

Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition

Terms and Conditions

1. The Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition (“the Competition”) is open to full- time students aged 16 – 19 years at non-fee paying schools in England and Wales at the time of entry to the competition.
2. The competition is administered by Deka Chambers and Big Voice London (“the organisers”).
3. One entry per person. Bulk and/or third party entries will be void. The winners are responsible for ensuring they are able to accept the prize as set out and in accordance with these terms and conditions. In the event they are unable to do so then the organisers reserve the right to redraw the prize.
4. To enter, participants should submit an essay on the question posed. The submitted essay must be at least 800 words long but no longer than 1,000 words. Entries must be typed in English only. Providing that the work is to a basic standard of written English, entries will not be marked down for mistakes in spelling, grammar or punctuation.
5. Entries must be the original work of the entrant and not previously published anywhere else. Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, illegal or otherwise inappropriate as may be deemed by the organisers.
6. All entries to the competition must be the original work of the participant and must not utilise ChatGPT or any other form of artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation, editing, or enhancement of the submission. The use of AI tools for generating or modifying content is strictly prohibited. If it is discovered that an entry has violated this rule, the organisers reserve the right to withdraw the submission from the competition without prior notice. This decision is final and not subject to appeal.
7. Entrants will retain copyright in their submitted entries.

8. All valid entries received before the closing date will be reviewed by a sub- panel of Judges who will use the Judging Criteria (set out in paragraph 10 below).
9. All reasonable endeavours will be made to contact the prize winners. If a winner cannot be contacted or is not available, the organisers reserve the right to select another winner from the entries that were received before the closing date.
10. The Judges' decision is final and not subject to appeal. No correspondence will be entered into.

11. The judging criteria and apportionment are:

- i. Law (25%)
- ii. Structure (25%)
- iii. Originality and development of critical thought (25%)
- iv. Persuasiveness (25%)

(the "Judging Criteria")

12. The first place winner will receive:

- a. A £1,000 cash prize.
- b. A two-day mini pupillage at Deka Chambers upon reaching the age of 18 years.
- c. An invitation to the Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition Reception at Deka Chambers.

13. The second place winner will receive:

- a. A £500 cash prize.
- b. An invitation to the Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition Reception at Deka Chambers.

14. The third place winner will receive:

- a. A £250 cash prize.

b. An invitation to the Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition Reception at Deka Chambers.

15. Attendance at the Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition Reception is mandatory to qualify for the First, Second and Third Prize. This is subject to the absolute discretion of the organisers which will be exercised only in the event of truly exceptional circumstances. Cash prizes will be paid after the Reception has taken place.
16. The currently-proposed date and time for the Reception is 17 November 2026 at 5.30pm. This is subject to confirmation, but attendees will be informed within a reasonable period if there is any proposed change of date, time, or venue.
17. All attendees at the Reception must fund their own travel and accommodation.
18. Runners up will receive a prize and/or an invitation to the Aqeel H Noorali Essay Competition Reception at the discretion of the organisers.
19. No other expenses, including travel expenses, are included in the prize.
20. Winning entrants agree to participate in reasonable publicity relating to this Competition, including but not limited to having their name published with their entry.
21. Where relevant, no cash alternative, in whole or in part, will be awarded.
22. Entrants must not have a personal connection with Deka Chambers or Big Voice London, their employees, agents or servants. Any other connection must be declared upon entrance to the competition.
23. By entering, all eligible entrants agree to abide by each and all these terms and conditions.
24. The organisers will not be liable for technical, hardware, or software failures of any kind or lost or unavailable network connections that may limit or prohibit an eligible entrant's ability to participate in the competition. Other than death or personal injury arising from the acts or omissions of the organisers, the organisers will not be liable for any loss or damage arising out of the winner's (or their guest's) enjoyment of the prize.

25. The organisers reserve the right at any time to cancel, modify or supersede the competition (including prizes) if, in our sole discretion, a competition is not capable of being conducted as specified.

26. This Agreement is governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law. The parties agree that the English courts are to have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes which may arise in connection with this Agreement and that any proceedings arising in connection with this Agreement shall be brought to those courts.