

# CHITTAGONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL DHAKA

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## The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2026

08 March 2026

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that **The Queen's Commonwealth Competition 2026** has recently been launched, and this year's theme is Common Ground: Better Together! In this regard, we would like you to encourage your child to participate in this competition to voice their opinion through their writing. We, the English subject teachers, shall provide support to help them refine their drafts until they are ready with the final write-up!

Please note that all students are required to write an essay on one of the following topics and submit the first draft on 2 April 2026, the second draft on 9 April 2026, and the **final submission on 16 April 2026**. The school will upload the best entries on the competition website before the deadline.

**This writing exercise will also be counted as a project for English for the Summer Term for ALL.**

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### TOPICS

#### 1. Sport & Community

Sport is one of the Commonwealth's most powerful shared languages.

1. With the Commonwealth Games returning to Glasgow in 2026, write about how sport brings people together across communities, cultures, or generations.
2. You move to a new place and join a sports team or volunteer group to meet new people. What happens next, who do you meet, and what common ground do you share?

#### 2. Culture: Food, Music & Hobbies

Cultural traditions often connect people across distance and difference.

1. Someone from another Commonwealth country knocks on your door. They ask you to share one food or song that represents where you come from. What do you choose, how do you share it, and what happens between you?
2. Write about a hobby, creative interest, or passion of your own. How does it connect you to other people, either locally or across the Commonwealth?

#### 3. Protecting the Environment & our Natural World

The natural world is one of humanity's most important forms of shared ground.

1. Think of a place in nature that is important to your community. Write about why it matters to people and how caring for it together helps create common ground.



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2. From plastic clean-ups to tree planting, people all over the Commonwealth are working for the common good of our natural environment. Imagine a time where sustainable choices shape every part of daily life. Describe a day in this world.

#### 4. Shared Identity, Responsibility, & Common Ground

Across time, place, and culture, people are connected by shared stories, values, symbols, and responsibilities. These connections shape identity, community, and the principles that guide how societies are governed.

1. One night, students from all Commonwealth countries find themselves trapped inside an enormous library. The books will only let them leave if they create a new Commonwealth Charter. What would this charter say, and how would it help countries work together in the future?
2. Write about a time, either real or imagined, when you realised you had far more in common with another living being (could be human, animal, plant) than you previously thought.

#### 5. Language, Human Connection & Understanding

Common ground is forged through communication, from face-to-face conversation to video calls across the globe.

1. Across the Commonwealth, recent advances in digital technology have created new opportunities for connection, while also highlighting what remains uniquely human. What can people contribute that technology can never replace, and why is human connection still vital within diverse Commonwealth communities?
2. Within the Commonwealth, shared languages exist alongside and intermingled with many other national languages and local dialects. How does shared language create connection while still allowing space for difference and creativity?

**Note: Word Limits: Not More Than 1000 Words**

#### Important Notes to the Parents

The essay must be entirely the student's own work. While students are encouraged to brainstorm and discuss topic options with their parents, they should write the construction and essay themselves. However, be sure the subject teacher will guide them.

Please note that the class-specific English subject teachers will share during class how to submit the drafts and the final version. You are requested to remind students at home to be mindful of the above-mentioned deadlines.

Thank you,  
The English Teachers of Chittagong Grammar School Dhaka

