

Citizenship

Deliberative Debate: What are the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in the UK?

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OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Match the keywords with the definition

Representative democracy

A form of democracy in which people decide on policy initiatives directly.

Direct democracy

A general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.

Referendum

When people elect government officials to make decisions on their behalf.



Match the keywords with the definition

First past the post

An electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them

Proportional representation

An area whose voters elect a representative to a legislative body.

Constituency

An electoral system in which a candidate or party is selected by gaining the most votes.



Match the keywords with the definition

Legitimacy

All forms of communication and expression through various media, should be exercised freely.

Accountable

In politics it means the right and acceptance of an authority.

Media freedom

To be held responsible or required to justify actions or decisions.



Recap to help prepare your arguments:

Media

Strengths

- Represents
- Informs
- Checks
- Encourage

Evidence

- 2020 World's Press Freedom Index ranks UK 35 because of BBC license fees debate.
- US- Rank 45

Weakness

- Too much regulation and censorship.
- Journalist restriction



Deliberative debate

“Democracy in the UK works perfectly well, there is no need for it to change?” How far do you agree?

Outcome: Speech



Democracy in the UK

- **Representative democracy**
works very well because...

Key Concepts

- Representative democracy
- FPTP
- Media
- Voting age



Deliberative Debate - creating REAL arguments

Deliberation is the careful consideration of a topic or issue and discussing the wide range of viewpoints that people hold about that issue.

1. Rationale

A short statement to summarise your overall argument or rationale.

2. Examples

A statistic, case study or illustration that supports the rationale.

3. Analysis

A bit more explanation of your viewpoint.

4. Link

A link back to the rationale and your closing words.



Model:

“Democracy in the UK works perfectly well, there is no need for it to change?” How far do you agree?

Democracy in the UK works very well. This is because we have a representative democracy and representatives who are elected by their constituents every five years. Having regular elections is vital in a democracy as it ensures we have accountable members of Parliament (MPs). For example, it was considered that the 2019 general election was also another Brexit election because it allowed voters to vote for the representative they believed would honour the 2016 referendum. As a result, many seats were lost by some MPs who failed to fulfil this commitment. Therefore having a representative democracy with regular elections can ensure the wishes of the public and promises are fulfilled.



“Democracy in the UK works perfectly well, there is no need for it to change?” How far do you agree?

- *Democracy in the UK works very well...*
- *Democracy in the UK works well but there is room for improvement...*
- *Democracy in the UK needs to change...*

Key Terms

- Representative democracy
- Direct democracy
- Referendum
- First-past-the-post
- Proportional representation
- Constituency
- Accountable
- Media freedom



Now write your own speech.

Step 1: Plan

- List the key words and phrases linked to democracy that you will use in your speech.
- Key facts and information (evidence) to support the point of view you will be presenting.

Step 2: Beginning: Set the context.

- Define democracy and explain what makes a healthy democracy.

Step 3- Middle: Inform the audience

- Why might some argue that democracy works well in the UK or why might some disagree?

Step 4- End - Your view

- How do you think people should feel about democracy in the UK? Come to an overall judgement.
- **Challenge:** If you were to change the statement what would you change it to and why?



Worksheet:

Step 1:

List key terms

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Key facts to remember:

Step 2:

Democracy can be defined as...

What makes a healthy democracy is....

Step 4

Overall democracy in the UK is...

Step 3: Middle:

On the one hand democracy in the UK works very well / needs improvement / needs to change... *this is because...*

For example...

This is shows...

Therefore ...

Challenge

If I were to change this statement, it would say....

