Debating SA Incorporated

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Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia

2012 Topics and Speaking Times

Primary B

All debates are Prepared Debates. Speeches of 3 minutes; warning bell at 2 minutes.

Round 1 That cats are better than dogs.

Round 2 That dance should be a part of PE in schools.

Round 3 That school students should wear a uniform.

Round 4 That homework is good for students.

Round 5 That Father Christmas has a harder job than the Easter Bunny.

Primary A

All debates are Prepared Debates. Speeches of 3 minutes; warning bell at 2 minutes.

Round 1 That children should receive pocket money.

Round 2 That students should learn to play a musical instrument.

Round 3 That handwriting is an outdated skill.

Round 4 That Maths is better than English.

Round 5 That Father Christmas has a harder job than the Easter Bunny.

Year 8

All debates are Prepared Debates. Speeches of 4 minutes; warning bell at 3 minutes.

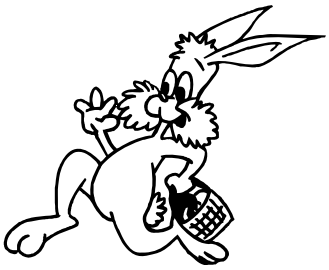
Round 1 That reality shows serve no real purpose.

Round 2 That horseracing is a cruel sport. (Link to video available on website)

Round 3 That Hogwarts is an ideal school.

Round 4 That Australia's flag does not represent us today.

Round 5 That alternative medicine is not real medicine.



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Year 9

Rounds 1 to 4 are Prepared Debates. Speeches of 5 minutes; warning bell at 4 minutes.

Round 1 That desalination is a better option than recycled water.

Round 2 That cyberbullying is the responsibility of the school.

Round 3 That McDonald's is an evil empire.

Round 4 Elixir Quodlibetical. See following pages for details.

Round 5 That blogging isn't real communication.
One Card Debate. Speeches of 5 minutes; warning bell at 4 minutes.

Year 10

Rounds 1 to 3 are Prepared Debates. Speeches of 6 minutes; warning bell at 5 minutes

Round 1 That literature is lost at 140 characters.

Round 2 That our multicultural policies don't work.

Round 3 That the moon should be mined for Helium-3.

Round 4 That Banksy is the Da Vinci of his time.
One Card Debate. Speeches of 6 minutes; warning bell at 5 minutes.

Round 5 **Short Preparation format debate.**
Speeches of 5 minutes; warning bell at 4 minutes.

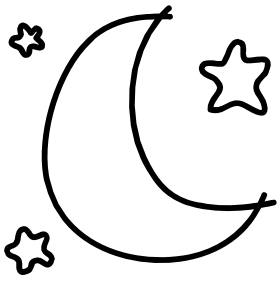
Senior

Round 1 That we should ban the burqa in Australia.
One Card Debate. Speeches of 8 minutes; warning bell at 7 minutes.

Round 2 Su Chien Quodlibetical. See following pages for details.
Prepared Debate. Speeches of 8 minutes; warning bell at 7 minutes.

Round 3 That Lunar Industries acted improperly.
Moon (2009) film directed by Duncan Jones.
Prepared Debate. Speeches of 8 minutes; warning bell at 7 minutes.
Film viewing date TBA. Students may view film independently at any time.

Round 4 **Short Preparation format debate.**
Speeches of 6 minutes; warning bell at 5 minutes.



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Special Formats of Prepared Debates

Quodlibetical Topic

There are a number of issues that can't be easily expressed in a one-line topic. Therefore you have been given a fictitious scenario, outlined by a few paragraphs, and a topic that is based on this scenario.

The following should be noted:

1. The first speaker should not attempt to define the topic word for word, but rather should define the issue(s) or dilemma(s) that the topic presents.
2. It is this issue or dilemma that should be debated in an attempt to prove whichever side of the topic, i.e. feel free to debate the particular issue generally, but be sure to link it back to the topic as this is what you want to argue for or against.
3. There is no need for the first speaker to read out the initial paragraphs as the Chairman will do this before announcing the topic, however, any speaker may refer to these paragraphs as part of his/her argument.
4. You are welcome and are encouraged to conduct further research on the issues presented.

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Year 9 Round 4 Topic: Elixir Quodlibetical

Blake in the prime of his life, chances upon a bottle containing purple liquid with the following label:

Drink and fill of this within
And taste oils brought forth
From fruit and vine and tree now extinct.
This drop once drunk exists no more
And it unknown to all others before.
For you eternal life and immortal being
Beyond all illness, pain and shadow of death,
Drink you now.
Your soul be filled, your mind increase
And yet in body, youth and health persist.
Not one moment more shall you wait
For this drop will, in half a blink, evaporate.

Blake is faced with the opportunity of drinking the elixir and living forever or leading a normal life.

Topic: "That Blake should drink the Elixir."

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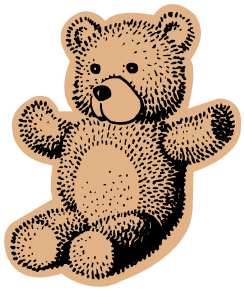
Senior Round 2 Topic: Su Chien Quodlibetical



Su Chien is a charming, cute and beautiful little girl, aged four. She is of Chinese origin and lives with her adoptive parents, William and Betty Armstrong, in the suburb of Prospect. William and Betty also have a child of their own, Mary, aged three. who is blonde and has blue eyes. They adopted Su Chien when she was aged two. They travelled to Beijing and made arrangements through an agency that specialises in inter-country adoptions. They were told that Su Chien was an orphan and that natural parents were killed in a tragic car accident in Beijing. The Armstrongs paid a fee of $20,000 Australian to the agency and proudly brought the then two year old Su Chien home. The child was registered as an adopted child under Australian law.

Last month, Yuen and Li Wang, a married Chinese couple, arrived at the Armstrongs' doorstep from Beijing and claimed to be Su Chien's natural parents. They say her name is Yuen May and that she was kidnapped when she was two years old. They produce a birth certificate and say they have spent their entire life savings tracking their daughter down and now they want to take her home to China. The Wangs have engaged a lawyer to make an application to the court for the child to be removed and sent back to China

The Armstrongs are utterly devastated. They had no idea about the circumstances of the child and had acted in good faith when they adopted their daughter. Now they know they have been the innocent victims of illegal child abduction. They say also that Su Chien is settled in their family and would find it distressing, especially at such a young age, to be taken to a country and family she did not know. They say it is not in the interest of their child's development or welfare to be forcibly taken. They too engage a lawyer to resist the Wangs' application. The Armstrongs' lawyer asks Su Chien whether she would like to go and live in China with her real mummy and daddy and she says 'no, my mummy and daddy are here.'

Topic: "That the court should order Su Chien to be returned to China with the Wangs."

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