Competition 14: Is a robot a person?

The question of consciousness, and what makes a person a person, is a subject of huge debate not only in biology, but also in other subjects such as philosophy and computer science. One area in which this question will become increasingly important as technology improves is in robotics. Back in Class 3, we introduced you to the Oxplore question 'Is a robot a person?' Now that you've learnt a bit more about the evolution of the human mind, we'd like to return to this question. If you've not already had a chance to do so, take a look through the Oxplore resources on this topic.

After exploring the resources on Oxplore, write a 300-word essay in response to the question 'Is a robot a person?' You may also want to bring what you have learnt about human consciousness into your answer!

How to enter

1. Complete your competition entry and make sure it follows the guidelines listed below
2. Fill out the Competition Cover Sheet
3. Email your entry and your cover sheet to us at inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Terms & Conditions

1. You must complete the Competition Cover Sheet and submit it along with your entry to inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk before the closing date. If we do not receive a completed cover sheet with your entry, we will NOT be able to consider the entry.
2. The competition closes at **5pm on Wednesday 24 February 2021**.
3. The work you submit must be entirely your own and must be 300 words or less.
4. Competition winners will be contacted via email about a week after the competition's closing date. The following prizes will be awarded:
    a. 1st place: £20 Amazon gift voucher, entry listed on Inspire Digital
    b. 2nd place: £10 Amazon gift voucher, entry listed on Inspire Digital
    c. Up to 5 top entries: entry listed on Inspire Digital