

Advised Topic, C Grade Round 3 2022: Science and Health

Advised topics work in the same way as secret topics, with the only advantage being that it is possible, and indeed desirable, to do some research and to think about potential topics. Remember that the team could be asked to argue for or against something depending on the wording of the topic.

For example, on last year's advised subject of 'Education', topics included:

- *That we should abolish private schools.*
- *That students should continue to learn from home two days a week once the pandemic is over.*
- *That all new teachers should have to teach at a public or regional school for at least three years.*
- *That all students should have to study a creative arts subject (e.g. drama, music, art) in every year of high school.*

As you can see, there is a great deal of flexibility as to how the topic might be worded and thus in the issues that will arise. A good starting point for any advised subject preparation is to brainstorm some possible topics and to work out how you might deal with them.

Thinking about possible definitions is also a good idea. Of course, the wording of the topic might be completely unexpected, so it is important to remain flexible and not to go into the preparation room with rigid ideas about the topic and issues.

Always bear in mind that the reason for having advised subject debates is that they allow debaters to familiarise themselves with the facts: in the preparation room, they merely develop the specific arguments.

Some questions that might guide your research for the advised round on Science and Health include:

- What behaviours promote a healthy lifestyle?
- Are some groups in society more vulnerable with regard to health risks?
- What obstacles prevent people from being healthy?
- How can the government/businesses promote healthy behaviours or discourage unhealthy behaviours?
- Should the government/businesses attempt to regulate people's lifestyle choices?
- Who is responsible for the health of individuals?
- What role does technology play in solving scientific/health issues? What are the benefits and risks using technology?
- Where does scientific funding come from?
- What sort of regulations exist for scientific research and the health industry?
- To what extent should the health of non-human beings (e.g. animals) be considered when setting science and health policies?