FREE TO ENTER: YEAR 11 AND YEAR 12, FROM ANY COUNTRY

TheUKCATPeople Essay Competition 2027

Medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. One question per subject, up to 1,000 words, judged anonymously by doctors, dentists and vets.

WINNERS' PRIZES WORTH OVER £800

MEDICINE

The NHS wants to move from treating sickness to preventing it. Whose job is it to keep people healthy: the patient's, the doctor's or the government's?

Winner's prizes worth over £800

DENTISTRY

Should fluoride be added to drinking water across England? Weigh up the evidence, the ethics of treating a whole population without individual consent, and who stands to gain the most.

Winner's prizes worth over £800

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Should it be illegal to breed dogs whose body shape gives them lifelong health problems, such as flat-faced breeds that struggle to breathe?

Winner's prizes worth over £700

SCAN THE CODE OR VISIT

theukcatpeople.co.uk/essay-competition

- Entries close 31 January 2027
- Winners announced by Friday 12 March 2027
- A certificate of entry for every finished essay

How to enter

Free, and open until 11:59pm on Sunday 31 January 2027. We announce the winners by Friday 12 March 2027 and email every entrant the results. We cannot give individual feedback on essays.

1. Choose the competition for the subject you plan to apply for, and read its brief and background reading on our website.
2. Write between 300 and 1,000 words, not counting the title and references. Leave your name and school out of the document: judging is anonymous.
3. Upload it as a Word document (.docx) at theukcatpeople.co.uk/essay-competition, with the name and school email of a teacher. Your certificate of entry downloads straight away.

Prizes

MEDICINE WINNER

Worth over £800

UCAT course (one day)	£179
Interview course	£179
PS review	£149
Interview Q&A guide	£349

2 HIGHLY COMMENDED

Interview Q&A guide	£349

DENTISTRY WINNER

Worth over £800

UCAT course (one day)	£179
Interview course	£179
PS review	£149
Interview Q&A guide	£349

2 HIGHLY COMMENDED

Interview Q&A guide	£349

VET WINNER

Worth over £700

Two-edit PS review	£279
Mock interview	£125
Interview Q&A guide	£349

2 HIGHLY COMMENDED

Interview Q&A guide	£349

The rules in brief

- Year 11 and 12 (S4 and S5 in Scotland), from any school in any country.
- One essay per student. Enter again before the deadline to replace it.
- Your own work: AI may help you research, but the writing must be yours. Copied or AI-written essays are disqualified.
- Winning and highly commended essays are published only with the writer's permission.

What the judges look for

- A clear answer: An argument that answers the question asked and reaches a conclusion.
- Evidence used well: Facts and sources that support the point being made, with references.
- The people involved: Patients, owners, animals and the wider public: who is affected, and the ethics of it.
- Clear writing: Easy to follow, well organised, within the word limit.

FOR TEACHERS: PASTE INTO YOUR BULLETIN

TheUKCATPeople Essay Competition 2027: a free essay competition for Year 11 and 12 students anywhere in the world heading for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine, with one question for each subject, up to 1,000 words, judged by doctors, dentists and vets. Entries close 31 January 2027. The winners get prizes worth over £800, and winners and highly commended students get a title they can cite in their personal statement. Details and entry: https://www.theukcatpeople.co.uk/essay-competition