



QHTA Historical Writing Competition 2026

Students in Years 7 – 12 in Queensland and the Northern Territory are invited to submit a piece of historical writing that fits the following criteria:

Years	Submission	Maximum Word length
7 -10	A piece of historical writing based on research such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay • Report • Diary entry • Feature article • Newspaper article 	Y7: 500 words Y8: 800 words Y9: 1000 words Y10: 1200 words
11	Ancient History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay OR • Independent Source Investigation OR Modern History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay OR • Independent Source Investigation 	2000 words
12	Ancient History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay OR • Independent Source Investigation OR Modern History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay OR • Independent Source Investigation 	2000 words

Prizes

In each year group, the following prizes will be awarded:

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

The following prizes may also be awarded:

- The best essay on the theme of (Australian) First Nations Peoples History - \$150 (any year level)
- Human Rights and Civil Liberties topic - \$150 (Years 7-10)
- Human Rights and Civil Liberties topic - \$200 (Years 11 – 12)
- The RD Milns Award - an outstanding Ancient or Medieval History essay (Years 11-12)
- The Russell Cowie Award – an outstanding Modern History essay (Years 11-12)

**the same entry may be used for a year level award AND one of the above additional awards, OR a separate entry may be considered..*

Conditions:

- Entries must be received by 12:00pm Friday 11th September 2026
- Quotations are included in the word lengths; entries which exceed the word lengths will not be accepted
- Schools may submit no more than TWO entries in each category; where more than two are received the first two will be considered
- Independent Source Investigations must adhere to specifications in the QCAA syllabus of 2025
- A students may not submit more than one entry per category
- The submission must not include any teacher annotations, corrections or comments
- The judges may decide not to award any prizes in each category
- All decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into

Entries must:

- Sumit TWO documents both in pdf format
 - Entry form - completed and **signed** by both **teacher AND student**
 - Student work
- Emailed to competitions@qhta.com.au
- Use the subject line for 7-10: [student name] [year group]
- Use the subject line for 11 – 12: [student name] [year group] [modern or ancient] [essay or ISI]
- **NO zipped files** please

Judging Criteria:

Essays will be judged on their:

1. Relevance

Essays which clearly address the stated question or hypothesis, make use of historical concepts such as cause and consequence, significance, and/or change and continuity

2. Content

Essays which deal with historical facts, concepts and perspectives. Essays free of factual errors or unsupported assertions.

3. Research

Essays which evidence considerable student reading and research, from a range of sources – at Year 11 -12 level this should include primary and secondary sources. Essays which use a consistent referencing system and provide a bibliography using a recognised system of referencing.

4. Critical use of evidence

Essays which critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate evidence to clearly address the stated question or hypothesis.

5. Communication

Essays which demonstrate a logical, cohesive and fluent response to the question. Essays which demonstrate sophistication of expression and are free from spelling, grammatical or syntactical errors.

With thanks to our sponsors:

- Major sponsor and (Australian) First Nations Peoples History prize: **IEU Qld and NT**
- Junior and Senior Human Rights and Civil Liberties Prizes: Qld Council for Civil Liberties

QHTA Historical Writing Competition 2026 Entry Form

Student Name	
Year level	
School	
Student email contact:	
Teacher name	
Teacher email	
Teacher telephone	
School Principal name	
School address	

Declaration:

I hereby declare that this 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 understand that the QHTA reserves the right to publish entries in their annual journal and/or website, and if my entry is chosen I give permission for this.

Student signature	
Teacher/parent/guardian signature	

Category of Entry – please indicate

Year 7		Y11 Ancient - Essay		Y12 Ancient - Essay	
Year 8		Y11 Ancient - ISI		Y12 Ancient - ISI	
Year 9		Y11 Modern – Essay		Y12 Modern – Essay	
Year 10		Y11 Modern – ISI		Y12 Modern - ISI	

Australian First Nations Peoples History		Human Rights and Civil Liberties Years 7-10		Human Rights and Civil Liberties Years 11-12	
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Entry word count:	
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