

Question Time: Topics for debate – Is Britain a Racist Society? Do we pay enough Tax?



QT - is Britain racist?

How does Shami Chakrabarti debate effectively to make her points and get the audience to listen to her?

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,



Do Migrants in the UK get too much help

The Journalist Ash Sarker responds to an aggressive and racist question on stopping migration to Britain. What skills does she use to challenge the questioner?

- 1,
- 2,
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How much tax should be charged

Miatta Fahnbulleh shows her skills and her knowledge to explain why the amount of tax paid by business is too low and is unfair. How does she do this?

- 1,
- 2,
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Question Time: Topics for debate – Education – Crime – Climate Change

For your Question Time debate there will be three or four topics for discussion and debate. There will be two panellists from the Labour Party along with two Conservatives and a chair person who will run the debate. The rest of the class will be the audience who ask questions and comment on the responses from the panellists.

Topic 1 - Education

- How many pupils should there be in a class?
- Should wealthy people be able to send their children to Private schools?
- How should the Government attract people to become Teachers?
- What should be done with Pupils who misbehave and disrupt the education of others?

Topic 2 – Crime

- Should those who commit crime be punished or should they be offered training and education so that they do not commit crime again?
- Should there be more Police to target those who they suspect might commit crime?
- Do longer prison sentences like they have in America stop people from committing crime?

Topic 3 - Climate Change

- Meat is one of the biggest causes of Climate Change. Should we eat a lot less Meat?
- In big cities the largest cause of ill health and early death is pollution from Cars and Vans. Should driving be much more expensive and public transport cheaper?
- Should consumer products that damage the environment or cannot be recycled be banned? This includes most mobile phones and fashionable clothing.

Question Time: Topics for debate – Housing – Welfare/Benefits – NHS/Healthcare

Topic 4 – Housing

- Should there be low cost housing for those on lower Wages – or those who cannot afford to buy a home? If there should be how should this be paid for?
- Should Rough Sleepers be treated as a nuisance or be helped by Welfare payments and hostel accommodation that they would not have to pay for?
- Should the Government control rents in private housing so that those renting have more rights and pay lower rents?

Topic 5 – Welfare/Benefits

- Since 2010 the value of welfare payments has been significantly reduced. Should Welfare payments go up to levels that allow people on benefits to live comfortably?
- There are a record number of Food Banks in the UK. Does this show that cuts to welfare have gone too far?
- Should all adults be expected to work? If they choose not to should there be no welfare benefits?

Topic 6 – NHS/Healthcare

- Should tax payers pay higher taxes to pay for the NHS?
- Should older people contribute more for the care that they receive? Old people cost the most to treat.
- Should 'Junk Food' – including the Chicken shop – be banned?
- If we make ourselves ill – by eating unhealthy food, by drinking too much alcohol, by taking illegal drugs – should we have to pay for our healthcare?
- Should the UK train more Doctors and Nurses which is expensive or should we bring Medical professionals in from other countries?

Question Time: Topics for debate – The Economy – Immigration – Local Topic

Topic 7 – The Economy

- Should the tax system take more from higher earners to pay for improved Public Services (The NHS, Schools, Parks, Libraries) for should we all pay more tax for better services?
- Should Britain be a low wage economy where up to 40% do not earn enough to pay any income tax or should wages be regulated to give all workers a 'living wage'?
- Should Businesses pay more in tax or should we be happy that they employ people who then pay tax? If they pay more tax the prices they charge may go up

Topic 8 – Immigration

- Should Britain be a multi cultural nation that welcomes people from across the world or a more traditional 'British' Nation?
- Should we bring people into Britain to work in our Public Services and employment sectors where workers are needed or should we only employ people who already live in Britain?
- Should Britain make a commitment to allow more people who live in warzones to settle in the UK?
- Should immigrants who are unemployed be sent back to the country that they came from?

Topic 9 – Your local topic!

Is there an issue or topic that is causing problems in your area or in your School?

If there is this could be one of the topics that you choose to debate in your class Question Time.

Question Time: Topics for debate – Is Britain a Racist Society? Do we pay enough Tax?



How does Shami Chakrabarti debate effectively to make her points and get the audience to listen to her?

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Question Time: Topics for debate – Education

- Most children in Britain attend a school that is paid for by the Government out of the Taxes that people who work pay. Between 7% and 9% of young people attend a Private School which are sometimes called 'Public' Schools. Since 2010 State Schools have not received as much money as they need and there are not enough qualified teachers to teach the number of school age children so that the number of children in a class has been going up. The Education budget also pays for students to go to University. In 2001 students started to pay for part of their University costs and in 2010 the Tuition fee for going to University was increased to £9000 per year. This does not have to be paid up front but must be paid back once students have qualified and get a job that pays them more than £25,000 per year. Students pay back their Tuition Fee Loan over 30 years.

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE EITHER SEEN AS LEFT WING OR RIGHT WING...

LEFT WING

- 1) The Government should be more involved in our lives.
- 2) The Government should distribute wealth amongst us all. Equality of income is important.
- 3) Public Sector is good - public sector services and getting public sector jobs is good.
- 4) Business - especially large business - can be bad as all business cares about is profits - not people.
- 5) People who earn lots of money should be the highest taxed.
- 6) The Government should offer essential services for free to us all.
- 7) Believe in minimum wage, welfare state and nationalising industries.

RIGHT WING

- 1) The State should only be strong enough to ensure we don't commit crime, streets are clean, roads are paved and the country is running well - BUT beyond that, the State's role shouldn't be massive.
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- 4) Private Sector is inefficient, slow and not ideal.
- 5) Extremely high taxes on rich people is bad - it kills innovation and puts people off hard work.
- 6) Minimum wage is okay - but people should work hard for what they earn.
- 7) Private property must be protected at all costs!

Labour would;

- Spend more on Public Services like Schools and the NHS.
- Build more houses and keep rents low.
- Support workers to have more rights against bosses
- Tax the highest earners more than the lowest.

Conservatives would:

- Lower taxes so that individuals paid less Tax.
- Spend less on Public services such as Schools and the NHS.
- Support bosses more than workers.
- Support the Police and the Courts to punish criminals.

Political Commentary

- How many children should be in a class at Primary and at Secondary School?
- Should Private Schools be able to say that they are Charities so that they do not pay as much tax?
- Should those who go to University have to pay for going? Those who go to University normally earn more later but then do pay higher taxes on their higher wages.

Question Time: Topics for debate– Crime

For more than fifteen years there has been a steady fall in most types of crime but in urban areas fear of certain types of crime has been rising. In particular crime associated with young people – mainly young men – is often highlighted. This ‘knife crime’, ‘gang crime’ or ‘County Lines Drug crime’ gets lots of attention from Political Parties. Since 2010 the number of Police Officers has been cut by around 20,000 and Prisons are struggling to keep control of inmates in prison.

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Political Commentary

How should convicted criminals be treated in Prison? Should they be punished or should they be offered education and training so that they do not commit crime again?

What should we do about crimes linked to drugs and the drug trade that makes criminal gangs huge profits?

Should we allow the Police to have more power to stop and search those suspected of knife crime when we know that this will result in Ethnic Minority young men being targeted?

Question Time: Topics for debate – Climate Change

- Over the last few years it has become increasingly apparent that protection of the Environment and Climate Change is becoming more urgent. The protests from Pressure Groups such as Extinction Rebellion have made more and more people aware of how Climate Change will effect all of our lives. The flooding in Yorkshire is one way that Climate Change impacts on the UK while in London and other large cities air pollution of the biggest single cause of ill health and premature death. All Political Parties are increasingly focussing some of their policies on Climate Change.

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Political Commentary

- Should polluting cars and vans be taxed so that people stop driving so much? It is Diesel Cars and Van that have made Poor Air Quality the highest cause of ill health and premature death in London and other large cities.
- Should Britain make a cleaner environment ahead of higher economic growth as a national priority?
- Should consumer products that damage the environment or cannot be recycled be banned? This includes most mobile phones.

Question Time: Topics for debate – Housing

Housing – its cost and the number of people without security of housing has become a major issue in UK Politics. Since WWII there have traditionally been two types of housing. People either bought a home with a 25 mortgage – loan from a bank – or people have rented their home. Rented housing after the war was increasingly provided by the local Council and became known as Council Housing. In the 1980s the Conservative Government encouraged people to buy their home and this included selling council houses. Today there are far fewer council houses and many people cannot afford to buy their home with the result that they rent from private landlords who often charge very high rents. Since 2010 there are an increasing number of people who are homeless and it is common to see ‘Rough Sleepers’ in parks and living on the streets.

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Political Commentary

- Should there be low cost housing for those on lower Wages – or those who cannot afford to buy a home – If there should be how should this be paid for?
- Should Rough Sleepers be treated as a nuisance or be helped by Welfare payments and hostel accommodation that they would not have to pay for?
- Should the Government control rents in private housing so that those renting have more rights and pay lower rents?
- What proportion of our household income should we be expected to pay for housing?

Question Time: Topics for debate – Welfare/Benefits

- In 1945 after World War Two Britain set up a system of Welfare and Social Security that help those who cannot work and so do not have wages to pay for what they need. The 'Welfare State' also provides payments for children – Child Benefit – and for those who cannot work because they are disabled or have lost their job.

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Political Commentary

- Since 2010 the real value of welfare payments has been significantly reduced. Should Welfare payments go up to levels that allow people on benefits to live comfortably?
- There are a record number of Food Banks in the UK. Does this show that cuts to welfare have gone too far? Should Universal Credit be stopped – Labour Policy – or reformed?
- Should all adults be expected to work?

Question Time: Topics for debate – NHS/Healthcare

- The NHS is where we all go to get treatment if we are ill. The NHS also provides Dental Care and Hospitals where we go in an emergency. We pay for the NHS through the Taxes that we pay and everyone who needs to be treated for free when they need care. A Large proportion of the Taxes we pay is spent on the NHS and as people grow older and live longer more money will need to be spent on it.

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Political Commentary

- Should tax payers pay higher taxes to pay for the NHS?
- Should older people contribute more to pay for the care that they receive – Old people cost the most to treat.
- Should we train more Nurses and Doctors or is it OK to bring immigrants into the NHS?
- How should we pay for the high costs of people that need residential care when they are very old?
- Should older people have to sell their homes as they do now to fund residential care?

Question Time: Topics for debate – The Economy

The Economy covers everything to do with Money, Trade, Work, Tax and Wages. Britain has a Capitalist Economy where most people work for a Company that aims to make a profit. The other area where lots of people work is in the delivery of Public Services – The NHS, in Schools, for the Police or local Council. Around 3 million people work for the Government as part of a Public Service. Tax is what pays for the provision of Public Services. Everyone pays part of what they earn in Tax to the Government in what is called a ‘Progressive Taxation’ system. This means that those who earn more pay more in tax.

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Political Commentary

- Should Taxes as a proportion of National Income be ‘European’ at 42%-45% or American at 35%-37%?
- Should the tax system take more from higher earner to pay for improved Public Services for should we all pay more pay for better services?
- Should Britain be a low wage economy where up to 40% do not earn enough to pay any income tax or should wages be regulated to give all workers a ‘living wage’?
- Should Businesses pay more in tax or should we be happy that they employ people who then pay tax?

Question Time: Topics for debate – Immigration

- For over 1000 years people have come to England and Britain for a number of reasons – to work, to escape persecution, to join their Family, to fight for Britain in Wars. During the last 80 Years there have been a number of large waves of migration into Britain and this has made Britain into the Multicultural place that it is. For some - mainly older people – different groups coming to live in Britain is something that they do not like while others - mainly younger people – really like the diversity that lots of different cultures brings. We should also remember that people who were born in Britain have also gone to live in other countries. For instance there are more than a million people from Britain in Spain and more than three million who live in another EU nation.

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Political Commentary

- Should Britain be a multi cultural nation that welcomes People from across the world or a more traditional 'British' Nation?
- Should we bring people to Britain to work in our Public Services and employment sectors where workers are needed or should we only employ people who already live in Britain?
- Should those coming to Britain to work be able to use Public Services? – they pay taxes as soon as they work.

Question Time: Topics for debate – Local Topic

The title of our Local Issue is _____

Summary points are;

- 1, _____
- 2, _____
- 3, _____

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What questions would be asked about the Local Issue?

- 1,
- 2,
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Question Time: Topics for debate – _____

Our first topic for debate is _____.

Point 1 from my perspective

Point 2 from my perspective

Point 3 from my perspective

Key ideas for being Left Wing;

Progress = improvement

Equality = making lives of all more equal

Fairness = giving all equal opportunities

Change = challenging the way things are

Government = using the Government to help improve peoples lives

Taxation = taxing those with higher incomes to pay for services for everyone

Key ideas for being Right Wing;

Stability = Keeping things the same

Order = everyone knowing and accepting their place

Tradition = celebrating the past and keeping things from the past

Status quo = changing very slowly and keeping things the same unless change is needed

Government = using Government to keep order and stop change. Not being involved in peoples lives

Taxation = keeping taxes as low as possible

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