

Time-Table

1) Preparations

Before the first debate:

- A list is presented detailing dates, speakers, supporting teams, motions, chair, and judges.

Before the first period:

- Seating order: “government” on the right hand side, the “opposition” to the left of the chair.
- Members of the House have thought about the day’s Motion and have prepared speeches of their own. They also have pen and paper at the ready to take notes.
- The Motion has been written on the outside of the board.
- Additional information to be shown only during the debate has been written on the inside of the board. (Optional)

2) The opening (1')

The chair opens the debate on time: Members are addressed, the supporting clerks and the teams are introduced, the Motion is read out.

3) Show of hands (1')

The result of this preliminary vote is written on the board.

4) First speeches (each e.g. 2')

1st pro, 1st con; 2nd pro, 2nd con. The secretary gives the signal after the first 30 seconds and at the beginning of the last 30 seconds of each speech. Questions are only allowed in between.

5) Floor debate (up to 5')

Members of the House ask questions or make speeches themselves. The manager keeps a list of speakers and calls them up. Any questions are addressed to the chair.

6) Summing-up speeches (2x2')

1st speaker “con”; 1st speaker “pro”; 2' each. No questions allowed.

7) Vote (1')

The House votes on the Motion, the Tellers count and the outcome is written on the board, too.

8) End (1')

The chair announces the result, thanks everybody and closes the debate.

9) Feedback (min. 5')

The teams of observers tell the speakers what they have noticed. – The speakers receive this feedback silently and gracefully.

DEBATE

Judges' Marks

The judges are asked to mark each team on the basis of the lists given below. Each judge should give the best speakers medals of gold, silver and bronze, according to how well each one of them has done.

The judges then add up the total of gold, silver and bronze medals given to each of the speakers and the winner is the team with the best record. The criteria are important. But the system of points or medals can be changed.

Delivery

5

- Speaking Freely: Speeches that are written out word for word should be penalised heavily. Therefore, reading off or delivering a memorised speech are below standard.
- Rhetorical Skills:
 - Is the volume monotonous, too quiet, effective or well-varied?
 - Does the speaker use rhetorical devices to good effect?
 - Is the language lively? Is the turn of phrase dull, repetitive, appropriate or particularly fine?
 - Is the speech well-structured, clear and flowing smoothly?

Content

5

- Analytical Skills: Is the motion interpreted too narrowly or intelligently?
- Plausibility: Is the information and are the examples correct, adequate, logical, relevant and comprehensive?
- Originality: Are the arguments well-chosen and original or just a repetition of points that have been made before?

Debating technique

5

- Attack and Defence: Is the criticism of previous speakers effective and well-chosen, showing their arguments to be illogical, irrelevant, incorrect or unconvincing? – Failure to criticise at all should be penalised.
- Competitiveness: Have good points of information been made (where relevant) and, more importantly, have such interruptions been dealt with appropriately?
- Team Work: Have the debaters been referring to each other or have they failed to act as a team?

Maximum:

15