

ONLINE JOURNAL



Aspiring Barristers
aspiringbarristers.team@gmail.com
www.aspiringbarristers.org

ASPIRING BARRISTERS ONLINE JOURNAL

The Rules:

1. All entries for Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal are subject to the following rules and must be fully complied with. Non-compliance with any of these rules will result in the article entry in question being automatically disqualified and not taken any further for consideration.
2. Any aspiring student barrister can submit an entry to feature in Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal. Making a submission entry to feature is **not** an opportunity available exclusively to Aspiring Barristers' members.
3. Entries must be no more than 3,000 words in length. References, footnotes and bibliographies are not included in the overall word count.
4. All entries must be written in accordance with the prescribed set theme as stated on Aspiring Barristers' website. Any entry submitted that ignores the set theme will be disqualified. Compliance with the set theme is broadly construed.
5. All entries must be kept anonymised. Nothing which may disclose the identity of the candidate must be included anywhere on either the article entry itself or the entrant's cover page. Only the applicant's Aspiring Barristers' ID number should feature on the prescribed cover page of the article being submitted. Applicants' Aspiring Barristers ID number must feature in the header of each page of their article entry.
6. The referencing system to be adopted by applicants when writing their articles must be either OSCOLA or Harvard Referencing. Neither referencing system is preferred over the other.
7. The entry submitted must be the applicant's own original work and must have been produced solely by the specified author without any external assistance. The usual rules surrounding academic conduct and plagiarism applicable across educational institutions apply.

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8. Entries which have previously been submitted as part of another journal elsewhere (whether published online or printed in hard copy) or essay competition run by another organisation, institution or society will not be accepted.
9. The title of the article entry must be original and have not previously been used in another piece of written work produced by the candidate. For example, the title of the applicant's university dissertation/pdf thesis.
10. Only one entry can be made per applicant. Numerous entries will be disregarded. In the event that more than one entry is made per candidate, the earlier article will stand and the other subsequent entry will be disregarded. Modified entries of an already submitted article will not be accepted. This is so even if the deadline has not yet passed. Entries submitted beyond the deadline will not be considered.
11. All entries must be typed in a clear font and size 12 text must be used. Each page must be numbered and the article double spaced. The overall word count must be clearly stated on the cover page provided. The cover page must be signed by the candidate either electronically or by hand.
12. Applicants must not submit an article which is the same or is the same in substance to an article entry submitted as part of the Online Journal in previous years.
13. An article which is written using previously submitted university coursework is allowed, provided that its previous submission was produced by the applicant only (for example, it has not been produced as part of a group project or group work), and provided that such previously submitted coursework is not subject to any university copyright issues. If you are unsure whether the latter applies to your work, you must contact your relevant academic institution where the work was previously submitted for clarification.
14. Previously shortlisted entrants (i.e., candidates whose articles were shortlisted as forming part of the top 10 and so featured within the Online Journal) cannot enter the competition again. Candidates whose articles were not selected as forming part of the shortlisted entries can submit future entries (subject to paragraph 12 above).

Competition Terms and Conditions:

1. By submitting your entry to feature in Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal you agree and give your consent to Aspiring Barristers posting your article online as part of the Journal, across its social media platforms and website. You understand that were your essay entry to be shortlisted and so featured in the Online Journal, you grant Aspiring Barristers the right to publish and/or reproduce part or all of your article entry for marketing purposes elsewhere at any time. In so doing you accept and consent to Aspiring Barristers reformatting your article as it chooses for publication and/or promotion purposes.
2. You understand and accept that Aspiring Barristers reserves the right not to announce any or all 10 shortlisted candidates if it is in the Judges' opinions unanimously that there is not a suitable article(s) to shortlist in light of the requisite standard required in accordance with the marking criteria. In this instance, candidates who submitted article entries cannot request a review of that decision or request feedback as to why their article was not considered as reaching the requisite standard in accordance with the standardised marking criteria. The decision made by the Judges collectively in this instance is final.
3. You understand and accept that the Judging Panel's decision as to which candidates produced the top 10 articles (and so those which are to form the shortlist) is final.
4. You understand and accept that due to limited resources available, Aspiring Barristers is unable to inform unsuccessful candidates that their article entry has not been shortlisted. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted direct regarding the outcome of their entry.
5. You understand and accept that in the event that your article entry is selected as being chosen as one of the shortlisted entries, this will mean that your article will be part of Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal. You understand and accept that there is no tangible prize for candidates being shortlisted beyond those candidates' articles featuring in the Online Journal itself.

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6. Applicants submitting an article entry are expected to be familiar with the rules on plagiarism applicable to their current and/or previous academic institution(s) where they have studied and been awarded qualifications from previously. By submitting an article entry you confirm that you understand the rules on plagiarism applicable to academic writing and that if you did not or were unclear, that you have since acquired that knowledge before submitting your article entry.
7. You understand that if you submit an article entry which is found to have been plagiarised or to have committed academic malpractice of any kind you will be automatically disqualified and will not be permitted to submit any future entries in future years of the Online Journal.
8. You understand and give your consent that Aspiring Barristers may scan your article entry using relevant electronic plagiarism software (for example, Turnitin) for the purpose of checking your entry for plagiarism.
9. Where plagiarism is found, any entrant who was successfully selected as forming part of the 10 shortlisted candidates and so featured in Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal subsequently, must remove that recognition from their CV, any future applications and must not reference that previously (now invalid) ranking elsewhere in any way however so construed. In the instance of plagiarism being found once the Online Journal has gone live, Aspiring Barristers will seek to republish the Online Journal without the plagiarised article being featured.
10. You understand and accept that Aspiring Barristers reserves the right to report any instances of plagiarism or academic malpractice of any proportion to the relevant Inn of Court (prospective or otherwise), relevant Chambers (prospective or otherwise) and/or relevant study institution (prospective or otherwise) where such is found to form part of your entry submitted to feature in the Online Journal.
11. You understand and accept that any contents of your essay entry which is abusive, inappropriate, offensive and/or discriminatory of any kind and to any degree will result in the automatic disqualification of your entry. In this instance you will not be permitted to submit an entry in future years to feature in Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal and your involvement in any of Aspiring Barristers' other Schemes or Programmes will not be permitted.

12. You understand and accept that by submitting an entry seeking to feature as part of Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal that you are thereby bound by the rules as specified above on pages 1 and 2, as well as the terms and conditions as specified above on pages 3-5.
13. You understand and accept that by submitting an entry seeking to feature as part of Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal that Aspiring Barristers will acquire copyright over the contents of your article.

Competition Marking Criterion:

1. Each article entry is assessed against the same standardised marking criteria and are peer reviewed by the panel of Judges. If there are any disagreements between Judges as to whether a particular article should be shortlisted over another, then the decision of the Head Judge will stand as final. The Judge acting as Head Judge rotates each year; the order of which is determined purely alphabetically.
2. The standardised marking criteria used by the Judging panel when marking article entries can be found below.

Aspiring Barristers Online Journal Entries: Mark Scheme	
Research	Strong candidates will show clear evidence of thorough research surrounding their article's chosen subject area. Research sources will be varied and provide clear insight into how such research has contributed to the article produced.
Knowledge and understanding of chosen subject area	Strong candidates will present an article built upon a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of their article's subject area. This understanding will be substantiated by good use of a diverse range of research material and possibly

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	from their own personal experiences. Strong candidates will be able to demonstrate a deep and polished understanding of their subject-matter consistently throughout their article.
Structure	Strong candidates will present their work adopting a clear, coherent and logical structure. Their article will flow well from start to finish and read easy for its readership.
Critical analysis	Strong candidates will demonstrate in their article sophisticated engagement with relevant material and showcase an ability to properly consider, critique, question and/or challenge its content. They will be able to engage effectively with and consider their subject-matter through multiple lens of analysis.
Clarity of thought and/or argument	Strong candidates will produce an article which is clear, assured, and is the clear product of thorough thinking and planning. Any argument(s) and/or points made will be articulated with clarity and unambiguously.
Originality	Strong candidates will be able to appropriately offer their own thoughts, ideas, analysis and/or argument(s) in their article having built and developed those upon material already available. Exceptional candidates will be able to consider alternative insights and/or school of thought in their subject area. They will be able to offer refined wider insight(s) and/or contribution(s) within their chosen subject area beyond those which are already established and available in other relevant literature.

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Presentation, referencing and grammar use

Strong candidates will produce an article which is free from grammatical errors including spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax. Referencing will be compliant with either OSCOLA or Harvard referencing throughout. The article will engage paragraphs appropriately and/or sub-headings where useful.

Processing, Retaining and Protecting Applicants' Data: Notice

Please contact Aspiring Barristers on aspiringbarristers.team@gmail.com if you have any questions about any of the following data notice.

1. Each applicant's data submitted as part of any of Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal will be processed purely for the sole purpose of administering the Journal. For successful candidates whose article entries are shortlisted to feature within Aspiring Barristers' Online Journal, this includes promoting other comparable competitions that Aspiring Barristers may run or introduce in the future.
2. All article entries will be retained for 12 months from the date that the application window closes. Thereafter each entry will be permanently deleted.
3. Aspiring Barristers will retain for 5 years the full name, article title and article entry itself of all shortlisted candidates. Thereafter each entry will be permanently deleted.