

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition's speech was very well structured and organised. It was very well focused on the key argument against quotas, that they are not rational and / or fair. However, she was rather evasive on points of information; also, the introduction of the irrelevant issue of other minorities was an argument that could never stand.

Moving down the table. The Member of the Government had a very clear understanding of the task of her role, and the need to introduce new material. Unfortunately her second and third arguments were underdeveloped and lacking in substance. However, the way she dealt with points of information was exemplary; completely assured and effective.

Her partner the Government Whip was very clear and well organised. He focused very effectively on the point of clash, presenting it with great lucidity. He also dealt with the points of information with complete assurance. This was one of the strongest speeches in the debate.

To the last team. The Member of the Opposition's speech was the most exciting. He took a very bold and unusual swerve to the argument, which both unsettled the Government and made his team stand out ahead of the first two speakers on his side. He also dealt boldly and effectively with the points of information offered to him.

Finally, to the Opposition Whip. Her speech was very clearly structured and easy to follow, and focused very lucidly on the points of clash. She responded to points of information effectively. However, her arguments could have been more fully developed; she could have used the full time.

As I said, the debate was a very close one. Each team had its strengths and weaknesses and none stood out against the others. So, with only a small gap between the teams, my verdict is: in fourth place, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister; in third place, Member of the Government and Government Whip; in second place, Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; and in first place, Member of the Opposition and Opposition Whip. Well done again to all debaters.

CHAIR

Thank you, Madam Judge; and thank you to all the debaters once again for such an excellent debate.

What have we learnt in this chapter?

1. What a good quality full BP debate looks and sounds like ☐
2. What judges look for ☐
3. How to identify strengths and weaknesses in a debate ☐

Do this before you read the next chapter



Search up a film of a debate online. Pause it regularly and analyse it in the way I have analysed this one, either on your own or discussing in your club.



Stage a debate in your club with your most experienced debaters and film it. Pause the film regularly and analyse it. Record your analysis as a voice over and use the video to train younger debaters.