

QHTA 2025

HISTORICAL WRITING COMPETITION



2025 QHTA Historical Writing Competition is co-sponsored by:

Independent Education Union –
Queensland and Northern Territory

The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties.



QUEENSLAND COUNCIL
FOR
CIVIL LIBERTIES





The Competition

Students in Years 7–12 in Queensland and the Northern Territory are invited to submit an essay or other historical writing (e.g. a report, diary entry, newspaper article, feature article) based on research or an independent source investigation (Years 11 and 12 only) that fits the following categories, conditions and criteria.

Categories

1. Year 7 400–500 words
2. Year 8 500 – 800 words
3. Year 9 700–1000 words
4. Year 10 800–1200 words
5. Year 11 *Ancient History**
1500 – 2000 words
6. Year 11 Modern History
1500–2000 words
7. Year 12 *Ancient History**
1500 – 2000 words
8. Year 12 Modern History
1500 – 2000 words
9. Year 11 *Ancient History**
1500 – 2000 words
Independent Source Investigation
10. Year 11 Modern History
1500 – 2000 words
Independent Source Investigation
11. Year 12 *Ancient History**
1500 – 2000 words
Independent Source Investigation
12. Year 12 Modern History
1500 – 2000 words
Independent Source Investigation

** Please note: The Ancient History categories may include submissions on a topic of Medieval History as defined by the relevant syllabuses*

Prizes

Prizes for the year level categories are:

- 1st place \$150
- 2nd place \$75
- 3rd place \$50

The judges may also award Highly Commended Certificates in each category.

Additionally, the following prizes may be awarded:

- The best essay on the theme of (Australian) First Nations Peoples History (any year level with appropriate word length) Prize – \$150
- Human Rights and Civil Liberties Topic Years 7–10 (length as relevant to year level) Prize – \$150
- Human Rights and Civil Liberties Topic Years 11 and 12 (1500–2000 words) Prize – \$200
- The R D Milns Award. For the best research based historical essay on a topic from Ancient or Medieval History. Prize – \$200
- The Russell Cowie Award. For the best research based historical essay on a topic from Modern History. Prize – \$200

The same entry may be used for a Year Level award and one of the above additional Awards – or a separate entry may be submitted.



A template for a Certificate of Commendation is available on the QHTA website. With discretion teachers may choose to use this for students whose work was submitted but not acknowledged by the judges. It may also be used for students whose work was considered at a school level for submission but could not be sent because of the number of entries per category condition.

The Conditions

- Entries must be received by COB Friday 19 September 2025. Entries received after this will NOT be judged.
- The word lengths, which include quotations, listed above. Longer entries will NOT be judged.
- Schools may submit no more than two entries in Years 11 and 12 categories and no more than three entries in Years 7 to 10 categories. In instances where more entries are submitted, the first received will be judged.
- Independent Source Investigation entries should adhere to the specifications required by the QCAA, for the assessment instrument of the same name.
- A student may not submit more than one entry per category.
- The submission must NOT include any teacher corrections or comments.
- The judges may decide NOT to award prizes in any given category.
- All decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Entries:

- are to be submitted online in PDF and to competitions@qhta.com.au or qhta@qhta.com.au
- must clearly identify the question or hypothesis and include consistently formatted references and a Reference List using a recognized system.
- must include two attachments. One attachment should be the actual student work and the other attachment should be the completed Title Page and Entry Form (see attached). Note there is a space on the Title Page and Entry Form for a signed Student Declaration, which MUST be signed by 1. the student whose writing has been submitted and 2. a teacher/parent/guardian. BOTH SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED. Entries that do not have two signatures will NOT be judged.
- must specifically identify the word length (including quotes) of the entry.
- The email subject must state QHTA entry, Year level, student name and school – in that order. For example, “Att: QHTA entry Year 9 Jane Smith Queensland SHS”. If there are multiple files to attach, the subject heading should be “Att: QHTA entries; name of school” followed by attachments, each labelled with student name and category.
- An email confirmation of entry received will be sent by qhta@qhta.com.au so that receipt of competition entry may be checked.



Criteria

Relevance

The entry must address the stated question or hypothesis and be historical – in that it addresses issues concerned with causes or consequences and/or change and continuity in human affairs over an identified time period.

Content

The entry must deal with appropriate historical facts, concepts and opinions. It should be free from factual errors and unsupported assertions.

Research

There should be considerable evidence of the student's own substantial reading about the topic from an appropriately comprehensive range of sources. In Years 11 and 12, this should include both primary and secondary sources. The manner of referencing and the format of the Reference List must be consistent, accurate and appropriate to the genre and must follow the conventions of the chosen style. The student must demonstrate an understanding of the purpose and relevance of referencing.

Critical use of sources

The student must use evidence in a manner that displays her/his ability to critically and effectively analyse, interpret, evaluate and synthesise sources in the process of addressing the stated question/hypothesis.

Communication

The entry should be a logical, cohesive and fluently developed response which follows the widely accepted conventions of the chosen genre. The language used must reflect an appropriate level of sophistication and be free from mechanical errors.

Thanks to our co-sponsors:

- Major sponsor and (Australian) First Nations Peoples History prize – Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory
- Junior and Senior Human Rights and Civil Liberties Prizes – QLD Council for Civil Liberties





The Queensland History Teachers' Association
 Historical Writing Competition 2025
 for Queensland and Northern Territory Schools

Student Name:	
Year Level:	Word Length (including quotes):
Question/ Hypothesis:	
School:	
School Address:	
Name of Principal:	Teacher Name:
Teacher email:	Teacher Telephone:
Student email contact:	

Categories (Please select)

The maximum number of entries allowable in each category appears in the brackets.

1. Year 7 (3)		6. Year 11 Modern History (2)		11. Year 12 Ancient History ISI* (2)	
2. Year 8 (3)		7. Year 12 Ancient History (2)		12. Year 12 Modern History ISI* (2)	
3. Year 9 (3)		8. Year 12 Modern History (2)		Australian First Nations Peoples History (3)	
4. Year 10 (3)		9. Year 11 Ancient History ISI* (2)		Human Rights and Civil Liberties Topic Years 7-10 (3)	
5. Year 11 Ancient History (2)		10. Year 11 Modern History ISI* (2)		Human Rights and Civil Liberties Topic: Years 11 & 12 (2)	

* Independent Source Investigation



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Student Declaration

I hereby declare that this submitted entry is the original work of the entrant, to the extent that no more than usual guidance was provided by others.

I understand that all decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

I also understand that the QHTA reserves the right to publish entries and, if my entry is chosen, I give permission for this.

Student's Signature:

Teacher or Parent/Guardian Signature: