



Bohunt Sixth Form

Cervus

Review 25/26

Essay

Competition

Welcome to the Cervus Review Essay Competition! It was launched in 2020 to give Y12 & 13 students the chance to explore a subject of interest through a broad range of essay questions, with the added bonus of a £50 prize donated by a local firm.

How to enter

1. Choose **one** of the titles from the list below.
2. Research and write an essay of 1500 words.
3. Use a variety of sources for your research and provide references – 6 is a good number
4. Submit your essay as a PDF or Word document to sixthlibrary@bohunt.hants.sch.uk by end of day Wednesday 21st January 2026.

Rules

1. Essays must be 1500 (+/- 150) words (excluding references and footnotes), typed in double line spacing, and submitted as a Word or PDF document. Please do not include your name anywhere in the document. Titles are not included in the word count.
2. When submitting your essay please name your file Cervus Essay [Student Name].[Category] e.g 'Cervus Essay Alice Smith Social Sciences'. We will only accept essays in .doc/.docx and .PDF
3. The essay must be your own work. You will be automatically disqualified if there is proof of plagiarism.

Humanities

- Is history written more for the present than the past? **History**
- If all maps were erased tomorrow how would societies rebuild a sense of place? **Geography**
- What can classical writers teach us about the dangers of democracy - or of its absence? **Classics**
- Should we still read problematic authors? **English literature**
- Why do you believe what your teachers tell you? **Philosophy**

Science

- Should we bring extinct species back to life? **Biology**
- Could chemistry ever solve the energy crisis? **Chemistry**
- Is physics discovering reality, or constructing models of it? **Physics**
- Could AI ever deserve legal rights? **Computer Science**
- Infinity seems impossible so how can it be useful? **Maths**

Social Sciences

- If humans were truly rational, would supermarkets still exist in their current form? Hints: Think about pricing psychology, choice architecture, and impulse behaviour. Consider how shopping would change in a hyper-rational world? **Economics**
- Should we put a price on nature? Hints: Think about ecosystem services, externalities, and valuation methods. Explore whether economic tools can meaningfully capture environmental value **Economics**
- Can you use mathematics to explain why people queue at some coffee shops but not others? Hints: Think about models of decision-making under uncertainty, externalities, pricing, or expectations. Could queuing be a rational signal of quality? Use game theory, utility models, or network effects - **Economics/Maths**
- Why do we not let judges decide cases based on what they think is fair? **Law**
- Do nations have moral obligations beyond their borders? **Politics**
- Do personality traits remain stable across a lifetime? **Psychology**

Note that these questions are taken from [Minds Underground](#) - a national essay competition currently open for entries. This competition also asks for 1,500 word essays, so you would be able to submit the same essay. Please read their [guidelines for entry](#) as they will be different to ours. **Please note entries for Minds Underground are for Year 12 students only.** Their deadline is 3rd April 2026.