Is direct democracy better?

Miss Elmi

OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Socrates

- If you were heading out on a journey by sea, asks Socrates, who would you want to decide who was in charge of the vessel? Just anyone, or people educated in the rules and demands of seafaring?
- He believed that voting is a skill and like any skill, it needs to be taught systematically to people.
- He also believed that letting the citizenry vote without an education is irresponsible.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Rousseau argued that the general will of the people could not be decided by elected representatives.
- He believed in a direct democracy in which everyone voted to express their general will and to make the laws of the land.

Glossary

- **Direct democracy**- A form of democracy in which people decide on policy initiatives directly.
- **Representative democracy**- When people elect government officials to make decisions on their behalf.
- **Voter apathy**- Refers to a lack of interest in participating in elections.
- **Referendum**- A referendum is an example of direct democracy. This is when people vote on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.
- **Whips -** Whips are the party's "enforcers". They ensure that members of the party vote according to the party platform.
- **Ballot** - A system of voting secretly and in writing.
- **Canton -** A district, which is a section or part of a country.
- **Federal -** A form of government where states recognise the power of a central/national government to form a unity, while still keeping certain powers. The United States is an example of a federal government system.

Task 1: What are the advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy?

Advantages	Disadvantages

Task 2: *'Direct democracy is the best form of democracy'*
How far do you agree?

Agree	**Disagree**

I strongly agree… or
To some extent I agree ….
This is because…. and
so……
For example….
This suggests…
Therefore…

I strongly disagree… or
To some extent I
disagree….
This is because…. and
so……
For example….
This suggests…
Therefore…