



The Vasant Valley School Debate for the India Today Cup

RECAPITULATING REPORTEE

THE EXHIBITION DEBATE

THBT Developing countries should not invest in space programmes.

PROPOSITION:

Side proposition put forward strong ideas by saying that space programs are not necessarily tangible, as they are exploratory in nature. They said that the masses do not have a direct interest in space programs, and are not directly affected by them either. They said there is no need for them unless the benefits can be brought upon the masses. The government should prioritise the essential needs of the majority of the population, such as healthcare and education. Only when science is applied more practically, can it have a more non-elitist perception. Science should also be looked to as a nation-building tool that has more direct and immediate benefits. They concluded by saying that it is imperative that we do not focus on accidental benefits and we invest in directed research instead of abstract research.

“An investment in one extra meal is more valuable than spending money a project with no hope.”

OPPOSITION:

Side opposition countered by saying that there are accidental benefits of space programs such as the discovery of alloys. They argued that space programs are not only meant for the elite because satellites for defence and security benefit the whole population. Space research leads to the creation of technology that ultimately benefits the whole humanity. eg. GPS, Weather Forecast, etc. Developed countries have a large pool of knowledge, and investing in space programmes leads to access to this knowledge, in turn increasing power of developing countries, as well as helping strengthen their economies. Programs like the Mangalyaan were highly publicised to increase awareness and build national pride in order for them to get support in the future. They ended their debate by saying that space research and societal welfare should not be seen as mutually exclusive investments, as nations with access to the required funding capacity can pursue both simultaneously.

“None of us were called by Modi Ji, Haan GST ok?”

FINALS!

Doon School v/s Sardar Patel Vidyalaya

“This House celebrates the rise of news comedy (Trevor Noah, John Oliver etc.)



REPORTEE-ING IT UP!

After a day of hard work, relentless arguments and perseverance, it was finally time for some fun and frolic. The Vasant Valley Social was an evening full of life and laughter. The competition was momentarily forgotten and everyone engaged in conversation as friends instead. It was great to see opponents come together and dance their stress away.

Thumkas and other signature steps became commonplace and everyone was high on adrenaline. The excitement of the evening was shared by everyone, as teachers and students stood side-by-side on the dance floor, ecstatic and enjoying themselves. Smiling faces and twinkling eyes were all that was visible around us. It was in one of these blissful moments that we realised that the true essence of this event was not about winning or losing. While the debate was of utmost importance, the very crux of this event was inter-school unity.



It was about forming strong bonds of friendship and enjoying every moment without worrying about what the motion was, what team you were up against and whether tomorrow you would be sitting in the finals. All that mattered in that moment was the laughter and the dancing in a large circle, with everyone together.

Armaan Kumar, Dhruv Kumar, Rabiya Gupta, 11

Dhruv Kumar, Jay Jaganaath

MOTIONS THAT EVERY DEBATER IS SICK OF

1. This house will implement the Uniform Civil Code.
2. *This house believes that freedom of speech should be absolute.*
3. This house will enforce the death penalty.
4. *This house believes that the private lives of public figures should be open to press scrutiny.*
5. This house believes that terrorism is a result of poverty and exclusion.
6. *They're not weird they're just not traditional so come up with a title.*
7. This house will make Nicki Minaj's Anaconda the feminist anthem.
8. *This house will reveal Dumbledore as a homosexual.*
9. This house believes that Charlottesville hate mongering, the repeal of Obamacare, indifference towards Gorakhpur child deaths and disappearance of Najib are symptoms of a state led machismo.
10. *This house believes till the box is open the cat is dead.*
11. This house believes that the five second rule applies.



THE QUARTER FINALS

In light of recent events, This House (US) would make an active military intervention in North Korea



VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL v/s SANSKRITI SCHOOL



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION

“Thank you ladies and gentlemen, someone needs to be liberated.”

“The US is setting a precedent for the creation of World War 3”

Kim Jong Un is the dictator of North Korea and he fires missiles over territories like US. The US government wants to protect its citizens and North Korea is an active threat hence US would want to intervene. Moreover, US would want to protect its allies including South Korea, and the only way they can do this is by intervening in North Korea. If US acts now, and overthrow Kim Jong Un leading to a democracy in North Korea and if this military intervention leads to the death of some citizens in North Korea then that is a sacrifice that side proposition is willing to make. North Korea is an ever growing threat and eliminating this threat would lead to countless improvements, such as world peace and making better education available to the people in North Korea. Prevention is better than cure. Establishing a democracy would lead to accountability and liberating the citizens in North Korea that are continuously oppressed.

North Korea has not fired any attack on US as they understand that US has a better military and nuclear arsenal and hence that delegitimises the threat that North Korea poses. They have been entirely isolated by the international community, hence, there is no way they can equal footing with the United States. The US, by virtue of being recognised as a superpower, must set a precedent for peace by not invading North Korea. International communities condemn violence and hence we do not seek to spark of a trend of conflict and violence in the world. The relationship between US and China, two of the larger superpowers in the world, matters more than this intervention against North Korea. South Korea has been trying to pursue peace and if US intervenes then it shows how they are ignorant of other countries and their efforts.

In light of recent events, This House (US) would make an active military intervention in North Korea

SARDAR PATEL VIDYALAYA v/s SHIV NADAR SCHOOL, GURGAON



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION

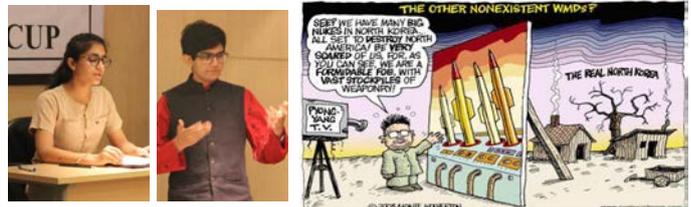


“Action against North Korea would not be unprovoked or unjustified”

“We know they have the ability, why give them right?”

The Sardar Patel School made valid points about how North Korea is a country which is not accountable to anyone, and which does not need any provocation to attack, due to which the lives of the US citizens are put in danger. North Korea is a country where the citizens are brainwashed from an early stage and do not have mindset to revolt and it is the responsibility of a global superpower like the US to help these weak people as well as its allies, like Japan, which do not have an active army and are constantly threatened by North Korea. They said that the US needs to weaken the capability of North Korea to attack, and that they need to uphold the ideals that other countries don't have the ability to uphold. They rebutted the points of the opposition by saying that the threats given by North Korea are not empty and that the US is developed enough to have enough money for a military intervention.

The Shiv Nadar School made valid points on how by carrying out an active military intervention, the US would be endangering multiple generations of its own people because an unaccountable state will only react irresponsibly when provoked. The US, they said, would not be advocating peace if they carried out this action and North Korea would never learn. Japan, its ally, would be attacked twice as hard. They rebutted the points of the proposition by saying that the US has very little knowledge about North Korea and that by taking action a large number of innocent lives and resources would be lost and US would be brought down as a superpower.



In light of recent events, This House (US) would make an active military intervention in North Korea

THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL MOULSARI V/S LE MARTINIERE COLLEGE



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION



“When tensions between two nuclear countries arise, nuclear war is inevitable.”

“Kim Jong Un may not care about the people; however, he does care about himself and the state that is under his control.”

The La Martiniere Boys' College put forward a strong and valid case. They stated that tensions between the United States and North Korea have increased, due to their possession of weapons of mass destruction. They believe that the possession of these weapons poses a threat not only to the United States, but to every country that believes in the western agenda as well. They felt that the United States had the responsibility of assisting the global community and putting an end to the mass loss of lives, and should therefore intervene and take action against North Korea.

As side opposition, Shri Ram Mousari put forth a solid argument, aptly stating that engaging in military intervention will lead to nuclear war, as war on such a massive scale would undoubtedly lead to loss of millions of lives, and yet Kim Jong Un himself would remain unharmed. They reiterated that mutually assured destruction would prevent North Korea from launching a nuclear attack against the United States, thus ensuring a stalemate that will not harm any of the participating parties in the near future.

In light of recent events, This House (US) would make an active military intervention in North Korea



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION



“There is a madman with a button that can nuke the entire world.”

“North Korea will start a nuclear war- the consequences will be too severe for the US to handle”

The proposition explained their views by saying that in North Korea, the state itself is violating the rights of its citizens and the way to liberate the people of North Korea is through a military intervention. They further backed their argument by stating that by military intervention they can balance power and help their allies as well. Throughout the course of the debate, side proposition put emphasis on North Korea's political system being detrimental to not only its citizens but the entire world itself.

The opposition stated that intervention will prove ineffective. They talked about how military intervention will only escalate the situation and lead to nuclear war as North Korea will not hold back. They elaborated saying that a military intervention is not the right move and will only lead to destruction and depletion of resources while putting an ally, South Korea, in immediate danger.

THE SEMI - FINALS

'This House (as Bose) will take assistance from Hitler'

Time Set : 1941

DOON SCHOOL v/s VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL



PROPOSITION

Side proposition came and spoke about how the Congress has not been able to fulfil Purna Swaraj. They say that Gandhi has failed the nation as a leader. They say that they wish to satisfy the goals of independence and abolish the zamindari system through revolt and assistance from Hitler without worrying about the casualties. They say that the goal is to achieve independence; how this is achieved, is irrelevant. They talk about the nation being impoverished and Hitler being the best option for the country to attain help as in the current scenario of a war torn and polarised world, he is the only option. They say that Hitler is a strong opponent of British imperialism and oppression and thus will actively assist India in achieving freedom. They talk about him being a symbol of victory. They say that it will lead to the establishment of a socialist government. Thus, they believe that Bose should take assistance from Hitler.

"Mahatma Gandhi and his cronies have failed in their independence model."



OPPOSITION

The opposition came up and told us that the problem was not the armed struggle, rather, assistance taken from Hitler. They say that this assistance will prove to be counter productive. They also say that Gandhi became the man of the people and thus they now endorsed the freedom movement as one of their own. They talk about the fundamental clash of ideologies of Gandhi and Bose. The opposition tells us that the movement becomes less pervasive by antagonising Gandhi and subsequently, his supporters. They say that Bose wants to liberate India, but does not want to fall into another trap. They say that instead of liberation, taking assistance from Hitler will lead to two countries opposing India as this will be on Hitler's terms, not India's. They tell us that if Bose takes assistance from Hitler, he will be seen as an invading force, which will defeat his purpose. They further refute side government's claim that Hitler is symbolic of victory by telling us that he is the face of fascism.

"Side Proposition comes and tells us that Gandhi is problematic, so align with Hitler."

The Doon School emerged victorious



This House (being the Muslim Community) would let go of their claim over Babri Masjid

Time set : 1922-1923

THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL MOULSARI V/S SARDAR PATEL VIDYALA



PROPOSITION

The Shri Ram School, Mousari spoke as side Government and asked why one masjid is more important than thousands of people and their lives. Muslims are outnumbered. It's futile for them to continue to fight. The probability of their success is extremely low. Thus, it is beneficial for both sides that the Muslims give up their claim over the Masjid. Continuing this fight will result in furthering the divide between Hindus and Muslims. Besides, it's just another masjid for the Muslims, while the site is of greater value to the Hindus. By taking the first step, Muslims will not only de-escalate the violence, they will also create space for political dialogue, in the future out of the sheer positivity of the act.

"It's okay to lose the battle if you win the war"



OPPOSITION

Sardar Patel Vidyalaya spoke as side Opposition and their argument tried to portray that by not letting go of Babri Masjid, it is not an aggressive stance on the Muslim Community's part. It is in the interest of their community to not give in. By claiming the masjid, it is an assertion of the validity of Muslims in India. A masjid represents the belief of the community, and its demolition sends the wrong message. It sends a message to the Hindu majority that it's alright to do so. It undermines the faith of the Islamic community. Just because Muslims are smaller in number and do not have as many resources, it doesn't mean they are compelled to live in fear. Just because someone else is in majority and Muslims are in minority, they cannot give up. Otherwise it will only worsen. Muslims need to react today and take a firm stand today for the future generations. The solution is not to give up their claim, but to assert our rights.

"A place of worship is a place of worship, and holds its own importance for each individual"

The Sardar Patel Vidyalaya emerged victorious



WHICH INDIAN POLITICIAN ARE YOU?

Q1. Someone accuses you of corruption, what do you do?

- A) Accuse them of making false accusations
- B) Say that they are making allegations and being anti-feminist
- C) Present the facts, only when asked to do so
- D) Go on national television and accuse them of being corrupt

Q2. Riots break out in Bombay, what do you do?

- A) You give speeches on peace
- B) You decide to take major action to curb rebellion
- C) You decide to see what caused the issue
- D) You decide to help those affected by the issue

Q3. An economic policy is being discussed in the Lok Sabha, what do you do?

- A) You tend to get bored and leave it up to other party members
- B) You tend to believe in empowering those who are suppressed by fighting to give money to them instead of science
- C) You tend to evaluate the pros and cons of the policies and then decide
- D) You believe that immediate issues must be resolved first instead of discussing bills

Q4. Who would you stand up for?

- A) Unorganised sector workers
- B) Dalits
- C) The economically suppressed
- D) Women

Q5. If you are ever to campaign for a party, what would you do?

- A) You would give long speeches
- B) You would put up statues and posters
- C) You would appeal to the public with a manifesto first
- D) You would go on television and reach out



Mostly A's: You are **Rahul Gandhi!**

You hold great compassion and seek to be of service to others. You are capable of giving comfort to those in need. It's in your nature to take on responsibility. You are quite adaptable however, there is another side to the coin. You tend to get bored easily and have a somewhat childish nature thus making you indecisive.

Mostly B's: You are **Mayawati Kumari!**

You are feisty. You might be diminutive in stature but your influence is mighty. On the one hand, you may be stubborn or ignorant but you never let success get to your head and you will stop at nothing to achieve your goals.



Mostly C's: You are **Arun Jaitley!**

You are confident, knowledgeable and a great leader. You are very capable of getting what you want and can influence people easily. Sometimes, you can be easy going and not be as aggressive as the situation demands. But you are extremely focussed nonetheless.

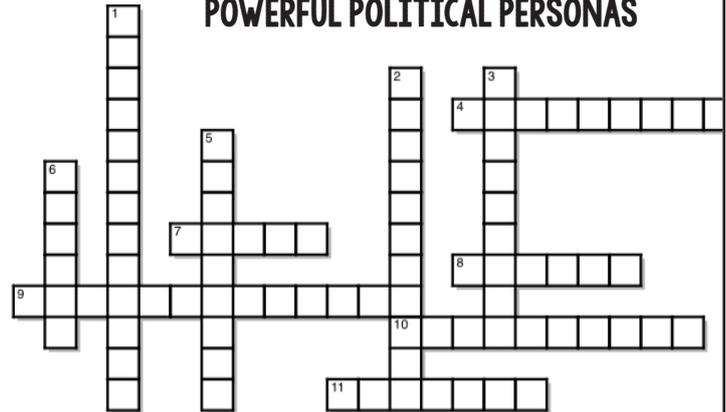
Mostly D's: You are **Sonia Gandhi!**

You have an investigative mind and you are a good judge of character. You might tend to make emotionally impulsive decisions and later take back your words. However, you are a sharp person who can think on her/his feet.



Reana Soni, Aditi Singh

POWERFUL POLITICAL PERSONAS



ACROSS

- 4. Leader with a bouffant hairdo- Former Asian Dynast
- 7. "It's freezing and snowing in New York- We need global warming
- 8. Meaning "man of steel" the adoptive name of the Soviet leader born Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili
- 9. Former dictator- USA hid madness
- 10. Steamy hear (anagram)
- 11. Graces Mount Rushmore

DOWN

- 1. Author of 'Long Walk to Freedom'
- 2. He appointed the first female Attorney general and the first female Secretary of the United States
- 3. The _____, nickname of Irish and Venezuelan political leaders David O'Connell and Simon Bolivar
- 5. The Yalta conference was a meeting between _____, Roosevelt and Stalin
- 6. He killed the officer who was responsible for Lala Lajpat Rai's death.



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