



The Glasgow Academy

S3 & S4: Researching the Impossible Awards

The 'Researching the Impossible Awards' are designed for people who want a serious academic challenge in S3 and S4. The projects titles are provocative, ambiguous and genuinely difficult – maybe impossible.

Individuals are asked to select a research challenge that is of interest to them. Through discussion, wider reading, experimentation and engagement with teaching staff, you are asked to pursue their research topic and produce a piece of work of no more than 1500 words. Essays should include a bibliography at the end. If you would prefer to form a group (of no more than three pupils) you may produce a 5 minute film/ video.

Award winners will be invited to present their findings to an academic panel and public audience in the summer term at our Academic Symposium. Details on the format for the presentation will be published in advance.

Individuals are entirely responsible for their approach and for the pace and direction of their work. All are encouraged to 'think big'. Upon request, you can be allocated an S6 or staff project supervisor to consult with in their specialist field.

If you are interested in being involved contact Mr Spreng (g.spreng@tga.org.uk)

Select one title from the list below:

1. 'Mathematics was discovered, not invented'. Discuss
2. 'The Glasgow Academy could (and should) be water-powered.' Discuss
3. How would you remodel Education in Scotland?
4. Can literature ever be 'timeless' - and, if so, how could we know?
5. 'It would be better for everyone to speak one language: English'. Discuss

OR Select ONE of the challenges below (again for these you would produce a similar length of write-up or Video to go through your methodology)

- 1) Raise £500 for charity
- 2) Complete a Level One course in Arabic
- 3) Complete a MOOC online



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Format

You may write an essay of approximately 1500 words and work individually **OR** produce a 5 minute video/ film as part of a group.

Deadlines

Thursday 24th September: Email Mr Spreng **AND** your tutor with your proposed title

Monday 5th October: Groups may be allocated to an S6 supervisor/ mentor for the task

Friday 4th December: Individuals/ groups complete their review document and email to tutor.

Friday 26th February 2020: Final submission of work

Friday 19th March 2020: awards and certificates issued

Summer Term 2020 (Date RBC): Academic symposium