

Quotes Which You Might Find Helpful for Compositions

Note: Don't overdo it. Use one or two per Comp B or extended composition. A quote can be a good way to open or close an essay. Don't feel you have to know who said each quote originally. You can just say that you saw a quote somewhere once and it stuck with you, or someone told it to you and it struck a chord.

Below are famous (and not so famous) quotes on some of the topics which may come up in the Leaving Cert.

Change

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

John F. Kennedy

When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves.

Viktor E. Frankl

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

Barack Obama

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.

Stephen Hawking

There is nothing permanent except change.

Heraclitus

Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots.

Victor Hugo

When you are through changing, you are through.

Bruce Barton

Books / Literature

Education

The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values.

William S. Burroughs

Some people drink from the fountain of knowledge, others just gargle.

Robert Anthony

All real education is the architecture of the soul.

William Bennett

The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.

Carl Rogers

Education is the movement from darkness to light.

Allan Bloom

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

Music

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.

Plato

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.

Plato

Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Andersen

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

Berthold Auerbach

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

Aldous Huxley

Music is moonlight in the gloomy night of life.

Jean Paul

Music is the soundtrack of your life.

Dick Clark

If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music.

Gustav Mahler

Courage

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

Winston Churchill

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Nelson Mandela

You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honour.

Aristotle

It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.

J. K. Rowling

Either you decide to stay in the shallow end of the pool or you go out in the ocean.

Christopher Reeve

Equality

Here are the values that I stand for: honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need. To me, those are traditional values.

Ellen DeGeneres

The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.

Aristotle

If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.

John F. Kennedy

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

George Orwell

Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society.

Sonia Sotomayor

All the people like us are We, and everyone else is They.

Rudyard Kipling

Equality may perhaps be a right, but no power on earth can ever turn it into a fact.

Honore de Balzac

Dreams

A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.

Colin Powell

Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today.

James Dean

There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?

Robert Kennedy

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.

Paul Valery

The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.

Sarah Ban Breathnach

Freedom

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.

Abraham Lincoln

Freedom means you are unobstructed in living your life as you choose. Anything less is a form of slavery.

Wayne Dyer