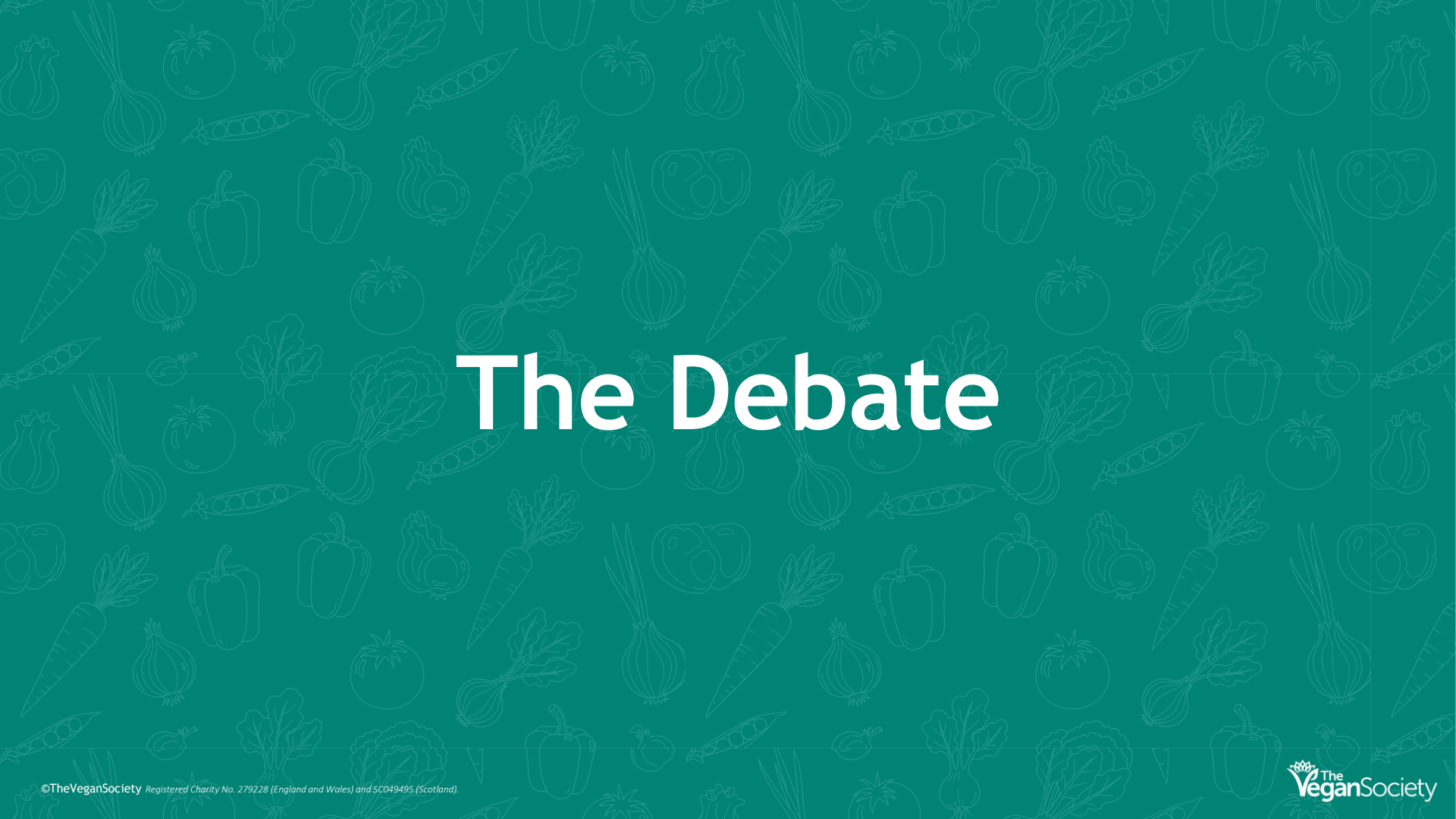




The Debate

Starter

Imagine it is Monday morning. You are the UK's newly appointed Minister for Food Policy. On your desk are two letters that arrived over the weekend and you have 30 minutes before a press conference. The reporters will ask: '**Does the government support promoting veganism?**'

1. Read the summaries of the letters.

Letter 1 is from a group of **farmers** in Derbyshire. They are worried that a rise in veganism is threatening their livelihoods. They want the government to *protect and promote* British meat and dairy farming.

Letter 2 is from a group of **environmental scientists**. They say that animal farming produces 57% of greenhouse gases from food production. They want the government to *actively encourage* plant-based diets to meet the UK's climate targets.

2. Decide which option is best for the press conference and write one opening.

Yes, promote it - the environmental case is too strong to ignore.

No stay neutral - it is not the government's place to decide people's diets.

It depends - the answer needs more consideration (such as...).

What are we going to learn?

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the process of parliamentary debate in the UK.
2. To argue for and against the motion using evidence.

Key words

Motion: a formal proposal or statement

Rebuttal: a formal argument, evidence or statement against a debate



‘Veganism should be actively promoted by the UK government.’

Proposition argues for

Opposition argues against

Both sides must use evidence, not just opinion

How to discuss and debate

How to discuss and debate

BBC Bitesize



02:45

What were the
dos and don'ts
suggested in the
video?

Watch the clip [here](#)

Holding a formal debate

What is the process of a parliamentary debate? Read through the steps and order them 1-8.

Let's check if you were able to work out the right order...

1. The debate begins - 'order, order'
2. The motion is put to the House - overview of the question and its importance
3. The speaker announces the question - 'the question before us is...'
4. The member opposing the motion begins.
5. Other speakers respond, with for and against given equal balance.
6. Closing statements from each side.
7. The Speaker announces the question and voting takes place.
8. The Speaker announces the result.



The Debate

1. Chair opens the debate and states the motion.
2. Opening statement - opposition.
3. Opening statement - proposition.
4. Rebuttal - opposition.
5. Rebuttal - proposition.
6. Floor contributions (3-4 pupils from the audience).
7. Closing summary - opposition.
8. Closing summary - proposition.

Think - Pair - Share

Both sides of the debate can use this data. Your job is to decide what it proves.

Approximately 2 million people in the UK now identify as vegan or plant-based	57% of vegans say that animal welfare is the primary reason for their choice, 52% due to health reasons and 48% because of the environment	80% of global farmland is used for livestock or to feed crops
8% of UK children aged 5-16 follow a vegan diet. 15% say they would like to	57% of greenhouse gases from food production come from farming	69% of UK parents support schools increasing nutritionally-balanced vegan food options

Time to prepare!

- Work in pairs to plan your argument using the PEEL structure.
- Prepare one strong argument and one anticipated counter-argument (with a rebuttal ready!).

POINT

EVIDENCE

EXPLAIN

LINK (back to the motion)

Sentence starters

Introducing a point

First of all...

It is argued that...

Firstly, it should be noted that...

Another point to consider is...

Adding evidence

For example...

The evidence suggests that...

Based on research by...

Research suggests that...

Data shows...

Explain

This means that...

The reason behind this is...

Therefore...

Because of this...

Link back to the motion

From this we can conclude...

The link between X and the motion is clear,
which demonstrates...

In conclusion...

In summary...

Politely disagreeing

I hear what you're saying... however...

I'm not convinced because...

On the other hand, it could be argued that...

I would like to challenge that point because...



Debate rules

- Speak through the chair
- One speaker at a time
- Evidence over opinion
- Challenge the argument, not the person
- Floor speakers: add, don't repeat
- The chair has final say

The Debate

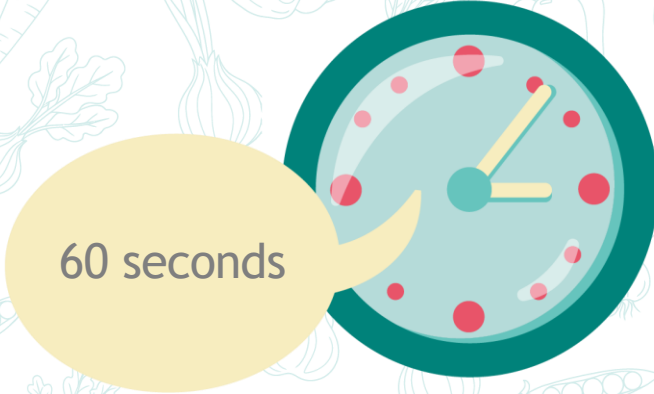
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Judge pupils:

- Strongest piece of evidence used.
- Most effective rebuttal.
- One thing each side could have done better.

Plenary

What do YOU think?



60 seconds

**‘Veganism should be actively promoted by
the UK government.’**

Plenary

The Division- vote with your feet

Aye

I agree - veganism should be actively promoted by the UK government.

No

I disagree - veganism should not be actively promoted by the UK government.



You don't have to stick with the side you argued for!