

3. This house would impose a 20 mph speed limit in cities.

Freedom to sides with the opposition; **freedom from** sides with the proposition.

Freedom to says:

- Provided people drive safely, they should be allowed to drive at whatever speed they like. (**Freedom to** do what you choose is a higher good than **freedom from** the occasional abuse of this freedom).
- Having a low speed limit will make drivers angry and frustrated and therefore likely to drive more dangerously. (**Freedom from** works worse than **freedom to**).

Freedom from says:

- Keeping the roads safe, and cities less polluted, is more important than letting drivers have their way. (**Freedom from** the consequences of other people's selfish choices is a higher good than **freedom to** make those choices).
- The speed limit may encourage more people to give up their cars and walk or cycle instead, which will make for a healthier and greener city. (**Freedom from** works better than **freedom to**).

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2 Neo-liberalism vs social democracy

What are **neo-liberalism** and **social democracy**? What do neo-liberals and social democrats believe?

They are both ideas you might learn about in an Economics lesson, as they are concerned with how resources are allocated and distributed. However, far from being mere mathematical abstractions, they are based very firmly on values.

What are those values?

For neo-liberals, the **individual** is more important than the **community**, and **liberty** is a higher good than **equality**. For social democrats, the **community** is more important than the **individual**, and **equality** is a higher good than **liberty**. In the **freedom to vs freedom from** clash we discussed above, neo-liberals would most often come down on the side of **freedom to**, and social democrats would most often come down on the side of **freedom from**. Both sides think their approach is both fairer and more effective.

Now let's see how those values are applied, both in terms of economic principles and of practical measures.

Neo-liberalism

Principles

- Everyone is responsible for themselves
- The less government, the better
- People have the right to keep whatever they have earned by their work
- People work hardest and most productively when they are left alone to make their own decisions
- People should accept the consequences of their decisions and not expect the government to look after them
- Competition between businesses is the best guarantee of efficiency and good customer service
- Inequality is a good thing, as it motivates people to work harder

Practical measures

- Low taxes
- Low government spending
- Minimum regulation
- Introduce competition wherever possible

Social democracy

Principles

- We are all responsible for each other; the strong have a moral duty to help the weak
- People work best and most productively when they work with support from outside
- Government can be a force for good, protecting the weak against the strong
- Government intervention can make the economy work better, because the government acts in the interests of all the people
- Inequality is a bad thing, as it breeds division and resentment
- Collaboration is better than competition

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Or

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