

FIRST AND SECOND SPEAKERS

Expression and Delivery

10 marks for all speakers

- **Vary your voice:** Alter your pitch, tone and pace to emphasise key points. Well-timed pauses signal transitions and add impact
- **Use confident body language:** Facial expressions, eye contact and purposeful movement help to engage your audience
- **Keep it clear:** Speak steadily, avoid slang or overly complex words to ensure your argument is accessible
- **Show confidence through preparation:** Knowing your material lets your natural speaking style shine and builds a genuine connection with your audience
- **Using Notes:** Brief prompts should guide, not dominate. Speakers should speak fluently and will be penalised for reading memorised speeches

Reasoning and Evidence

15 marks for first proposition

10 marks for other speakers

- **Start with a clear position:** Begin with a clear statement of your position so the audience knows exactly where you stand
- **Back it up:** Support your points with relevant examples, facts or analogies. Remember to always explain why they matter
- **Keep it logical:** Build your arguments step by step, making sure each point flows naturally into the next
- **Tackle the other side:** Recognise opposing views and explain why your position is stronger
- **Earn trust through structure:** Trust comes from well-structured, balanced arguments, not necessarily expertise

SUMMARY SPEECHES

Expression and Delivery

10 marks

- As for main speeches

Reasoning and Evidence

10 marks

- **Clarity and Logic:** Set out the most important points of disagreement logically and clearly
- **Revisited material:** Choose the most powerful examples and analogies to revisit
- **New material:** New material is only permitted if it elaborates on or responds to material already mentioned by another speaker in the debate. A small amount of interesting, relevant new material of this type can be rewarded, but totally new material will be penalised

Organisation and Prioritisation

10 marks for all speakers

- **Guide your audience:** Use clear categories, signposting and logical flow so listeners can easily follow your case
- **Outline with purpose:** Include a strong introduction, ordered main points and a strong conclusion that reinforces your case
- **Show Adaptability:** show a full rounded knowledge of the motion by being able to reorganise your material if developments in the debate require it
- **Manage your time:** Practise with timers or cues to balance each section and avoid rushing through important points

Listening and Response

5 marks for first proposition

10 marks for other speakers

- **Listen first:** Pay close attention, pause to think and respond directly to questions instead of repeating your speech
- **Real-time responses:** Engage with each question specifically, staying relevant and supportive of your original argument
- **Managing complex questions:** Break down long or confusing questions, or ask for clarification to ensure understanding
- **Keep it concise:** Deliver answers clearly and succinctly to maintain audience interest
- **Maintain delivery skills:** Continue using confident body language, eye contact and tone during the question period. Stay calm and composed even when challenged

Organisation and Prioritisation

10 marks

- **Choice of arguments:** Don't try to cover everything – stick to the biggest disagreements that matter most
- **Structure:** Organise your speech so it is easy to follow, keeping the audience in mind.
- **Be adaptable:** Respond to how the debate actually unfolded, not just what you wrote beforehand
- **Use time wisely:** Give sufficient time to a discussion of each major area of clash in the debate

Listening and Response

10 marks

- **Own team:** Listen to your own team, reflecting what was actually said rather than what might have been planned beforehand
- **Rebuttal:** Listen carefully to your opponents and show why you disagree with the key arguments
- **Audience Questions:** Listen carefully to audience questions and engage with them through clear, relevant responses

Total Marks Available: 40 per speaker