

The King's School, Canterbury, 13+ Scholarship Research Essay

All candidates will be expected to submit a **Research Essay** on one of the topic areas published below. These topics will change each year. The essay should be an extended piece of writing comprising: evidence of individual research such as the use of sources, comments on the reliability of the research, a critical discussion and a conclusion. The title must be approved in advance and the essay is to be sent to King's before the end of the Lent (Spring) term, which is **March 24th 2018**. The essay must be countersigned by both the candidate and the present school to confirm that it is his/her own work.

The purpose behind the essay is to introduce candidates to (a) research, (b) questioning that research and (c) communicating in writing in a way that brings them to an informed conclusion. In so doing, they will learn something of the methodology required in academic work and some of the techniques behind effective reasoning.

Thus, this is not a project, but a research essay. It must involve the use of source material such as written documents, visual or auditory material, and other people. All sources must be recognized in the text, using footnotes or endnotes. The sources can be quoted directly, but quotations must be acknowledged as such. Research can be collaborative – i.e. candidates can work together and they can discuss their research with their teachers and family – but the final written submission must be their own.

Diagrams, maps, charts and graphs can be used so long as they are relevant to the essay.

The final essay should be between **2000 and 3000 words**, excluding the bibliography and footnotes or endnotes. It should be in font **Times New Roman 12pt**. The line spacing may be single or 1.5 depending upon the candidate's preference.

Essays should be submitted electronically as **Word documents** to **Mr Martin Miles, Senior Tutor:** mjm@kings-school.co.uk. They will be subjected to a plagiarism check. Candidates will be asked about their essay at the interview in April.

The essay

All essays should contain the following elements:

- **An introduction** that will explain why the candidate chose the topic and the title, what s/he set out to do and how s/he did it.
- **Evidence and an assessment of research.** Ideally the candidate should be able to reference at least two contrasting resources. In this section the candidate should explain where s/he got material (sources) from and whether they are reliable or not. All resources used must be acknowledged properly in footnotes or endnotes and in a full bibliography.
- **Discussion, development of argument (the main part).** There should be a **coherent and clear discussion** in which the candidate considers different points of view, and presents at least two arguments with their strengths and weaknesses.

- **Conclusion.** There should be a final *evaluation* of the material discussed and a conclusion that clearly refers to the title question.
- **A bibliography** that lists all resources.

Topics and essay titles for 2018 Scholarship

The topic areas

1. Government
2. Genetics
3. Public Art

Candidates should choose a topic to research and a question to answer from within that area of research. They should devise their own question, but it must be approved by the Scholarship Committee at King's. Titles should be emailed by the candidate, but copying in her/his teacher, to **Mr Martin Miles, Senior Tutor** (mjm@kings-school.co.uk) before the end of **November 2017**.

Titles

It is crucial that the titles candidates choose are evaluative. This means that the titles should direct candidates into developing an argument and coming to a final conclusion. We would expect titles to take the form of a question; there are some examples below. They will undoubtedly need some help with this from their teachers; this is acceptable so long as the candidates contribute to the discussion and that the final choice is their own. We would not expect to see a group of candidates using the same title or even close variations.

Examples of evaluative titles (not from this year's topic areas):

- Should athletes who have used performance-enhancing drugs be banned for life? (Topic area = Sport)
- To what extent is the current migration crisis caused by war? (Topic area = Migration)
- Should Scotland be independent from Britain? (Topic area = British politics)
- Is it ever right to go to war? (Topic area = Armed conflict)
- Should euthanasia be legalized? (Topic area = Medical ethics)
- Is the monarchy redundant in the UK today? (Topic area = British politics)

Marking criteria

The essays will be marked by at least two members of the Scholarship Committee and then handed to the person interviewing the candidate. They will be marked out of 25 through two assessment objectives: use of resources and discussion and conclusion.

Use of resources (Max 8 marks)	Marks
<p>Essays should show that a range of resources have been used. This will be obvious from the text, the footnotes and the bibliography.</p> <p>These resources, or some of them, should be assessed critically at some point.</p>	<p>Marks awarded for evidence of use of resources [2]</p> <p>Marks awarded for relevance and substance of resources [2]</p> <p>Marks awarded for critical appraisal of and comparison between resources [4]</p> <p>At the top end, pupils will demonstrate the ability to think critically about their resources</p>
Discussion and conclusion [max 17 marks]	Marks
<p>Be able to select and apply skills to complete a research essay</p> <p>Have the targets been met? Has the title question been answered? Has a judgment been reached? Is the conclusion relevant?</p> <p>coherence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -there is a sensible order -the text is structured clearly with clear connections between different parts (and with the conclusion) -information presented is relevant to the title <p>evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -has a judgment been reached? -does the essay contain an attempt to assess different views? -does the final judgment reflect the rest of the essay? 	<p>Marks awarded for the coherence of the argument [7]</p> <p>Marks awarded for the level of analysis, argument and the final judgment [7]</p> <p>Marks awarded for the quality of language and grammar [3]</p> <p>At the top end, essays will be coherent and well argued, showing a main theory and at least one counter-argument, well-structured, and with a clear and definite conclusion. Essays will also show a good level of spelling, punctuation and grammar</p>

The candidate will not be asked to give a presentation at interview, but will be questioned on his/her essay by the interviewer.