



## Super-Curriculum Competitions

Spring Term 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

## Top Tips

The following competitions are meant to support and encourage students to become independent learners and develop your interests outside of the classroom. You can check with your teachers and discuss with teachers, parents and friends about your ideas, but make sure that you are always expressing your ideas and that you have researched your arguments. The following are a list of points to consider. You will have to look in detail at what each competition's requirements are. Examples can be found on the web pages/links given.

1. **Understand the Topic Fully** Before starting, ensure you have a clear understanding of the essay prompt. Research any unfamiliar terms or concepts and make sure you're addressing exactly what's being asked.
2. **Plan Your Essay Structure** Organize your thoughts before writing. Start with a strong introduction that outlines your argument, followed by well-structured body paragraphs, and end with a compelling conclusion. A clear structure helps keep your essay focused and coherent.
3. **Craft a Strong Thesis Statement** Your thesis should present your main argument clearly and concisely. Everything in your essay should support or relate back to this central point.
4. **Do Thorough Research** Gather reliable sources to support your argument. Use a mix of primary and secondary sources, and make sure you properly cite them. This shows you've engaged with the topic in-depth and enhances the credibility of your work.
5. **Write with Clarity and Precision** Avoid overly complex or vague language. Express your ideas clearly and precisely, making sure each sentence contributes to your argument. Remember, quality over quantity!
6. **Be Critical and Analytical** Don't just describe facts or summarize existing views. Engage critically with the material, analysing different perspectives and making connections between ideas. Show your ability to think deeply and independently.
7. **Stay Relevant and Focused** Stick to the point and avoid tangents. Every paragraph should directly relate to your thesis and help advance your argument.
8. **Use a Formal but Engaging Tone** Depending on the competition, aim for a formal academic tone, but don't be afraid to make your essay engaging and interesting to read. A well-written essay will stand out for both its content and style.
9. **Proofread and Edit** After you finish your first draft, take time to revise it. Look for grammar mistakes, unclear sentences, or areas where your argument could be stronger. Consider asking someone else to read it for feedback.
10. **Practice Writing Regularly** The more you write, the better you'll get. Regularly participate in practice competitions or write essays on different topics to improve your writing skills and boost your confidence.

## Media KS3 & KS4

### Welcome to the Shine School Media Awards!

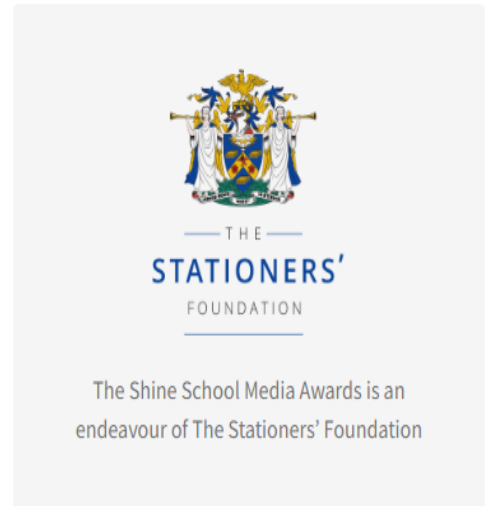
The Shine School Media Awards is a free national competition that rewards a diversity of talent from secondary schools across the UK who work on the writing, editing, design and fund-raising for a school newspaper, magazine or multimedia project such as a podcast or digital publication.

The annual culmination of each year's Shine Awards is a gala ceremony held in central London every summer with student workshops and [incredible guest speakers](#).

The significant benefits of starting a Shine project include an **enrichment of the school curriculum**, an **incentive to creativity** and the chance for **pupils to win national recognition** and in the process **enrich their CV and applications for university or college**.

The Shine Awards is an endeavour of The Stationers' Foundation, the charitable arm of The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, one of the UK's ancient livery companies.

[Find out more about the Shine School Media Awards](#)



### Key Shine dates

Registration for 2025

**Now open**

2025 entry form available

**January 2025**

Closing date for entries

**Key Dates;** Registration open now

**Linked Subjects;** Media, Art, Music, IT

**Key links;** <https://www.shine-schoolawards.org/about/>

**Useful links and tips for writing your own School Newspaper**

<https://www.shine-schoolawards.org/guidance/layout-and-design/>

<https://publuu.com/knowledge-base/school-newspaper-guide/#:~:text=Make%20your%20newspaper%20look%20neat,and%20want%20to%20read%20it.>

Short courses

<https://alison.com/course/introduction-to-newspaper-journalism>

## Oxford University Language Competitions

### French, Spanish and German



The poster is set against a background of handwritten cursive text. In the top right corner, there are two logos: a purple one for 'FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES' and a blue one for 'UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD'. The main text is centered on a white background. It starts with an invitation for students in Years 7-13 learning French or Spanish to enter the competition. The title 'FRENCH & SPANISH FLASH FICTION COMPETITIONS' is in large, bold, blue letters, with a small yellow and red bunting graphic below it. The aim is to write a complete story in French or Spanish, limited to 100 words. Judges look for imagination, narrative flair, and linguistic ability. Winners receive a £100 prize. A URL and QR code are provided for submission, along with a deadline of 12 noon on 31st March 2025. At the bottom, there are three icons: the French flag with 'Bon courage!', a QR code, and the Spanish flag with '¡Buena suerte!'.

If you're in Years 7-13 and learning French or Spanish, we invite you to enter this year's

# FRENCH & SPANISH FLASH FICTION COMPETITIONS

The aim is to write a complete story, written in French or Spanish, using no more than 100 words. Our judges are looking for imagination and narrative flair, as well as linguistic ability. Winners will be awarded a top prize of £100!

For more information and to submit your entry, go to <https://shorturl.at/4KWgU> or scan the QR code. The deadline for submitting your story is **12 noon on 31st March 2025.**

 **Bon courage!**   **¡Buena suerte!**

**Key link** <https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/schools-liaison-and-outreach/language-competitions>

**Deadline** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Key details-** There are different links for year 7-9 and year 10-11. Please read all rules and regulations. German competition is on the same link and the topic is, 'Spiel and Sport.'

## Oxford University Business Challenge

### Climate Change Challenge 2025- Group work and Teacher challenge

#### Start preparing for the 2025 challenge

---

##### Competition dates to be published in due course

Are you a high school student (aged 15 to 18) or a teacher? If so we will be inviting you to enter the 2025 Oxford Said-Burjeel Holdings Climate Change Challenge to help to tackle the climate crisis. Through this global competition we want young people and educators across the world to contribute their ideas, and take action towards creating solutions to the greatest and most complex threat to humanity: the climate crisis.

The competition is based around five key challenges that threaten our climate:

- > air pollution
- > extreme weather
- > water scarcity
- > food security
- > biodiversity

There are two ways to enter:

1. as part of a team of students
2. as a teacher

On this page you will find details about the structure of the competition, the background on the five challenges and the judging criteria.

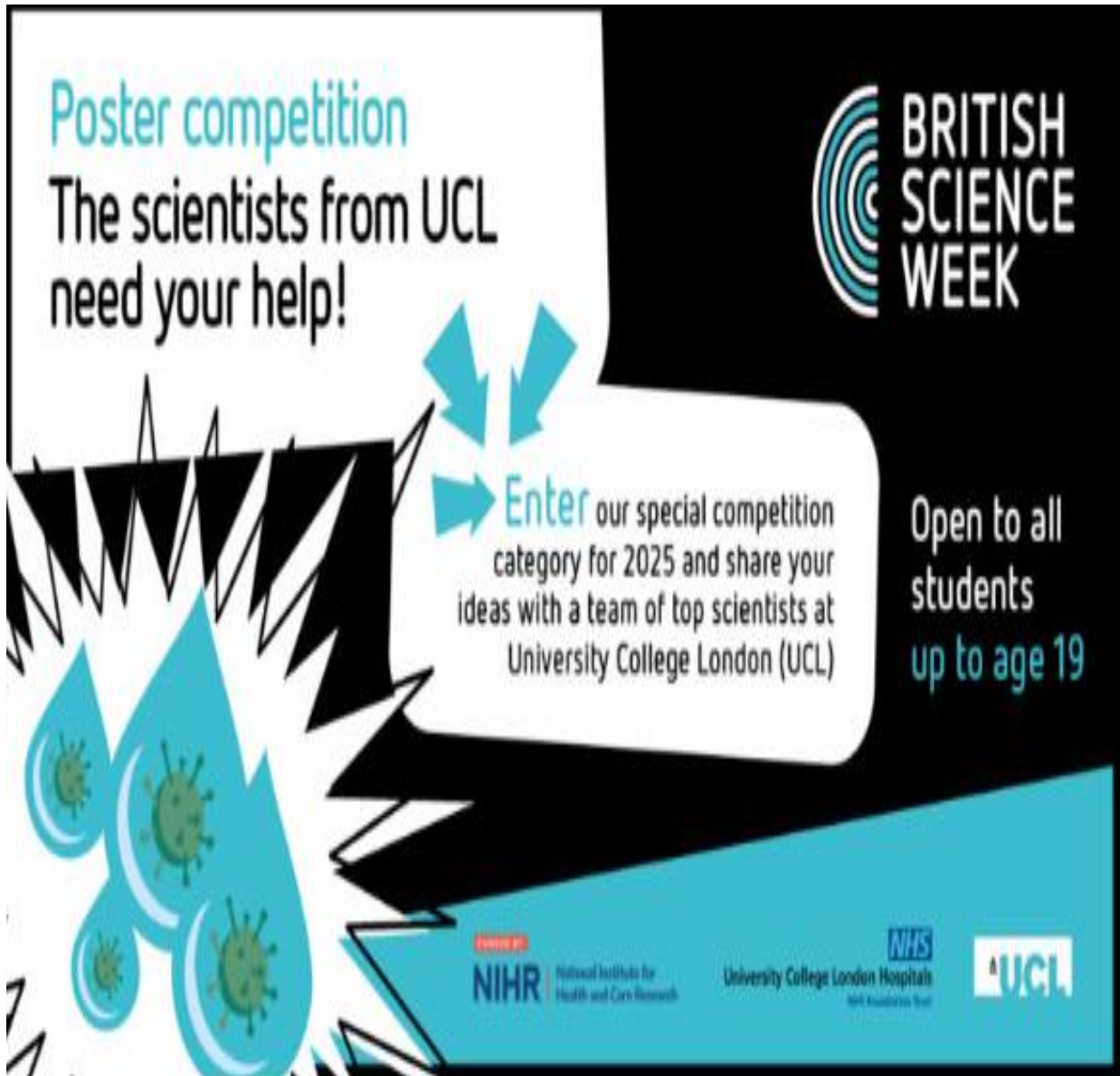
#### More details to follow

**Key Link** <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/future-climate-innovators/climate-change-challenge-2024>

**More information-** Follow the link and check the 2024 winning teams to get some ideas.

**Please pay attention** - Read all the guidelines

**British Science Week Competition (collaborating with UCL)**



**Key Link** - <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

**Key Details**- The poster is themed around the idea or invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings. Please refer to the secondary schools' section only

**Deadline**- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

## Exeter University KS4

### History



The poster features the 'DISCOVER UNIVERSITY' logo on the left and the University of Exeter crest and name on the right. The title 'COMPETITION' is centered. Below the title, the text invites A-Level, IB, BTEC, and GCSE students to submit responses to four questions. A QR code is provided for entry, and the deadline is 14th February 2025. The background shows a university building. At the bottom, there are social media handles for @DiscoverUniExe and @UniversityofExeter, contact information for the Access, Participation and Outreach Office, and the Russell Group logo.

**DISCOVER UNIVERSITY**

**University of Exeter**

## COMPETITION

At the University of Exeter, we want to hear your ideas about History. We're inviting A-Level, IB, BTEC and GCSE students in any subject to send us a response to one of the questions below:

**How useful is the idea of 'progress' when studying the past?**

**What role do you think that museums should have in the learning of history?**

**Is the notion that societies 'Never Forget' redundant?**

**Artificial intelligence is the greatest threat to humanity. Discuss**

There will be two prizes. One for the best essay (1000 words), and one for the best video (6-7 mins).  
To enter, simply fill out the form available via the QR code below. The deadline for entries is 14th February 2025.



 @DiscoverUniExe  @UniversityofExeter  
Access, Participation and Outreach Office, Exeter EX4 4RN  
[exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity)

**RUSSELL GROUP**

### Key Link

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/discoveruniversity/essaycompetitions/>

**Key Detail**- Essays and Video answers accepted

Exeter University KS4

Computer Science



The poster features the 'DISCOVER UNIVERSITY' logo on the left and the University of Exeter crest and name on the right. The word 'COMPETITION' is centered in large, bold letters. Below this, the text invites A-Level, IB, BTEC, and GCSE students to submit responses to three questions. A QR code is provided for entry, with a deadline of 14th February 2025. The bottom of the poster includes social media handles for DiscoverUniExe and UniversityofExeter, contact information for the Access, Participation and Outreach Office, and the Russell Group logo. The background is a photograph of the university's modern architecture.

**DISCOVER UNIVERSITY**

**University of Exeter**

**COMPETITION**

At the University of Exeter, we want to hear your ideas about Computer Science. We're inviting A-Level, IB, BTEC and GCSE students in any subject to send us a response to one of the questions below:

**How has computer science contributed to improvements in other fields?**

**Why is it essential to test software before it is used by the end user?**

**Discuss how the development of artificial intelligence will shape the future of work?**

There will be two prizes. One for the best essay (1000 words), and one for the best video (6-7 mins)

To enter, simply fill out the form available via the QR code below. The deadline for entries is 14th February 2025.

**RUSSELL GROUP**

Access, Participation and Outreach Office, Exeter EX4 4RN  
exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity

Key link-

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/discoveruniversity/essaycompetitions/>

Key Detail- Essays and Video answers accepted



Art KS3 & KS4

YouCreate  
competition



UCA'S You Create competition is this year inspired by dreams.

Open to 11-18-year olds, the main prize is an iPad, and selected entities will go on display at UCA

All artistic interpretations are welcome-whether it's sculpture, animation, poetry, film of photography- and you have until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 to enter.

**Key Dates**- Open now till 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Key link** -<https://www.uca.ac.uk/study-at-uca/kamcop-kmpf/youcreate-competition/>

**Key Details**- Range of prizes. First prize is an iPad. Look through examples of previous winners using the above link.

**Key Exhibitions**- Both the National Gallery and Tate Modern have collections of paintings and art work that are inspired by dreams. Admission is free.

Maths Year 11

**Tom Rocks Maths: Essay Competition 2024**



Originally launched in 2020 as a partnership between Tom Rocks Maths and St Edmund Hall, the competition aims to provide the participants with the opportunity to communicate complex ideas in an understandable manner, and to encourage them to engage with maths beyond any curriculum

This Competition is for 16-18 year olds, meaning only year 11s will be eligible. The essay competition will open early 2025. Entries for 2024 are closed. The competition allows you to write an essay on any mathematical topic of your choice. All essays will be posted on the Oxford Tom Rocks Maths Website.

**Key Dates-** Check link early January

**Key Link-** <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/tom-rocks-maths-essay-competition>

**Extra links-** The Oxford Online Maths club is open and free for all, running online sessions, weekly from January 2025.

**Previous episodes can be watched here**

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/outreach/oxford-online-maths-club#:~:text=The%20Oxford%20Online%20Maths%20Club,live%20broadcast%20on%20Thursday%20afternoons.>

**Maths KS3 & KS4**



BRITISH SOCIETY  
FOR THE HISTORY  
OF MATHEMATICS

[About Us](#)

[Prizes](#)

[Events](#)

[Home](#) » [Prizes](#)

## Schools Prize in the History of Mathematics

The BSHM are delighted to announce the following winners and runners-up for our 2023–24 Schools Prizes:

Schools (11–15)

**Key Dates-** 2025 competition opens early January

**Key details-** Each year the competition details range. Last year the topic was non-western mathematics and students were to submit an essay, song or film on the topic.

**Key Links-** Follow this link for examples and details

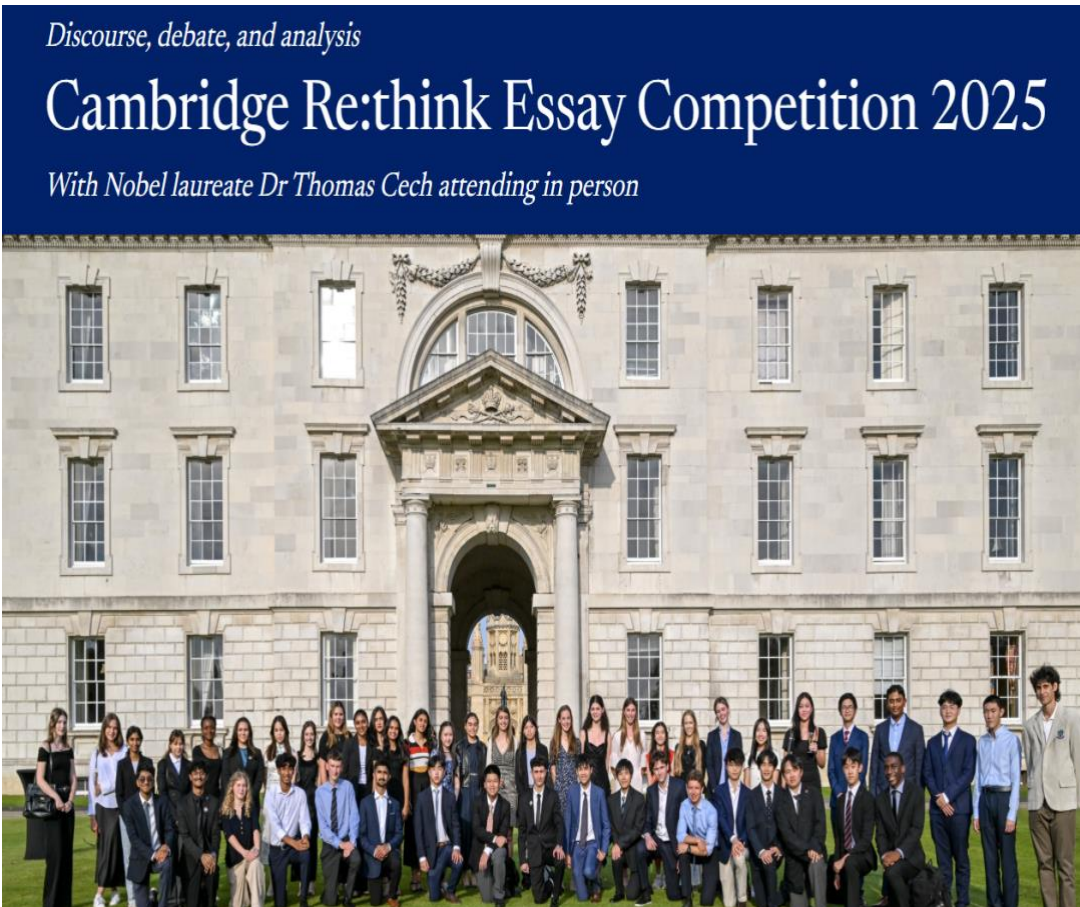
<https://www.bshm.ac.uk/schools-prize>

**Key Exhibitions- The Science Museum-** Mathematics: The Winton Gallery: How has mathematics shaped our world? Free exhibition at the Science Museum located on Level 2

<https://youtu.be/iMuADCEg7kQ>

**Cambridge University**

**Critical Thinking and Controversial Topics**



**Key Topics**

- Animal Rights and Society
- Freedom and Accountability
- Technology and Ethics
- Space Exploration and Governance
- Bio-technology
- Economics and Globalization
- Public Health
- Laws and Society

**Key link-** <https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition/>

**Queen Mary's University KS4 Year 11**

**English**



2024/25

**Theme: 'Water'**

Think back to *The Tempest*, read up on the storm in *King Lear* and poets such as, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Derek Walcott, and Nathalie Diaz, who all use the theme of water to express a range of emotions and events.

**Key Link** <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sed/events/writing-prizes/>

**Key Deadline** Midnight 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Key exhibitions-** For visual inspiration, many pieces of art at The National Gallery link to water, journeys and storms. Admission fee

**Minds Underground Essay Competition KS3 & KS4**

**Range of Subjects**



**Key Link-** <https://www.mindsunderground.com/minds-underground-competitions>

**Key Deadline-** 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**Key Tip** -Click the topic that you are interested in, there will be examples from 2024 to give you an ideal of WAGOLL. Check that competition is for KS3 or KS4

Links for Essay writing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuOWNNvupik>

<https://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/access-and-outreach/essay-competition>

<https://youtu.be/Cw0EJQMiT34>