

The Worshipful Company of International Bankers' (WCIB)

London Schools Competition for 2024

Teacher guidelines

Now in its fifteenth year, the WCIB Schools Competition is open to 6th formers at state schools and colleges in London. It challenges students to write an essay on a given topic, with prizes given to the best essays. Prizes will be awarded at an event at a prestigious London venue in early December (likely Monday 2nd December)

The essay competition provides a useful experience for students to apply their skills and develop an interesting experience that can be useful for personal statements for UCAS or job applications.

In recognition of the increased workload for school and college staff, teachers will not be asked to mark their schools' essays. Marking instead will be done by WCIB volunteers.

Please see below for more information.

The essay title: **"Compare the benefits and costs of social media for individuals and society. What actions can be taken to achieve an improved balance? Who should take action?" Write a letter to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport explaining your view.**

Please note, your essay should be formatted as a letter.

The WCIB 2024 competition will function on the following lines:

- There is no cost to schools / colleges / academies to enter this competition.
- The competition is limited to 200 individual entries and students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to reserve their space.
- The competition is open to all members of years 12 and 13 (whatever subjects they are studying) and to other students if they wish to participate.
- Teachers are asked to encourage students to express an interest in the competition via this link.
- The Brokerage will share regular support and reminders to those students who express an interest in the competition.
- Students will submit their essays to The Brokerage no later than Monday 16 October. The essay • As places on the competition are limited, students should express an interest as soon as possible via this form.
- Entries must be 1,000 words +/- 10% and prepared in digital format compatible with MS Word or Google Sheets. Longer or shorter entries will be disqualified. The word count must be stated on each entry.
- Each entry must make clear the name of the author, the name of the school / college and word count.
- Essays should be entirely in the words of the author. Plagiarism and the use of AI to write the essay is not allowed. Essays will be checked for plagiarism and the use of AI. Any entries which are identified as having a high likelihood of having used AI will be disqualified.

For more information, please contact Tayler Kirk at tayler.kirk@thebrokerage.org.uk

- Entries should be uploaded via this form or emailed to tayler.kirk@thebrokerage.org.uk with 'Essay competition' in the subject line no later than Friday 24th October 5pm.

Round 1

- In round 1 essays will be marked by volunteers in groups of 10. Where there are multiple entries from one school, these entries will be marked in the same group. Each group will have a winner and a runner up.
- Round 1 winners and runners up will be notified of their success no later than Wednesday 13th November.

Round 2

- Round 2 will be marked by the WCIB final judging panel.
- Winning essays from round 1 will be eligible for round 2.
- The judging panel will choose the overall competition winner, and 3 'highly commended' essays.
- The overall winners and highly commended entries will be announced at the awards ceremony in early December (likely Monday 2nd December)
- All winners and runners-up, along with teachers and parents / carers will be invited to this event, which will also provide an opportunity for students to talk about their aspirations and career ideas with members of the WCIB. The awards.

Prizes

First round prizes

- First round winners will receive £100
- First round runners up will receive £50

Second round prizes

- £100 for the overall winner
- £50 for the three highly commended entries

This means the overall winner will receive a total of £200 and the three individuals having highly-commended entries will receive a total of £150.

In addition the WCIB will provide each participating school a single grant for departmental use. The grant will be double the prize money won by that schools' students have won (for example if students at your school win £100 then your school will receive a grant of £200).

On all matters relating to this competition, the WCIB's decision is final and binding.

These details can be found on: www.internationalbankers.org.uk under the "competition" icon and can be made available to potential entrants in the competition. Details can also be found on the Brokerage site at www.thebrokerage.org.uk

For more information, please contact Tayler Kirk at tayler.kirk@thebrokerage.org.uk