

National Essay Writing Competition

United Nations general assembly has proclaimed the year 2025 as the International Year of Cooperative, underscoring the vital role cooperatives play in sustainable development. This year's theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World” underscores the enduring global impact of cooperatives, positioning them as essential solutions to today's global challenges. It highlights their contributions to sustainable development across social, economic, and environmental dimensions, showing how cooperatives are key drivers in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The theme also emphasizes the unique ability of cooperatives to foster inclusive growth and strengthen community resilience.”

The National Co-operative College (NCC) is a corporate body established under Section 103 of the Co-operatives Act 2016 and operates under the Ministry of Industry, SME, and Co-operatives. As the leading training institution for the local co-operative movement, NCC is mandated to impart education and training to co-operative stakeholders to enhance their societies' efficiency and promote co-operative entrepreneurship among youth, women, and the general public to strengthen the movement and encourage entrepreneurship.

In view of celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 and to promote and develop cooperative entrepreneurship among youth, the National Co-operative College (NCC) is launching a National Essay Writing Competition for secondary school students as follows:

Category	Essay title
Grade 10 Students	<i>“Write about the ways that cooperative values and principles help to make the world better”</i>
Grade 12 Students	<i>“Discuss the role of cooperatives in shaping a sustainable future. Your essay must refer closely to youth, the digital age, the future of work and climate action”</i>

The above competition is open to Grade 10 and 12 students of both state and private secondary schools across Mauritius.

Aims and objectives of the essay competition:

The competition aims to enhance secondary school students' understanding of cooperatives as a sustainable business model while encouraging their active participation in cooperative development.

Objectives:

- To educate students on the role and impact of cooperatives in economic and social development.
- To promote critical thinking and creativity in addressing real-world challenges through cooperative principles.
- To encourage youth engagement in cooperative initiatives and foster a cooperative mindset.

Terms and Conditions for participation

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 The competition is open to Grade 10 and Grade 12 secondary school students in Mauritius.
 - 1.2 Each participant is allowed to submit only one entry.
 - 1.3 Submissions must be individual. Group submissions are not allowed.
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2. Essay Requirements

- 2.1 The essay must be handwritten and submitted in English, as follows:
 - Word limit: **800 – 1200 words**
 - Must include:
 - **Title**
 - **Introduction** (Importance of cooperatives in society)
 - **Main Body** (Ideas, examples, and analysis)
 - **Conclusion** (Future of cooperatives and the role of youth)
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3. Submission Guidelines and Deadline

- 3.1 Each submission must include a cover page with the full name of participant, school name, grade level, and contact details.
 - 3.2 Submissions must be original and must not have been previously published, presented, or awarded in any other competition. They must also comply with copyright laws and not infringe upon any intellectual property rights.
 - 3.3 Late submissions will not be considered.
 - 3.4 All entries should reach the Director, National Co-operative College (NCC), Bois Marchand Road, Terre Rouge **at latest on Monday, 2nd of June 2025 by 15.00 hours.**
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4. Evaluation Criteria (100 Points Total)

Essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme (25%)
- Originality and creativity (25%)
- Coherence and structure (20%)
- Use of language and clarity (15%)
- Quality of research and references (if applicable) (15%)

5. Awards & Recognition

The prizes for each category will be as follows:

1st Prize: Rs. 5000 + shield + certificate of participation

2nd Prize: Rs. 3000 + shield + certificate of participation

3rd Prize: Rs. 2000 + shield + certificate of participation

The most outstanding essay may be considered for further development opportunities.

Note: An Award Ceremony will be organised in **July 2025**. The date will be communicated to all winners and participants in due course. All participants will be remitted a **Certificate of Participation** on that occasion.

6. Intellectual Property

6.1 By submitting an essay, participants grant the National Co-operative College (NCC) the right to use, publish, and promote their work for educational and promotional purposes.

7. Code of Conduct

7.1 Participants must adhere to ethical research and presentation standards.

7.2 Any form of misconduct, including misrepresentation or violation of competition rules, will result in disqualification.

7.3 The decisions of the evaluation panel are final and cannot be contested.

8. Liability & Disclaimers

- 8.1 NCC is not responsible for any data loss or disputes arising among participants.
 - 8.2 NCC reserves the right to modify or cancel the competition if necessary.
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9. Acceptance of Terms

- 9.1 By participating in the competition, all participants acknowledge and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.
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