

**Pembroke Scholars 2024:**

**Dr Claus Essay Competition**

***Important information you need to know:***

* Please only choose one question to answer
* Please complete the cover sheet on page 7
* We are looking for:

1. An organised & coherent argument which demonstrates clarity
2. Grasp of relevant ideas/concepts
3. Breadth of relevant reading
4. Originality of analysis
5. Evidence of critical thinking
6. Effective use of examples to illustrate & justify your argument
7. Accuracy *if* referencing & creating a bibliography

***Useful links:***

It is strongly recommended that you watch the videos below before writing your essay:

* Academic writing: <https://youtu.be/UJWa95in-hM>
* Presenting an argument: <https://youtu.be/wTTEO8KRnOA>
* The University of Bedfordshire has developed an excellent guide to referencing, which can be found here: <https://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/a-guide-to-referencing/>

***Submitting your essay:***

* Please write your essay and save it in a Word.Doc or PDF format
* Attach the file straight into your email
* Please do not send your essay via a link as we are unable to access it. If you send your essay as a link, we will not chase you to resubmit your essay in the correct format.
* Please send your essay to[**pembrokeaccess@gmail.com**](mailto:pembrokeaccess@gmail.com) (we will not accept essays which are sent to other email addresses)
* You will **not** receive a confirmation email when you submit your essay
* Please save your file title as ‘your name\_the subject question you are answering’ (e.g. **Jane Smith\_Science),** this is imperative for us to process your essay!

***Deadline***

* The deadline to submit your essay is 12 noon (midday) on 29th April 2024, and you should expect to receive your feedback from 20th May 2024
* **Late submissions will not be accepted.** We strongly advise that you submit your essay to at least one-day before the deadline to ensure that no technical errors occur with submitting your work. We will not chase you to resubmit your essay if it is sent in the incorrect format or missing information, so please double check your work before submitting.

***Questions***

* Please answer **one** of the following questions:

1. ***Humanities & Social Sciences question:***

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| Gobbet: | **Probability**: the quality or state of being probable; the extent to which something is likely to happen or be the case  **Intuition**: the ability to understand something instinctively, without the need for conscious reasoning. |
| Question: | Which is more useful when explaining conspiracy theories in the modern world, probability, or intuition? Give examples using any of the disciplines from the Humanities or the Social Sciences. |
| Word count | The minimum word count is 500 words and you must not exceed 1,000 words (excluding references/bibliography) |

1. ***Languages question:***

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| Gobbet: | “One didn’t dare to inhale for fear of breathing it in. It was the sound of eighteen hundred airplanes approaching Hamburg from the south at an unimaginable height. We had already experienced two hundred or even more air raids, among them some very heavy ones, but this was something completely new. And yet there was an immediate recognition: this was what everyone had been waiting for, what had hung for months like a shadow over everything we did, making us weary. It was the end. This sound was to last an hour and a half, and then again on three nights of the following week. It hung steadily in the air, and remained steady even when the much louder din of the defence intensified to a drumfire. Only at moments when individual squadrons descended for a strafing did it swell and graze the earth with its wings. And yet this terrible noise was so permeable that every other sound could be heard as well: not just the reports of the antiaircraft guns, the bursting of grenades, the howling roar of bombs, and the singing of shrapnel, no, even a very soft rustling, no louder than that of a withered leaf dropping from branch to branch, and for which there was no explanation in the darkness.”    *Nossack, H.E., 2004.*The End. *Translated by J. Agee. London: University of Chicago Press.* |
| Question: | What do we learn when we read autobiographical accounts of our enemies? |
| Word count | The minimum word count is 500 words and you must not exceed 1,000 words (excluding references/bibliography) |

1. ***Philosophy & World Religions question:***

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| Question: | Is religion the source of, or the solution to, the problems of the modern world? Answer with reference to any case study of your choice.\*  \*To answer this question, you might like to focus on just one subject or issue that you can tackle in an essay. For example, you could focus on the environmental crisis; the Covid-19 pandemic; social injustice or inequality; human or women’s rights; racism or intolerance; or any other contemporary challenge |
| Word count | The minimum word count is 500 words and you must not exceed 1,000 words (excluding references/bibliography) |

1. ***English question:***

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| Question: | Compare and contrast the ways in which Sinclair and Evaristo portray issues of **identity** in their texts. |
| Gobbets: | ***Home*** by Safiya Sinclair Have I forgotten it –  wild conch-shell dialect,  black apostrophe curled  tight on my tongue?  Or how the Spanish built walls  of broken glass to keep me out  but the Doctor Bird kept chasing  and raking me in: This place  is your place, wreathed in red  *Sargassum*, ancient driftwood  nursed on the pensive sea.  The ramshackle altar I visited  often, packed full with fish-skull,  bright with lignum vitae plumes:  Father, I have asked so many miracles  of it. To be patient and forgiving,  to be remade for you in some  small wonder. And what a joy  to still believe in anything.  My diction now as straight  as my hair; that stranger we’ve  long stopped searching for.  But if somehow our half-sunken  hearts could answer, I would cup  my mouth in warm bowls  over the earth, and kiss the wet dirt  of home, taste Bogue-mud  and one long orange peel for skin.  I’d open my ear for sugar cane  and long stalks of gungo peas  to climb in. I’d swim the sea  still lapsing in a soldered frame,  the sea that again and again  calls out my name.  From *Cannibal* (London: Picador, 2020)  ***Girl, Woman, Other*** by Bernardine Evaristo  she thinks back to when she started out in theatre  when she and her running mate, Dominique, developed a reputation for heckling shows that offended their political sensibilities  their powerfully trained actors' voices projected from the back of the stalls before they made a quick getaway  they believed in protest that was public, disruptive and downright annoying to those at the other end of it  she remembers pouring a pint of beer over the head of a director whose play featured semi-naked black women running around on stage behaving like idiots  before doing a runner into the backstreets of Hammersmith howling  Amma then spent decades on the fringe, a renegade lobbing hand grenades at the establishment that excluded her  until the mainstream began to absorb what was once radical and she found herself hopeful of joining it  which only happened when the first female artistic director assumed the helm of the National three years ago  after so long hearing a polite no from her predecessors, she received a phone call just after breakfast one Monday morning when her life stretched emptily ahead with only online television dramas to look forward to  love the script, must do it, will you also direct it for us? I know it's short notice, but are you free for coffee this week at all?  Amma takes a sip of her Americano with its customary kick-starter extra shot in it as she approaches the Brutalist grey arts complex ahead  at least they try to enliven the bunker-like concrete with neon light displays these days and the venue has a reputation for being progressive rather than traditionalist  years ago she expected to be evicted as soon as she dared walk through its doors, a time when people really did wear their smartest clothes to go to the theatre  and looked down their noses at those not in the proper attire  she wants people to bring their curiosity to her plays, doesn't give a damn what they wear, has her own *sod-you* style, anyway, which has evolved, it's true, away from the clichéd denim dungarees, Che Guevara beret, PLO scarf and ever-present badge of two interlocked female symbols (talk about wearing your heart on your sleeve, girl)  these days she wears silver or gold trainers in winter, failsafe Birkies in summer  winter, it's black slacks, either baggy or tight depending on whether she's a size 12 or 14 that week (a size smaller on top)  summer, it's patterned harem pants that end just below the knee  winter, it's bright asymmetric shirts, jumpers, jackets, coats  year-round her peroxide dreadlocks are trained to stick up like candles on a birthday cake  silver hoop earrings, chunky African bangles and pink lipstick are her perennial signature style statement  Yazz  recently described her style as 'a mad old woman look, Mum', pleads with her to shop in Marks & Spencer like normal mothers, refuses to be spotted alongside her when they're supposed to be walking down the street together  Yazz knows full well that Amma will always be anything but normal, and as she's in her fifties, she's not old yet, although try telling *that* to a nineteen-year-old; in any case, ageing is nothing to be ashamed of  especially when the entire human race is in it together  although sometimes it seems that she alone among her friends wants to celebrate getting older  because it's such a privilege to not die prematurely, she tells them as the night draws in around her kitchen table in her cosy terraced house in Brixton  as they get stuck into the dishes each one has brought: chickpea stew, jerk chicken, Greek salad, lentil curry, roasted vegetables, Moroccan lamb, saffron rice, beetroot and kale salad, jollof quinoa and gluten-free pasta for the really irritating fusspots  as they pour themselves glasses of wine, vodka (fewer calories), or something more liver-friendly if under doctor's orders  she expects them to approve of her bucking the trend of middle-aged moaning; instead she gets bemused smiles and what about arthritic flare-ups, memory loss and hot sweats?  (London: Penguin, 2019) |
| Word count | The minimum word count is 500 words and you must not exceed 1,000 words (excluding references/bibliography) |

1. ***Science question:***

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| Gobbet: | Please review the **attached article** entitled Kuhn vs Popper |
| Question: | Who was more right, Popper or Kuhn? |
| Word count | The minimum word count is 500 words and you must not exceed 600 words (excluding references/bibliography) |

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| Your full name (both your given or preferred name/s are suitable) |  |
| Your current school/college |  |
| Date of essay submission |  |
| Which question are you answering? |  |
| Final essay word count |  |

Cover Sheet

**Please complete the green sections below**

**Answer:**