, confirming that it is the work of the pupil (who should have completed not more than one year of full-time study post 16 years of age). It would be helpful if this cover letter also provided some information about both the school (status, size, catchment, email address for acknowledgement letters) and the pupil (e.g., subjects studied).

The prize is £500: £300 for the pupil and £200 for the school or college. The writer of the winning essay and his / her subject teacher will be invited to receive the prize at a lunch at Newnham College, Cambridge (travel expenses *within* the UK will be paid). The closing date for receipt of entries is **30th June 2010**, when acknowledgement emails will be sent out to all applicants. Subsequently, letters will also be sent to all applicants whose essays reach the short-list.

The Judges' decision is final, and will be announced by the end of July, 2010.

Please post essays to:

Psychology A / AS Level Essay Prize
Department of Social & Developmental Psychology
Faculty of Politics, Psychology, Sociology & International Studies
University of Cambridge,
Free School Lane
Cambridge, CB2 3RQ

The panel of Judges will be chaired by Dr Claire Hughes, Fellow of Newnham College and Reader in Developmental Psychology at the Centre for Family Research, Faculty of Politics, Psychology, Sociology and International Studies (PPSIS - previously known as the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences). Queries to the Judges may be sent to psychology-essay@ppsis.cam.ac.uk

For details of Cambridge University's Department of Social & Developmental Psychology go to:

<http://www.sdp.cam.ac.uk/>.

Students in the Department of Social & Developmental Psychology at the University of Cambridge study four subjects in their first year, including two from Politics, Psychology and Sociology, (PPS, previously SPS). In their 2nd and 3rd years students can then specialize in psychology (to receive a degree that is accredited by the British Psychological Society) or retain their multidisciplinary approach. Cambridge is a world-recognized centre for teaching and research in psychology and ranks first for psychology in the UK in the Times Good University Guide for 2009. Our outstanding academic staff and the exceptional facilities offered by the Faculty, the Colleges and the University make Cambridge an ideal place to study social & developmental psychology.

Dr Claire Hughes, March 9th, 2010