



THE GREAT DEBATE

2022

**RULES AND
GUIDANCE**



**OUR PAST
YOUR PERSPECTIVE**



Based on the idea of a Balloon Debate, this is a competition aimed at students aged 16-19 years old nationwide.

The rules:

1. The competition is open to students who will be in Years 10 to 13 in the academic year September 2021 to July 2022.
2. The entrants will have to create a 5-minute speech on the set question: The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II has seen global and widespread changes including in: societal infrastructure, industry, rural life, the environment, and ideas: Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most?
3. Entrants may be penalised if their speech exceeds the 5 minute limit.
4. Entrants are encouraged to consider all periods of history when deciding their argument, and to pick a subject matter of personal interest to them. How they wish to tackle the question is ultimately their choice.

Students may want to consider topics around: different types of employment; the houses or accommodation that people live in; the technology in people's lives; the different types of communities that are in their area; food and eating choices; leisure activities; and what they think is important about the area they live in.

Research for this topic could include: newspaper archives, local archives, speaking with older relatives or people in their community; and local museums.

The key thing will be for their argument to be convincing. They should take care to keep a focus on the question, and address counterarguments or 'bigger picture' considerations that might be raised.

5. Judges may ask one or two post-presentation questions.
6. The judges' decision will be final.

Judging guidelines:

The judges will assess students' speeches on the following criteria:

- a) The quality of the entrant's argument – its structure, clarity and power to persuade.
- b) The entrant's use of historical argument and detail.
- c) The links between their chosen topic and its wider historical context.
- d) The way in which the speech is presented.

Content:

1. If there is any inaccuracy regarding content, then this should be penalised. It is important that there should be historical accuracy. The students will have time to do their research and write their speeches.
2. The main point is that there is an argument. The key thing is whether the judges are convinced by the argument.

Timing:

The rules have stipulated that the speech should be for 5 minutes, therefore the judges might note when the 5 minutes are up and judge the speech from there.

The students will have time to practice and being aware of the time limit should be able to reduce what they say to the 5 minute barrier. Anything beyond the 5 minutes should be ignored.