



John Locke Global Essay Prize 2025 Prompts Breakdown
Politics Category - Key Issues and Questions to Address



Politics Q3

Diversity is fashionable, but is it valuable?

Key Issues and Questions to Address

To write a comprehensive essay on this topic, you'll need to contend with several fundamental issues:

1. Definitional clarity:

What specifically do we mean by "diversity" (racial, cultural, viewpoint, economic)?

How might Locke define diversity in his historical context?

How do different types of diversity yield different effects?

2. Historical context:

How has the concept of diversity evolved from Locke's time to present?

What historical examples show benefits or challenges of diverse societies?

How did Enlightenment thinkers like Locke approach difference and diversity?



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3. Empirical considerations:

What evidence exists for diversity's effects on group performance and innovation?

Under what conditions does diversity produce benefits versus challenges?

How do we measure diversity's value across different domains?

4. Philosophical frameworks:

How would Locke's natural rights theory approach diversity's value?

Can diversity be intrinsically valuable, instrumentally valuable, or both?

What moral frameworks best evaluate diversity's benefits and costs?

5. Social cohesion:

How does diversity affect trust, cooperation, and social capital?

Can diverse societies maintain sufficient shared values and commitments?

What institutions best support diverse yet cohesive communities?



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6. Practical implementation:

How do top-down diversity initiatives compare to organic diversity?

What makes diversity initiatives successful or unsuccessful?

How might Locke approach policy questions around diversity?

7. Locke-specific connections:

How does Locke's epistemology inform understanding of diverse perspectives?

How might Locke's religious tolerance arguments extend to other forms of diversity?

Would Locke favor government action to promote diversity or leave it to civil society?

8. Critical examination:

How might diversity be "fashionable" in contemporary discourse?

Are there forms of diversity that might be harmful rather than beneficial?



How can we distinguish substantive diversity from performative diversity?

9. Beyond binary thinking:

How can we move past simplistic pro/anti diversity positions?

What nuanced understanding balances diversity's benefits and challenges?

How might Locke approach this question with his empiricist methodology?