



Kimbolton School

The Peter Smout Memorial Summer Essay Writing Competition 2022

How far the UK should plan for a future based on nuclear energy?

Background:

On 11 March 2011, Japan was hit by a huge earthquake, measured at 9.0 on the Richter Scale. The earthquake triggered massive tsunami waves of up to 40.5 metres, one of which crashed into the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Japan's eastern coast. These devastating waves caused serious damage to the nuclear plant, including fires and explosions in the reactors, sending panic across the world and reigniting an age-old debate about the merits, or otherwise, of nuclear power. In the wake of the disaster, countries including Germany and Italy announced decisions to discontinue their nuclear-power programmes. Meanwhile, in the UK, the go-ahead has been given to start work on the construction of Britain's first new nuclear-power station for 20 years, leaving Europe divided over where best to source its energy from. This debate has become more pressing as a result of Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, with countries reconsidering a reliance on Russian energy sources and steep rises in domestic energy bills. Is such a potentially dangerous energy source in nuclear power worth the risk for the independence and clean energy it provides? Might other sources of energy, such as renewables or shale gas, be a better investment long term? Would abandoning nuclear at this stage be an over-reaction to the incident in Japan?

Essay structure:

We are looking for you to consider both sides of this debate, whilst presenting your own line of argument. It would be a good idea to include a consideration of the need for reliable energy supplies and some specific examples of positive and negative aspects of both nuclear power and other sources of energy to help illustrate your explanations.

Starting your research:

There is plenty of recommended reading material to view on Showbie. Here is the relevant course code **ZDMKD**

Length of Essay:

Essays submitted should be in the region of 1500 words

Entry Deadline:

To Mr Smith's inbox (cws@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk)/pigeon hole by Monday 12th September 2022

Prizes:

(Courtesy of a very generous Old Kimboltonian, in memory of Mr Peter Smout, a former Deputy Headmaster of Kimbolton School)

Overall winning essay - £200

Two consolation prizes:

Senior Category (4th Form to L6) - £100

Junior Category (1st Form to 3rd Form) - £100