ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
ESSAY COMPETITION 2012-2013
Website: vancouver.rcs.ca

Class A  Ages 16 - 18 as of 31 December, 2012
Class B  Ages 14 - 15 as of 31 December, 2012
Class C  Ages 12 - 13 as of 31 December, 2012
Class D  Under 12 years as of 31 December, 2012

BRITISH COLUMBIA PRIZES
Essays must be “received” (not postmarked) by Thursday, 31 January, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>First</th>
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<th>Second</th>
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<th>Third</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class A</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Ingrid Frederickson Memorial Prize</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Basil and Dorette Cooke Prize</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>David Petitpierre Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class B</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>Evelyn Lett Prize</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>Louise Scheffer Prize</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Lewis Perinbam O.C. Prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class C</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>Kewal Khosla Prize</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>Joy Hamilton Roberts Prize</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class D</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Joyce Basham Prize</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>$50</td>
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All the above prizes are awarded by the British Columbia branch of the Society. IN ADDITION, the highest ranked essays will be submitted to Ottawa and are eligible for prizes in the Canada-wide competition.
ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION
COMPETITION RULES: 2012 – 2013

1. Essays are not to exceed the specified maximum number of words.

2. All essays must be written in English and must be submitted and certified through the writer’s school, college or youth organization.

3. No entrant may submit more than one essay. Entrants must write on one topic only.

4. Each essay must be accompanied by a copy of the prescribed standard form headed “Entry Particulars”, which must be checked and certified by the principal of the school. (The schools should duplicate the necessary number of copies of the form, which is printed on the back page of this leaflet.) Please use legible BLOCK LETTERS.

5. Essays are liable for disqualification on the following criteria: the essay is not certified; no date of birth is given; the essay writer is too old for the class entered; the essay is too long or short in relation to the specified word count.

6. Essays submitted by mail or courier must be written or typed on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch (21.5 x 28 cm) paper (not 8 1/2 x 14 inch) leaving a 1 - 1 1/2 inch (3 – 4 cm) margin on the left side. The writer’s name, the title of the essay and the topic number must be given at the top of the first page. The “Entry Particulars” sheet must be attached and all pages must be securely fastened together. Folders should not be used unless the use of supporting illustrations make this essential. The word count must be given and the certification by the Principal must be complete.

7. Deadline for B.C. entrants is Thursday, January 31, 2013. Essays must have been RECEIVED by this date either by mail or courier, addressed to Julie Tapley, 2079 138a Street, Surrey, B.C., V4A 9X4 or emailed to rcsessay@gmail.com. Emailed essays should be sent in Microsoft Word (.doc format) and should be the same size as essays sent by mail or courier. Essays may not be faxed.

8. All essays become the property of the Society, with the right to publish, and cannot be returned to the writers.

9. The top essays, as decided by the B.C. markers, will be sent to Ottawa to be judged independently in the Canada-wide competition.

10. Any questions or clarifications concerning this contest should be emailed to rcsessay@gmail.com.

The writers of essays may be advised on preliminary planning and on source material but no further help should be given by teachers or families.
NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

1. It is the essence of the competition that the essays are the sole effort of the writer and they should not be composed or corrected by any person other than the writer.

2. Entrants should be encouraged, where appropriate, to read suitable books and articles and make use of the Internet by way of preparation. However, the examiners will not be impressed by the mere reproduction of sources without original input of thought, judgement and imagination. At the end of the essay, a list of books and other sources consulted must be given. When quotations are given, a marginal note or footnote must be used to identify the quotation. Failure to document sources will be penalized.

3. The examiners require essays not only to be relevant to the topic but also to cover all its aspects. A number of otherwise good efforts fail because the writer has not answered fully what the wording of the question calls for. Teachers may help by emphasizing this point.

4. In all Classes, the examiners expect competent use of English, including a good standard of spelling and punctuation, as well as neat presentation and legible handwriting or word processing. Entrants should be reminded that the care with which they present their work will be taken into account by the examiners when judging their essays.

5. In the senior Classes, A and B, the examiners look for originality and flair linked to sound academic standards. They expect to see evidence of the coherent planning of an essay and they look for the sound marshalling of thoughts and facts, leading to appropriate conclusions.

6. The examiners in the junior Classes, C and D, understand that children in these age groups do not write essays in the sense that their seniors do, so considerable scope is allowed for creative work, provided that it deals with the topic. Imagination and originality are important, along with good presentation, including the use of original illustrations, but pictures cut from magazines and brochures do not get much credit unless their inclusion is particularly appropriate.
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION
ESSAY TOPICS 2012 - 2013

CLASS A
Born 1994 - 1996
1400 - 1750 words

All questions can be answered by writing an essay or story which explores the topic in an interesting and relevant way.

1. Smokers should be denied access to healthcare.
2. Marriage is an outdated institution.
3. Jobs should be outsourced to developing countries.
4. There should be compulsory voting for all citizens of voting age.
5. Is the monarchy relevant anymore?
6. The Commonwealth Question

CLASS B
Born 1997 - 1998
1200 - 1500 words

All questions can be answered by writing an essay or a story which explores the topic in an interesting and relevant way.

1. Christmas should be replaced with a festival for everyone.
2. There should be random drug-testing in schools.
3. Poor people should have to work for their welfare money.
4. Take a stand on one of the three pipeline projects proposed for B.C.
5. Do you agree that drivers, who are found guilty of causing an accident while talking on a cell/iPhone or texting, should have their insurance declared invalid? Explain.
6. The Commonwealth Question

CLASS C
Born 1999 - 2000
500 - 700 words

1. Provinces should immediately implement “year-round” schooling.
2. News channels have turned into entertainment channels.
3. Are curfews effective in keeping teens out of trouble?
4. Why are Canadians so good at playing hockey?
5. Would you rather live in a hot or a cold climate?
6. The Commonwealth Question

CLASS D
Born 2001 or later
300 - 600 words

1. If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
2. School attendance should be mandatory until age eighteen.
3. Organs should be denied to non-donors.
4. What differentiates Canada from the rest of the world?
5. Who do you most admire and why?
6. The Commonwealth Question

COMMONWEALTH QUESTION: “Can the Commonwealth survive? If so, how?“
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION
ENTRY PARTICULARS

PLEASE WRITE CAREFULLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS
PLEASE FILL IN ALL FIELDS

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

1. SURNAME/FAMILY NAME: ________________________________________________

2. FIRST NAME/S: __________________________________________________________

3. DATE OF BIRTH (Day/Month/Year): ____________ SEX: M ☐  F ☐

4. SCHOOL NAME: __________________________________________________________

5. SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS:

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. SCHOOL TELEPHONE: _____________________________________________________

7. ESSAY CLASS (A, B, C, D): ______________________________________________

8. TOPIC NUMBER (1,2,3,4,5,6): ____________________________________________

9. LENGTH OF ESSAY (exact number of words): ________________________________

I certify, as Principal of the school:
(i) that entries 1-9 above are correct;
(ii) that this essay is the student's own composition;
(iii) that the student composed and hand-wrote or typed this essay.

   NAME (in capitals) _______________________________________________________

   SIGNATURE (not required if submitting electronically) __________________________

   PRINCIPAL’S EMAIL _____________________________________________________

NAME OF SUBMITTING TEACHER ____________________________________________

EMAIL OF SUBMITTING TEACHER (If available) ________________________________

Special Consideration

The space below is for writing any special consideration which the school would like the examiners to take into account in judging the essay e.g. that English is the entrant's second/third language or that he/she suffers from some relevant disability. (700 Characters max)

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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