

Press notice from Learn About Britain, 29 November 2024

New charity launches competition on Sir Winston Churchill

This Saturday is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill. To mark this milestone, new education charity [Learn About Britain](#) is launching a competition for school students at the Churchill statue in Parliament Square.

To enter, we are asking students to respond to the following question:

“150 years after he was born, what are your reflections on the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill?”

As students approach the task, we will ask them to consider questions such as:

- How did Britain change under Churchill’s leadership?
- What would our lives look like today if Churchill hadn’t come to power?
- In leading a war against an enemy like Nazi Germany as Churchill did, is it justified to sacrifice people’s lives in order to defeat your enemy?
- What is the legacy of the British Empire, which Churchill loved so much? Would Britain have been able to withstand Nazi Germany without the Empire?
- Should we judge historical figures by modern moral standards? Can people who held views or did things we might condemn today be considered heroes?

These questions challenge students to think about the links between Britain’s past and present, the impact a single person can make on a nation, the decisions a war leader has to make and the moral dilemmas have been raised in relation to Churchill and the British Empire in recent decades. Our judges will include:

- **Aneeta Prem MBE**, human rights advocate
- **Sir Peter Riddell**, former Director of the Institute for Government
- **Lady Esther Gilbert**, curator of [martingilbert.com](#), a repository of the work of Churchill’s biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert
- **Dr Adrian Bingham**, Professor of British History at Sheffield University
- **Dr Howard Williamson CVO CBE**, Professor at the University of South Wales
- **Paul Phillips OBE**, Joint President of the Holocaust Educational Trust

Our panel will be looking for entries which meet Learn About Britain’s commitment to balance and honesty, with the most thoughtful and nuanced pieces likely to win. To support schools to help students with our question, we have created a set of educational resources, including a film on [Churchill’s legacy](#).

Founder of Learn About Britain Joe Hayman said:

“We are delighted to launch this competition about Churchill’s life and legacy 150 years after he was born. As Britain’s past is increasingly the subject of debate across the UK, our new charity strives to bring balance, honesty and nuance to discussions in the nation’s classrooms. We need young people growing up in our country to think hard about its history – we hope to help them do so.”

Notes

Learn About Britain is a new charity educating young people and new migrants to the UK about British history, citizenship, culture and values. It was founded by Joe Hayman, the former CEO of the PSHE Association and Managing Director of the Holocaust Educational Trust and is chaired by human rights advocate Aneeta Prem MBE and former Director of the Institute for Government Sir Peter Riddell. We will launch our competition at a small event in Parliament Square on 30 November at 11am. For more information, please contact joe@learnaboutbritain.uk; 07743862912.