

International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition 2026 Parliamentary Debating

Directions: Please write comments if there is sufficient time. These sheets will be returned to the students at the end of the tournament. When the round is over, please give your ballots to the moderator.

Contestant's Name: _____ **Code:** _____ **Room:** _____ **Round:** _____

Resolution: _____

Scoring Guidelines

<u>70 - 74</u> Very Poor	<u>75-79</u> Weak	<u>80</u> Some Strength	<u>81 - 84</u> Good	<u>85- 89</u> Very Good	<u>90 - 94</u> Excellent	<u>95</u> Outstanding
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	Category	Score
	Analysis & Organization	/20
	Logic	/10
	Evidence	/10
	Clash & Refutation	/20
	Delivery	/30
	Teamwork	/10
Total		/100

Note: If the sum of the categories doesn't equal the total score, we will assume that we should use the overall total.

Comments:

Judge: _____ **Number of Judges in the Room:** _____

PARLIAMENTARY RULES

The debates will be impromptu, co-ordinate debates in parliamentary style. Each team will consist of two debaters who have been paired randomly but who are not from the same school. A list of topics will be presented to the teams 30 minutes before the start of the debate. One team (designated on the schedule) will choose the topic, after which the other team will select the side that it will take. Different lists of topics will be used for each round. During the preliminary rounds, each debater will choose the topic once and the side once. Government teams will prepare in the rooms allocated for each debate. The opposition teams will prepare outside of the room. 20 minutes prior to the start of the debate, the opposition will get the definition from the government. The resolution must be interpreted in a reasonable manner which reflects the spirit of the resolution. If the opposition feels that the government definition is undebatable, it must appeal to the tournament director, whose decision is final. The definition may not be changed or challenged during the debate. The length and order of speeches are as follows:

Prime Minister	5 minutes
First Opposition Speaker	8 minutes
Minister of the Crown	8 minutes
Leader of the Opposition	8 minutes
Prime Minister's Rebuttal	3 minutes

30 seconds grace will be allowed for each debater, after which the Speaker shall terminate his speech. There is no minimum time for speeches, nor are there any time penalties

The debates will be governed by the attached Rules of Parliamentary Debate. However, since different parts of the country have different debating traditions, picayune quibbling over rules is not encouraged. Debaters are advised to debate the resolutions and not the rules.

The results of the debate will be based entirely upon speaker's points. Win/loss records are irrelevant.

Debaters will have a different partner for each of the two preliminary rounds.

Competitors may not bring in any information resources, nor will the host school provide any. Speeches must be based on their knowledge of the subject.

Parliamentary Interruptions Permitted

Points of Information may be made in the central part of a speaker's main speech, but not in the first or last minute. Points of Information may not be made during summary speeches. Either member of the team that is not speaking may offer a Point of Information at any time in the permitted period. To do so, the student will stand and say "On a Point of Information." The student will say no more at this time, but remain standing. The person who is giving their speech is free to accept or to decline the Point of Information. Whichever may be the case, they would normally complete their current sentence before revealing the decision. If the speaker wishes not to accept it, they may say "No thank you", or "Declined", or may indicate with a suitably polite gesture that the person offering the Point should sit down. If the speaker wishes to accept it, then this should be indicated with the words "Accepted" or "Yes please" or "Go ahead."