

EPAS Debates

What is EPAS?

- We are the European Parliament Ambassador Scheme, and we raise awareness about the EU and run events!
- You may have seen our informational board on the top corridor or attended our stall at the Christmas fair.
- You will have also seen us run an assembly last term.
- You can follow us on Instagram @stroudhighepas

Today

- You will be debating on different EU issues as the UK is still intertwined with Europe (even though we left the EU)
- We will take you through the arguments and we would love to hear your thoughts!
- After we have debated there will be a vote on each of the issues

Debate 1

Should we still
compete in
European events?



Introduction..

Britain left the European Union in **January 2020** – this was called **Brexit**

Despite no longer being part of the EU, the UK continues to participate in a couple of European events such as...

- Eurovision
- UEFA Euros

Do you think this is fair considering that as a country, Britain chose to leave the EU? Should we be excluded from these European events? Or does the fact that we are located in Europe allow us to continue taking part?



Arguments for	Arguments against
• Economic Advantages- UEFA Women's Euros generated approximately £81 million across its 8 host cities- also supported 1,2000 full-time equivalent jobs • We are still part of the continent of Europe. We have arguably similar cultures and values, and these should be celebrated in these events. • We were instrumental in the creation of the European Union and have frequently played an integral part of European affairs and events. • Helps maintain relations and a connection with European countries which is hugely important in good international relations.	• We consistently receive low scores in events such as Eurovision and we are often perceived as showing a lack of effort which harms relations and an international appearance of the UK. • We officially cut ties with the EU through Brexit, and there have been continued tensions between the UK and Europe: so why should we still compete amongst them? • As a geographically isolated nation, we as the UK may not resonate as strongly with the rest of the European nations. • We involve politics and government too much in entertainment.

Time to debate!

Time to vote!

Which side do you agree with?

Debate 2

Should the UK introduce the Euro?

By Epas



Introduction

- The Euro the official currency of the EU, introduced in 2001
- The purpose of the Euro is to make it easier to buy and sell goods and services in most EU member states
- Most EU member states use the Euro
- The UK never signed up to it, but we would have to if we wanted to rejoin the EU as it is now mandatory

Arguments for

- Improved relations with the EU after Brexit
- After Brexit, the value of a pound fell to its lowest recorded level and adopting the euro UK would help stabilise this
- Wouldn't have to pay to convert money as there would be no issue with conversion rates when travelling to Europe
- Would be easier to compare prices of items when travelling in Europe
- Most adults can get used to a new currency fairly easily (done before when we changed to pounds and pence from shillings)
- We won't have coins with irrelevant royal family figures.
- Better trading with European countries decreasing prices.



Arguments against

- The pound is very traditional/historical
- The euro is heavily associated with the EU which Britain separated from in 2020
- The euro has a lower value than the British pound which would decrease the value of the UK's currency
- National pride reasons.
- Would require the public to accept/get used to a new currency
- One interest rate can't react as quickly to UK economic shocks (cosy Livs)



Time to debate!

Time to vote!

Which side do you agree with?

Debate 3

Should AI
have a
greater role
in society?



What is AI currently used for?

- AI has already been integrated into many areas of life already such as:
- Choosing what information and content you see online
- Summaries articles for google explanations
- Is used by Hollywood, the video games industries and marketing departments to generate pictures and video
- Used in medicine to help with diagnoses

Arguments for

AI can be used to automate menial tasks

AI has many medical uses such as making quick diagnoses

AI can make looking for information online more streamlined and less subjective*

AI can be used by people whose first language isn't English to help when writing job applications and other important documents

Convenient – it's often quicker and simpler to get straight forward answers by using language models such as chat GPT

Arguments against

AI has a huge negative impact on the environment – 134 terawatt - uses more power than the country of Bangladesh

Only as good as its training data – biases in training data can get amplified

Can lead to the loss of jobs in creative fields such as art and poetry

Can lead to the loss of skills in certain fields made redundant

Can be used by bad actors online to spread misinformation and hatred

Time to debate!

Time to vote!

Which side do you agree with?

Debate 4



Do you think social
media should be
banned for under
16s?

Do you think social media should be banned for under 16s?

Australia recently made the decision to ban social media for under 16s the ban will include: Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and X. However, many other apps and websites for gaming and chatting will still be available.

Would you prefer if the apps and websites you used were only used by people 16 or under? Do you think they could create an online space where you would feel more able to express yourself and your interests without worrying about the opinions of people much older than you?



Arguments for	Arguments against
• Protects young people's mental health • Stops the spread of misinformation (i.e. fake news, incorrect information to stretch the truth, clickbait, etc.) • Stop cyberbullying • Exposure to inappropriate content is reduced • Prevent addiction • Prevents people from sharing things online that they may regret later on	• Prevents people from being able to connect with friends and family on social media • Allows people to learn new things • Allows people to express themselves creatively (i.e. artwork, writing, music, baking, etc) • Can be a valuable tool for social and political activism • Hard to enforce so could lead to unsupervised access to social media

Time to debate!

Time to vote!

Which side do you agree with?

Thank you for taking part!