

## Bartholomew Essay Competition 2012

Organised by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers, and with prizes generously donated by HarperCollins Publishers, this geography essay competition for schools is open to individuals or small groups in three categories – P6/7, S1/2, and S3/4.

### Teachers

Enter your school into this essay competition and benefit from:

- a challenge to **motivate your pupils**, while covering a theme directly relevant to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and/or Standard Grade Geography.
- a chance to **win some prizes** for your school – useful at a time of ever-tightening budgets!
- an opportunity to **raise the profile of geography** by running this as a competition within your own school, persuading your headteacher to provide prizes, and entering the winners into this national competition.

### Essay Themes

Themes are designed to fit with the experiences and outcomes of CfE's 'People and Place', and the Key Ideas for Standard Grade. Pupils should choose one theme, but are encouraged to give the essay their own title:

- 1) Towards a greener future with more sustainable transport choices.
- 2) Providing a modern society with sufficient sources of energy in a more environmentally friendly way.
- 3) Our use of major physical resources (eg, coal, oil, metals, water) as world population grows, and what this might mean for the future.
- 4) Study a proposed new land use development, and its impact on the local community.
- 5) Choose a major environmental issue, describe its possible impact, and suggest ways in which this can be reduced.
- 6) A geographical study of one country or major island or geographical region, with some reference to at least one of the topics listed above (eg, Sahara Desert, Majorca, Cuba, Amazon rainforest).

### Essay Content & Presentation

- **Geographical area** can be at any level, eg local, Scotland, UK, a particular continent, or even worldwide.
- **Maps** must be included, at a suitable scale for the topic and location.
- **Graphs, diagrams, photographs** and/or **sketches** should be used where appropriate, and integrated within the final presentation.
- A **bibliography** and any **acknowledgments** should be included at the end.
- **Presentation** can be in one of three forms:
  - 1) a written or typed essay of around 1,500 words;
  - 2) a PowerPoint presentation of up to 20 slides, including up to 1,500 words of text;
  - 3) a video presentation lasting up to 10 minutes, and including maps.

### Submission & Return of Entries

- Entries should be sent to RSGS (Essay Comp), Lord John Murray House, 15-19 North Port, Perth, PH1 5LU, to arrive no later than Friday **14th December 2012**. For queries about sending large numbers of entries, please contact Jim Stewart (competition organiser for RSGS) on 01292 283422.
- Entries will be returned to submitting schools in February / March 2013, only if requested.

### Assessment

**Assessment criteria** will depend on the category entered. The skills to be assessed will be:

- developing reasoned and justified points of view;
- using a variety of maps and diagrams;
- interpreting and displaying information on graphs or diagrams;
- overall presentation, including layout, whether handwritten or using computer.

### Prizes

- **Prizes** will be presented to the winning school and winning pupil(s) in each of the three age categories, at an RSGS *Inspiring People* illustrated talk one evening in March 2013. Merit certificates will be awarded to schools which come close in each age category.
- The winning **school prizes** will be a class set of atlases or downloadable electronic teaching resources for use with interactive whiteboards.
- The winning **pupil prizes** will be an atlas publication, map or book related to topics such as environmental issues, sustainability, global warming, etc.