Blwyddyn Darllen Iâl
Coleg Iâl, Wrecsam

Yale Year of Reading
Yale College, Wrexham

NATIONAL DNA DAY ESSAY COMPETITION

The competition aims to challenge students to examine, question, and reflect on the important concepts of genetics. Essays are expected to contain substantive , well-reasoned arguments indicative of a depth of understanding of the concepts related to the essay questions.
The contest is open to both A2 and AS Biology students.

You have two options. Whichever you choose, remember to support your argument with quotes from science articles, books, newspapers, etc. Take advantage of research published by experts, which is more reliable than open Web sources, blogs, or other references from people who lack specialised knowledge

QUESTION 1:
In 2010, a major discovery in genetics research found that the DNA of some modern humans contains small amounts of Neanderthal DNA. Briefly explain this finding and discuss its relevance to human ancestry and evolution.

QUESTION 2:
A number of companies offer genetic testing directly to consumers, bypassing the involvement of physicians and genetic counsellors. Discuss whether you think this is a good idea or not. You might focus on medical, ethical, legal, or social dimensions of this issue.

PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE
£50 BOOK TOKEN
SECOND PRIZE
£15 BOOK TOKEN
THIRD PRIZE
£10 BOOKTOKEN

Rules:
1. Essays are limited to 1500 words, not including references.
2. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Essays found to contain non referenced work of others will be disqualified, and the student's teacher will be notified. Remember to use references to support your arguments.
3. Essays to be submitted on or before 1st April 2011 to your tutor.

Marking

Overall accuracy of the genetics content	15 points
Use of evidence in support of an argument/answer :	
Essay well-focused on the question/topic selected	15 points
Writing quality (clear thesis, composition, grammar, syntax, spelling)	13 points
References and citations (quality and appropriateness)	7 points
Total points possible:	50