



THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2025

## Lesson Plan Template

<b>Materials required</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Laptop, tablet or phone with internet: 1 per classroom or 1 per student</li><li>2. Commonwealth Factsheets (Appendix A)</li><li>3. 2024 Winning Entries (Appendix B)</li><li>4. Pen and paper</li></ol>	
<b>Curriculum links:</b>	English, Creative Writing, Citizenship, Geography
<b>Title:</b>	Entering The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (QCEC) 2025
<b>Eligible Age:</b>	18 years and under
<b>Deadline:</b>	23 May 2025

<b>Lesson Objectives</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop knowledge of the Commonwealth</li><li>2. Analyse one's own assumptions, debate issues, and consider other perspectives</li><li>3. Develop knowledge of, and interest in, creative writing</li><li>4. Encourage a wider, more empathetic understanding of others' experiences</li><li>5. Explore issues around adversity, resilience, community and culture</li></ol>	

<b>Activity 1: TRUE or FALSE?</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ask students to look at the Commonwealth Factsheet (appendix A) and ask them: Did anything surprise you? What do you notice straight away?</li><li>2. Ask students to close their eyes and point onto the page of Commonwealth nations' flags. Which country did their finger land on?</li><li>3. Ask students to write down one thing they know or have heard about the country.</li><li>4. Ask students to stand up in the centre of the room. Label one side of the room "TRUE" and the other side "FALSE".</li><li>5. Ask one student at a time to stand in front of the group and read out their statement. Ask the rest of the students to choose whether they think the statement is TRUE or FALSE and walk to the labelled side of the room in accordance with their answer.</li><li>6. Invite students from the group to explain why they chose TRUE or FALSE. Ask a student from the other side of the room to respond to their point in a debate fashion.</li><li>7. Research the statement in question on the internet and discuss the information you find.</li><li>8. (If each student has access to a device with internet) After repeating this process a few times with different students' statements, ask all students to research their own statement and feed back on what they discovered.</li></ol>	

## Activity 2: Writing your entry

Instructions for students:

1. Look at the QCEC flyer and choose a topic on which you would like to write.
2. Read through the 2024 winning entries and take note of the different forms of writing they use.
3. Notice that they all have a message they want to share. Consider your unique point of view and what you would like to say about this year's topic.
4. Experiment with conveying your message in three different forms of creative writing, spending around 10 minutes on each genre: choose between a play script, a short story, a letter, a poem, a journalistic piece (including online blog style), or an essay.
5. Which genre did you most enjoy writing? Which one suited your message best? Select your favourite of the three and write a second draft.
6. Continue to edit until you are happy with your final piece.
7. Submit your entry

## Appendix A: Commonwealth Factsheets

### COMMONWEALTH KEY FACTS

The Commonwealth is a network of 56 countries from all over the world, from the Pacific, Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and Americas.

The Commonwealth works on **consensus** – so all members are equal and have equal say.

It is founded on 16 <b>shared values and principles:</b>	Democracy Human rights International peace and security Tolerance, respect and understanding Freedom of Expression Separation of Powers Rule of Law Good Governance Sustainable Development Protecting the Environment Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter Gender Equality Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth Recognition of the Needs of Small States Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States The Role of Civil Society
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There are more than 2.5 billion people in the Commonwealth – 60% of which are under 30 years old.

The modern Commonwealth was established 74 years ago.

Commonwealth countries share the English language and have similar legal, education and health systems.

## List of Commonwealth Countries

### **Africa**

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Kingdom of Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Togo
- Zambia

### **Asia**

- Bangladesh
- Brunei Darussalam
- India
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka

### **Pacific**

- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

### **Europe**

- Cyprus
- Malta
- United Kingdom

### **Caribbean and Americas**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

## Commonwealth Nation Flags

Antigua and Barbuda



Australia



The Bahamas



Bangladesh



Barbados



Belize



Botswana



Brunei Darussalam



Cameroon



Canada



Cyprus



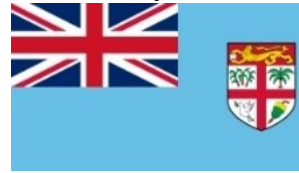
Dominica



Eswatini



Fiji



Gabon



The Gambia



Ghana



Grenada



Guyana



India



Jamaica



Kenya



Kiribati



Lesotho



Malawi



Malaysia



Maldives



Malta



Mauritius



Mozambique



Namibia



Nauru



New Zealand



Nigeria



Pakistan



Papua New Guinea



Rwanda



Saint Lucia



Samoa



Seychelles



Sierra Leone



Singapore



Solomon Islands



South Africa



Sri Lanka



St Vincent and  
The Grenadines



St Kitts and Nevis



Togo



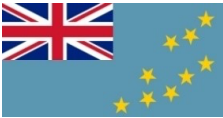
Tonga



Trinidad and  
Tobago



Tuvalu



Uganda



United Kingdom



United Republic of  
Tanzania



Vanuatu



Zambia

