

INFORMATION GUIDE

LSEUPR ESSAY COMPETITION 2024



OUR AIMS

The LSE Undergraduate Political Review (LSEUPR) is an online platform that aims to encourage and facilitate an engagement in high-level political research by undergraduate students from universities around the world.

Our annual competition aims to encourage high school students to explore the field of Political Science and undertake university-style essay writing. It also presents itself as an ideal extra-curricular for students wishing to include this experience in their UCAS personal statements.

Ultimately, the LSEUPR Essay Competition aims to fulfil three objectives:

- 1) **Exploration:** this is a chance for students to engage with various topics and to explore ideas outside the academic confines of examinations and grades.
- 2) **Experience:** for those wishing to apply to university, this essay competition is an opportunity to produce an evidence-based, long form piece of writing. This is exactly the kind of work you will be asked to produce regularly at university.
- 3) **Prestige:** taking part in this competition is an achievement in itself and something that you can discuss in interviews, on your CV, and your personal statement for your university application.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

1st Place Prize

£100 Amazon Voucher

Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government

Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog

The opportunity to attend and to present your essay at the LSEUPR Annual Conference 2025

2nd Place Prize

£50 Amazon Voucher

Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government

Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog

3rd Place Prize

£25 Amazon Voucher

Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government

Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog

2024 QUESTIONS

1. "How might AI technologies influence the fairness and security of elections in 2024, and what should be done to mitigate potential risks?"
2. "Collective political action nowadays is vain and pointless. Even directly elected officials have long been disconnected from the people's will." Discuss.
3. "Corruption, embezzlement, fraud, these are all characteristics which exist everywhere. It is regrettably the way human nature functions, whether we like it or not." (Allan Greenspan). Discuss.



Deadline: 11 November 2024, 23:59 GMT

The **word limit is 1,000 words**, any submission that is longer than this will be automatically disqualified (Note: any in-text citations and headings are included in the word count, but the title, bibliography and appendix, if applicable, are not included)

- English, Arial font, sized 12
- Standard 1-inch margins
- Submit essay as a PDF

This is an independent piece of work. While you are free to discuss the topic with your peers/teacher, the final submission ultimately needs to be your own work.

Students from any country are allowed to enter, the competition is not limited to the UK, but is limited by level of study: You must be yet to complete your A-Level studies, IB or equivalent, i.e. about to begin year 12 or 13 of secondary school or equivalent.

Essays should be concise, analytical, imaginative, and impartial. Submissions that are explicitly biased, agenda fuelled, or without strong supporting evidence, are discouraged – scholarly essays are not columnist opinion pieces. • It is extremely important to cite your sources. You are free to use any established referencing style, as long as its use is consistent.



Questions?

Email us: lseupr@lse.ac.uk

