The Pembroke North Essay Prize has three broad categories this year, and a winner and a runner-up will be selected from the entrants for each of the Humanities, Science and Social Sciences Streams.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Pick from a choice of essay titles to be worked on over the summer vacation (see over)

All essays will get feedback by postgraduate students of Pembroke College Oxford

All entrants will be invited to a celebration event and prize-giving on Friday 20th September 2019. After the event entrants can attend the University of Oxford Open Day.

**WHO CAN ENTER?**

Year 12 students at any of Pembroke’s linked state schools and colleges in the North West England Region.

**CLOSING DATE** FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2019, 12PM

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with our Admissions and Access Officer, Kirsty Simpson: admissions@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Full prize details: www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/tyler
Choose one question from any of the below.

SCIENCE

1. ‘Genome editing should be the focus of increased scientific research.’ Discuss.
2. ‘The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.’ (Albert Einstein). Discuss.
3. ‘Biology is Chemistry, Chemistry is Physics, Physics is Maths.’ Discuss all or any part of this statement.
4. Should humans put more money into colonising other planets or trying to reverse climate change?
5. Is it more important to research the origins of life on Earth or research the future of life on Earth?
6. Discuss the significance of complex numbers and their real-world uses.

HUMANITIES

1. Is truth less valued than it was 1000 years ago?
2. ‘The limits of my language mean the limits of my world’ (Wittgenstein). To what extent does our language dictate our worldview?
3. With Bob Dylan now the recipient of a Nobel Prize, and Jarvis Cocker now available in Faber & Faber, to what extent can song lyrics be considered ‘literature’?
4. To what extent can we trust what we know of history?
5. Is the modern age in moral decline?
6. ‘Human history is the history of human betterment.’ (Jill Lepore). Is it?

SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. ‘Equality is not only impossible to achieve, but it is also a suboptimal outcome.’ Discuss.
2. Who is responsible for internet trolling? The platform creator, or the user?
3. To what extent should we separate the private lives of those in the public eye from their professional obligations?
4. In the US there are more empty houses than homeless people. Why might this be the case?
5. ‘The economic change required in France was a larger cause of the French Revolution than the desire for social change.’ Discuss.
6. ‘Firms are only responsible for their shareholders.’ Discuss.