

THE CHADWICK ESSAY PRIZE

In memory of Tony Chadwick, founder of the Philosophical Society in 1973

RULES FOR ENTRY:

- (1) The competition is open to the following:
 - (a) Members of The Philosophical Society.
 - (b) Students studying at any day, evening, online, weekend, or summer school course run by OUDCE.
 - (c) Members of philosophy groups which have connections with the Philosophical Society; the relevance of the connection being judged by the officials of the Society, the final decision resting with the President.
- (2) Entrants must not be, or have been, professional philosophers (i.e. employed to regularly teach philosophy at degree level or above.)
- (3) Those entrants who are, or have been, philosophy students at MA or PhD level must not submit essays that are, or were, part of their coursework or close to the subject of their MA or doctoral theses. Essays produced as coursework by those engaged in lower level studies, such as 'A' level or continuing education classes, are acceptable.
- (4) One essay may be submitted each year.
- (5) The essay may be on any philosophical topic.
- (6) The essay must be the entrant's own work.
- (7) The essay should be no longer than 3000 words, excluding bibliography.
- (8) The essay must be written in English.
- (9) In any year, the essay must be submitted by 1st July, or by the date specified for that year by The Philosophical Society.
- (10) The essay should be sent by email to chadwickprize@oxfordphilsoc.org, and marked 'Submitted for the Tony Chadwick Essay Prize'.
- (11) The judges must not know the names of the authors at the time of judging. For this reason, entrants should not put their names on the essay itself, but on a cover slip or accompanying email.
- (12) The anonymous essays will be judged by a panel consisting of a minimum of two people, appointed by the Chadwick Prize Organiser.
- (13) The first prize is £150, plus a free OUDCE weekend or day course of the winner's choice.
- (14) The runner up will receive the Boethius Prize of £75.
- (15) The Lyceum Prize of £25 will be given for the best essay by a writer under 30 years of age. Entrants who are under 30 should state this on their cover slip or in their accompanying email.
- (16) All submitted essays will be considered as submissions for The Philosophical Society Review, unless authors explicitly request otherwise. The winning essays will automatically be published in the Review, as well as other submissions at the discretion of the Editor.
- (17) The judges reserve the right not to award any or all of the above prizes if the essays are not of sufficient quality.
- (18) Winners agree that their names will be included on The Philosophical Society website and in The Philosophical Society member newsletter.
- (19) Entrants must state explicitly in writing, either on their cover slip or their email, that they accept and comply with the above rules.
- (20) In all cases where arbitration is needed concerning these rules, the President of the Society shall be the final arbiter.
- (21) All prizes are donated by The Philosophical Society.

June 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENTRANTS:

The following are not rules of entry but are offered as guidance for entrants to the Chadwick Essay Prize:

- A. The stipulation that the essays must be on a *philosophical* topic is important, even though it is not easy to specify the boundaries of philosophy. The essay should address general, fundamental and conceptual questions in a critical manner. Topics might include debating a philosophical problem, critically discussing a philosophical theory (the entrant's own or that of another philosopher), or giving a critical exposition of a philosophical work. Essays on science, even speculative science, art, literature, history etc., should be avoided unless these topics are subjected to a philosophical inquiry, where the philosophical element predominates.
- B. The views and opinions given in the essay should be supported by arguments, and alternative views and opinions should be considered. If your essay is primarily concerned with offering your own theory or solution to a philosophical problem, it remains advisable to show that you are aware of the principal alternatives in that area and that you give reasons for preferring your own ideas.
- C. Critical evaluation and argument are important features of philosophy, so avoid merely describing or explaining a philosophical theory or work.
- D. References to sources should be given where appropriate. If a view, theory or argument is taken from a philosopher, his or her work should be cited. References, including page numbers, should be given for quotations. References may be given in any suitable way such as the Harvard method, footnotes or endnotes. A list of the works referred to should appear at the end of the essay.