



THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2025



Our Commonwealth Journey

Journeys are a fundamental aspect of our lives, helping us to explore, to learn, and to grow. Throughout history, nations, communities and individuals have undertaken their own journeys, navigating the tides of an ever-changing world.

Since its founding in 1949, the Commonwealth has undertaken many journeys to evolve into its current form, with 56 member countries, and recently celebrating its 75th anniversary. There are also many great journeys to be had within the Commonwealth, which spans five continents, is responsible for a third of the world's oceans and has a hugely diverse population of 2.7 billion people.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2025, therefore, asks entrants to consider the relevance of journeys in a Commonwealth context, whether geographical, historical or personal. What journeys the Commonwealth has taken or may take in the future, as well as to reflect on their own individual journeys.

TOP PRIZE

The two winners from each age category will be awarded with a **trip to London** for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special **Awards Ceremony** at a Royal Palace.

AWARDS

All successful entries will receive a Certificate of Participation and a number of entries will receive **Gold, Silver and Bronze** Awards for excellence in writing.



ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2025



The Commonwealth is a voluntary network of 56 countries, based on a shared English language and the key values of democracy, equality, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international writing competition. The competition is open to nationals or residents of all Commonwealth countries and territories, as well as residents of Hong Kong, Ireland, and Zimbabwe. Please see our **Terms and Conditions** for more details.

HOW TO ENTER

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is open for entries between 14 March and 23 May 2025. For more information on how to enter the competition please visit, www.royalcwsociety.org

Follow @RoyalCWSociety on Facebook, X and Instagram for writing tips! Email: competitions@royalcwsociety.org with any questions.



SENIOR CATEGORY - (14-18 YEARS OF AGE)

Word Count: maximum of 1500 words

1. Equal access to education is enshrined in the *Commonwealth Charter* as one of the key values and aspirations that unite the Commonwealth. While the Commonwealth has come a long way on the journey towards this, there is still progress to be made. Imagine a Commonwealth in which everyone has the same access to education.
2. National legends and folklore can take us on a journey through history and culture. Retell a famous folklore from your own or another Commonwealth country in a surprising way.
3. "Human beings have always needed the connection of literature –its wisdom as well as its sheer escapism." - Her Majesty Queen Camilla. Books can take us on journeys to the wildest and most unexpected places! Write about a time a book took you on a journey; how did it affect you?
4. From tiny seeds to large redwoods, trees and plants experience changes and growth throughout their life cycles. Write a story about the life journey of a plant growing in the centre of your community; what does it experience?

JUNIOR CATEGORY - (UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE)

Word Count: maximum of 750 words

1. Together, we represent a third of humanity, with all the splendidly diverse complexity that this entails." - His Majesty King Charles. Learning new information can take us on journeys to new places. Write about a time you learned something interesting about a different Commonwealth country from your own.
2. Commonwealth states range from small island nations like Nauru to larger countries like India. Write an account of a sea voyage from one Commonwealth country to a small island Commonwealth nation. What do you see, who do you meet?
3. You embark on a very special journey when you discover a secret door that takes you into your favourite book! What happens next?
4. October 2024 saw Commonwealth leaders travel to Samoa for the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Imagine what an animal CHOGM would look like! Which animals travel there? What do they discuss?



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