

What are the key skills, and what questions will the judges be asking?

1 Reasoning and evidence

This skill shows you can construct a convincing case.

- How well has the motion been defined?
- Have the arguments been clearly and logically constructed?
- Have appropriate examples and evidence been used?
- Is everything said relevant to the motion?
- Are the speakers guilty of any logical fallacies?

2 Listening and response

This skill shows you understand the other side of the case and can rebut it.

- How effective and thorough is rebuttal of previous speakers?
- Are points of information precise, concise, timely, focused and relevant?
- Has the point of clash been identified and used effectively?

3 Organisation and prioritisation

This skill shows you can present your case in the clearest possible way.

- Are there the right number of arguments (usually three per speech)?
- Are they organised effectively, with the strongest coming first?
- Are the arguments divided effectively between speakers?
- Is time used effectively, i.e.
 - approximately one minute per argument
 - one minute for rebuttal
 - one minute for taking points of information
 - speaking right up to the signal for the end of speaking time?

Focus
on the
skills

4 Expression and delivery

This skill shows you can speak in a convincing way. (NB this is not part of the mark scheme in BP; however, doing it effectively will still make a good impression on BP judges.)

- Do the speakers speak clearly and audibly?
- Do they vary their pace and tone for effect?
- Do they use eye contact?
- Do they keep dependence on notes to a minimum?
- Do they sound as if they care about what they are saying?
- Do they (where appropriate) use humour effectively?

5 Team work and roles

This skill shows you make a strong case by working together as a team, and making the most of the role you have been given.

- Do the speakers support to and refer to each other?
- Do they avoid contradicting or repeating each other?
- Do they fulfil the particular tasks of their roles effectively, i.e.

Prop 1: defining the motion and introducing the case

Prop 2, Opp 1, Opp 2: rebutting previous speakers and building the case further

Prop 3 and Opp 3 (BP only): finding an extension to the case set out by the first two speakers on their side.

Summary speakers (Extended Mace and BP only):

- summing up their side's case
- summing up their opponents' case and rebutting it
- responding to floor speeches (Extended Mace only)
- finding the point of clash and showing how their side have won the debate
- avoiding introducing new material

A judge will have all these things in mind when she is watching a debate.

Judges
help
you