

# New College's Step-Up Programme: JCR Essay Competition 2024

## Theme: Gender

Write an essay of no more than 1,500 words that address one of the following questions:

1. What, in your opinion, is the most influential factor hindering girl's education in developing countries?
2. How is gender influenced by biology?
3. Is the current British law system fair to everyone, regardless of gender?
4. What effect does the gender pay gap have on Britain's economy?
5. How has sexism impacted modern medicine?
6. Is it harder to be a feminist now than it was in 1924?
7. To what extent has English Literature upheld, or challenged, gender norms?
8. To what extent is gender purely a psychological construct?
9. Should there be a concerted effort on the parts of countries whose main language is gendered (for example, French or Spanish) to normalise gender neutral options?
10. Is gender equality an achievable goal for a country? Why?
11. "I want to support young girls who are in their twenties now and tell them, 'You're not just imagining things.' It's tough. Everything that a guy says once, you have to say five times (Bjork)" Discuss with reference to the music industry.

You will be assessed upon:

1. Your strength of argument
2. Your essay's structure
3. Your command of English, including the use of technical vocabulary

Please email your essay as a Word or PDF document to [stepup@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stepup@new.ox.ac.uk) with the subject line 'Essay Competition'. Please include your name and school in your email. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of £250, as well as runner up prize of £100. The prizes also include a trip to Oxford and overnight accommodation for the winner and a parent/guardian in New College for the Open Days (27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024).

The deadline for submissions is Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 9am