

**The Worshipful Company of World Traders’**

**Tacitus Essay Prize 2025**

The World Traders’ Tacitus Essay Prize is an essay competition held by The World Traders to encourage young people to think about the issues raised in this year’s Tacitus Lecture.

The competition is aimed at encouraging Year 12 pupils to think analytically and critically beyond the confines of their school curriculum about economic and geopolitical issues. Entries from other perspectives are welcome.

**ESSAY TITLES**

Entrants are invited to write an essay from a choice of four titles:

1. Why does history matter? George Santayana’s often quoted phrase ‘Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it ‘is one reason often given. This statement emphasizes the importance of historical awareness and of learning from previous errors to avoid making the same mistakes again. Discuss the statement, drawing on examples from both Pamela Coke Hamilton’s lecture and your own knowledge of history.
2. Over the last few years and particularly over recent months we have witnessed challenges to Free Trade, Overseas Aid and Multilateral Organisations. Is this trend something to be welcomed or something to be feared and fought against? With reference to Pamela Coke Hamilton’s lecture please discuss.
3. Pamela Coke Hamilton stressed her belief in the ability of the individual to make a lasting difference. Discuss this view with reference to her lecture. To what extent and in what ways do you believe you as an individual can make a lasting difference.

1. ‘Trade is a story of humanity both at its best and at its worst’ (Tacitus Lecture 2025). Discuss this statement, drawing on examples from Pamela Coke Hamilton’s lecture and your own research.

**THE TACITUS LECTURE**

The Tacitus Lecture 2025 was given by Pamela Coke Hamilton.

The lecture was entitled ‘Be that one’: How to create winds of change in an uncertain world. It is available [here](https://world-traders.org/2023/05/23/tacitus-lecture-2023/) to watch online. A transcript is available here.

**ELIGIBILITY**

* To enter you must be studying in the UK in Year 12 (in England or Wales, or equivalent in Northern Ireland or Scotland)
* All entries must be submitted by 6 June 2025.
* Entrants do not need to have attended The Tacitus Lecture nor do they need to be studying Economics, Geopolitics, Social Affairs or History. However, they must be able to demonstrate that they have accessed the lecture on-line.

**ENTRY FORMAT**

* Your essay must be no longer than 1,000 words and should be typed in Size 12 font directly into the Word Document entry form
* The use of graphs, diagrams or images is welcome if they add value to your argument and should be referred to within the essay.
* The content of your essay should be original and must be your own work.
* All sources of information (data, quotes, graphs, diagrams, images etc) should be acknowledged and referenced at the end of your essay (this is not included in the word count).

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Your essay will be judged on the structure of your argument, clarity of communication, choice and validity of supporting evidence (such as data, other views or research conclusions), originality of your ideas, effectiveness of your evaluations and quality of your conclusions.

Your essay must be written by you and we may disqualify any essays that are revealed as AI generated.

A panel of judges will read and mark your entry before the winning entries are announced.

The winner and runners-up will each receive a monetary prize and be invited to receive their awards at a World Traders function.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please complete the essay submission form which includes your details along with your essay and send this document to **education@world-traders.org** by 6 June 2025



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Tacitus Essay Prize 2025

**ENTRY FORM**

Full name:

School name:

Year Group:

Email address:

Teacher’s name:

Teacher’s position at school:

Teacher’s email:

**Entry Format:**

* Your essay must be no longer than 1,000 words and should be typed in Size 12 font directly into this Word Document Entry Form and submitted as a Word Document.
* The use of graphs, diagrams or images is welcome if they add value to your argument and should be referred to within the essay.
* The content of your essay should be original and must be your own work. All sources of information (data, quotes, graphs, diagrams, images etc) should be acknowledged and referenced at the end of your essay (this is not included in the word count).
* Once completed, please submit your entry form by email to **education@world-traders.org**

**Judging Criteria**

Your essay will be judged on:

* the structure of your argument
* clarity of communication
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Essay Title:

Word Count:

Type your essay here: