



Written Work Guidance

English

As part of your application all candidates are required to submit one essay. The essay should be:

- An analytical essay in the field of English Literature.
- Written in the normal course of your school or college work.
- Marked by a teacher – and not rewritten after marking.
- Not more than 2,000 words.

English

Applicants are advised to submit an essay on one or more works of literature originally written in English. This may be on poetry, fiction, non-fictional writing or drama, either studied in school or college or read for pleasure. We would expect essays to combine an argument or discussion of a particular aspect of the literature read, with close attention to the text(s). Essays should be no longer than 2,000 words, including notes. Please do not submit creative writing, essays on non-literary topics or pieces that solely comprise close reading (practical criticism). Please do not submit essays written under exam conditions (i.e. timed, closed-book exams). At interview there is usually some time devoted to discussion of the submitted essay.

For those who do not have any appropriate written work to hand and are required to produce some specifically for the purposes of their application we will accept unmarked work. Suggested topics on which you may write are:

1. 'Characters are delineated autonomous wholes, clearly distinguished from others.' Discuss this statement in relation to two works of English literature of your choice.
2. 'It is striking that many novelists write almost obsessively about the uncertain crossing and invasion of identities.' Discuss how two works of English literature of your choice explore the 'uncertainties', 'crossings' and 'invasion' of identities. You need not confine your answer to the novel.
3. 'We are as separate from ourselves as from other people.' Do the works of English literature you have read support this claim? Write on two works of your choice.