

R.A. Butler Prize, 2025

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Questions

Answer **one** of the following. You are encouraged to use a diverse selection of contemporary, historical or literary examples in making your arguments, and not to restrict yourself to material taken from school courses. Essays should be no longer than 3,000 words, including any footnotes.

1. Is it possible for any well-informed person to be optimistic about the state of the world in 2025?
2. Are international institutions and the concept of national sovereignty fundamentally at odds?
3. If the citizens of a democracy are not well-informed, is that democracy imperilled?
4. Does economic inequality inevitably lead to problems of political inequality?
5. How should AI-generated political content be regulated to prevent manipulation in elections?
6. Are there inevitably trade-offs between environmental protection and economic prosperity?
7. Are there some government services that should never be outsourced to private corporations?
8. Is the growing influence of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) an effective counterweight to the global power of Trump's America?
9. Is it only a matter of time before the UK re-joins the European Union?
10. Does humour have a role to play in politics?

Eligibility and submission

Rules of eligibility are on:

<https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/essay-prizes/politics/>

The essay should be submitted via a form on this site.

The deadline for submission is 12 noon (BST) on 1st August 2025.