



**नेपाली राजदूतावास**  
**EMBASSY OF NEPAL**  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Tel: 2689 656-7

### **Concept Note for the Essay Competition**

- **Objective :**

This initiative aims to engage young Sri Lankan students in intellectual discourse while deepening the cultural, educational, and spiritual bonds between Nepal and Sri Lanka. The competition encourages reflection on the historical and contemporary relations between the two countries through the lens of Buddhism, youth peace-building, and shared natural and cultural heritage

- **Topics of the Essays:**

**Contestants can select one of the following topics for the Essay**

1. "Buddhism as a Bridge: Nepal-Sri Lanka Spiritual and Cultural Ties"
2. "Youth for Peace: What Sri Lanka and Nepal Can Teach the World"
3. "Mountains and Islands: Natural Beauty, Culture, and Cooperation Between Nepal and Sri Lanka"
4. "Regional and International Buddhist Circuits, Tourism Promotion and Regional Peace"

- **Language :** English

- **Age Categories:**

- Higher Secondary School Students: between 16-19 years of Age.

- **Word Limit:**

1000 to 1500 words

- **Submission Period (Time Frame):** 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- **Judge Panel:**

Judging by Embassy of Nepal

- **Regions include :** All Island

- **Appraisal System:** Marking Criteria

**Marking Criteria: Topic No. 1 "Buddhism as a Bridge: Nepal-Sri Lanka Spiritual and Cultural Ties"**

#### **1. Understanding of Topic and Context (20%)**

- Demonstrates a strong understanding of Buddhism's role in both Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Clearly explains how Buddhism serves as a cultural and spiritual link.
- Shows contextual awareness of historical and contemporary relations between the two countries.

#### **2. Depth of Research and Use of Sources (20%)**

- Incorporates relevant historical, religious, and cultural references.
- Uses credible sources (texts, scholarly articles, cultural records).
- Correctly cites sources and integrates them meaningfully into the essay.



### **3. Analytical and Critical Thinking (20%)**

- Goes beyond description to analyze the role of Buddhism in diplomatic, social, and cultural exchange.
- Identifies key themes such as pilgrimage, monastic exchanges, or shared rituals.
- Evaluates the impact of these ties in the past and present.

### **4. Structure and Organization (15%)**

- Clear introduction with thesis statement.
- Logical flow of ideas through well-developed paragraphs.
- Cohesive argument with clear transitions between sections.

### **5. Originality and Insight (10%)**

- Offers original perspectives or lesser-known insights.
- Avoids generic statements; provides depth and nuance in interpretation.

### **6. Language, Style, and Mechanics (10%)**

- Uses appropriate academic tone and vocabulary.
- Free of grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors.
- Writing is clear, concise, and engaging.

### **7. Conclusion and Implications (5%)**

- Provides a strong conclusion that summarizes main points.
- Reflects on broader implications of Nepal-Sri Lanka Buddhist ties for cultural diplomacy and regional cooperation.

## **Marking Criteria: Topic No. 2: Youth for Peace: What Sri Lanka and Nepal Can Teach the World**

### **1. Relevance and Understanding of the Topic (20%)**

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the role of youth in peacebuilding.
- Accurately presents how Sri Lanka and Nepal have engaged youth in peace efforts.
- Addresses the global significance of these examples.



## **2. Quality of Analysis and Argumentation (20%)**

- Goes beyond mere description to analyze specific youth-led peace initiatives or movements.
- Draws comparisons and contrasts between Sri Lanka and Nepal's approaches.
- Presents a well-reasoned argument about what the world can learn from these countries.

## **3. Research and Evidence (20%)**

- Incorporates credible, relevant sources (e.g., peace studies, youth policies, interviews, reports).
- Includes real-life case studies or examples (e.g., youth-led reconciliation programs, activism, post-conflict healing).
- Cites all sources appropriately and supports claims with evidence.

## **4. Structure and Organization (15%)**

- Clear introduction with a focused thesis statement.
- Logical organization of ideas, with coherent paragraphs and smooth transitions.
- Balanced treatment of both countries and the global takeaway.

## **5. Creativity and Insight (10%)**

- Offers unique or underrepresented perspectives.
- Demonstrates original thought and reflection, especially in lessons proposed for the global community.

## **6. Clarity of Language and Style (10%)**

- Academic but accessible tone and vocabulary.
- Writing is clear, concise, and engaging.
- Free of major grammatical or stylistic errors.

## **7. Conclusion and Broader Implications (5%)**

- Summarizes main arguments effectively.
- Discusses future directions, policy implications, or how global actors (e.g., UN, NGOs) might apply these lessons.





#### **6. Language, Style, and Mechanics (10%)**

- Uses formal, clear, and professional language.
- Free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.
- Engaging and easy to follow.

#### **7. Conclusion and Broader Significance (5%)**

- Provides a thoughtful conclusion that ties together the essay's themes.
- Reflects on the broader implications of Nepal-Sri Lanka cooperation for South Asia or global partnerships.

### **Marking Criteria for Topic No.4 Regional and International Buddha Circuits, Tourism Promotion and Regional Peace**

#### **1. Content Relevance and Understanding (25%)**

- Clear understanding of *Buddha Circuits* (e.g., Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar, etc.)
- Explanation of *regional* (South Asia, Southeast Asia) and *international* dimensions
- Connection between Buddhist heritage, tourism development, and peace-building

#### **2. Structure and Organization (20%)**

- Clear introduction, body, and conclusion
- Logical flow of ideas
- Effective use of paragraphs and transitions

#### **3. Critical Analysis and Insight (20%)**

- Analysis of how Buddha Circuits promote tourism and peace
- Discussion of challenges and opportunities
- Use of examples and evidence to support points

#### **4. Research and Use of Sources (15%)**

- Integration of relevant facts, case studies, or references
- Proper citation (if required)
- Demonstration of background research



### 5. Originality and Creativity (10%)

- Unique perspective or interpretation
- Thoughtful connections between topics (e.g., spirituality, diplomacy, culture)

### 6. Language and Style (10%)

- Clarity, grammar, and vocabulary
- Formal academic tone (if required)
- Avoidance of repetition or ambiguity

- **Prizes & Certificates (All Categories)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Rs.30,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Rs.25,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Rs.20,000

Consolation cash prizes will be awarded to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Certificates will be awarded up to 10<sup>th</sup> Place

- **Submission method**

Application forms and Essays need to send to [embassyofnepal.colombo@gmail.com](mailto:embassyofnepal.colombo@gmail.com)

- **Winning Essays Publication method:**

Winning Essays from 1<sup>st</sup> place to 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be published in the Embassy of Nepal Website

- **Rules and Regulations**

- Open to residents of Sri Lanka and Nepal Nationals residing in Sri Lanka
- Essays must be original, without any form of plagiarism
- The entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges and the panel's decision will be the final
- Contestant who violates the rules will be disqualified
- Only one submission is allowed per contestant
- Winning essays will publish in the Embassy of Nepal website
- Application form need to be attested by the School Principal
- Recent Passport size photo need to paste in the Application



**APPLICATION FORM**  
**ESSAY COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY**  
**EMBASSY OF NEPAL, COLOMBO**

Passport Size  
photo of the  
Applicant

- Full Name (with block capitals):
- Name with initials:
- Date of Birth:
- Age:
- Class:
- School/ Dhamma School Name & Address:
- School /Dhamma School Tel No.:
- Home Address:
- Contact Telephone Number: Mobile:
- Email Address:

Residence:

**Contestant's Agreement**

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the conditions and terms. I understand that the decision of Embassy of Nepal is final. I certify that the entry is my own creation.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

**Declaration of the Principal/Dhamma School Principal**

I certify that this work is the above-mentioned student's own, that he/she meets all eligibility criteria and that it has not previously been published.

Name & Signature:.....

Rubber Stamp:.....

Date:.....