



ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Debate Championship 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

S. No.	Question	Response
1.	What is the format of the Debate Championship?	The competition will follow the Modified Oxford Debate format. Detailed rules and speaking guidelines have already been shared via email with all participating schools.
2.	When will the debate motions be released?	The motions for Round 1 and Round 2 will be released on 19 August 2026 at 9:00 a.m. sharp.
3.	Will the same motion be given to all teams?	Yes. The motion for each round will be common to all teams participating in that round.
4.	Will teams know whether they are speaking for or against the motion in advance?	No. The side will be decided on the spot through a coin toss. Participants must therefore be prepared to argue either side of the motion.
5.	Is taking a Point of Information (POI) compulsory?	Yes. Taking POIs is compulsory as per the competition rules. Marks will be awarded for effectively answering POIs; however, no marks will be awarded merely for asking a POI.
6.	Will marks be awarded for asking POIs?	No
7.	Can participants interrupt a speaker to ask a POI?	POIs may be offered only as permitted under the competition rules. Participants must maintain proper debating etiquette and wait for the speaker to accept the POI.

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8.	Will there be a separate rebuttal round?	Rebuttal will form an integral part of the debate. Speakers are expected to directly address and counter the arguments presented by the opposing team within the allotted time frame.
9.	Can participants carry notes or research material into the debate chamber?	No. Participants will not be permitted to carry pre-prepared research material or prepared notes into the debate chamber. Only the notepad provided by the host school may be taken into the chamber.
10.	Can participants refer to written speeches while speaking?	No. Participants are expected to speak without referring to a pre-written or prepared speech. However, they may refer to relevant facts, statistics, or data recorded on the notepad provided by the host school. This is intended to assess their ability to think critically, respond spontaneously, and present their arguments confidently.
11.	Will there be a time penalty for exceeding the allotted speaking time?	Yes. Participants are expected to strictly adhere to the allotted speaking time. Appropriate penalties may be applied for exceeding the prescribed time limit.
12.	What happens in case of a tie?	In the event of a tie, the judges may ask an additional Point of Information (POI) to determine the winner.
13.	Can a team leave after being eliminated?	No. All participants are expected to remain at the venue until the conclusion of the Individual Awards Ceremony, where outstanding performances will be recognised.
14.	What is the dress code?	Participants are expected to be dressed in Western formal attire. Black-and-white formal attire is recommended for a professional and formal appearance.
15.	Will individual speakers also receive awards?	Yes. Individual awards will recognise outstanding speakers and other exceptional performances, as per the competition criteria.
16.	Will participants receive the motions before the competition?	The motions for Round 1 and Round 2 will be released on 19 August at 9:00 a.m. For Rounds 3 and 4, the motions will be given on the spot, followed by 30 minutes of preparation time.
17.	Can participants use the internet or electronic devices for research during the	Yes. Participants may use the internet and electronic devices for research during the allotted 30-minute preparation time for Rounds 3 and 4, as per

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	preparation time for Rounds 3 and 4?	the instructions of the organising committee.
18.	Are SPOCs allowed inside the debate chamber?	No. Only the debating participants are permitted inside the debate chamber. The remaining team members/SPOCs must wait in the designated waiting area allotted to their school.
19.	Are the fixtures pre-decided?	No. Fixtures will not be pre-fixed. The pairings will be decided on the spot through a slip-drawing process by the participating teams.
20.	What should participants carry for registration?	All participants must carry their valid school ID cards for identity verification at the time of registration.
21.	Will breakfast and lunch be provided by the host school?	Yes. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the host school for the participating teams.
22.	What is the expected dispersal time?	The expected dispersal time is around 4:00 p.m. Participants and accompanying school representatives are requested to plan their return travel accordingly.

Important Note

All participants and accompanying school representatives are requested to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the rules, format, and guidelines of the competition before the event.

The decisions of the Adjudication Panel and the Organising Committee shall be final in all matters pertaining to the conduct, evaluation, and interpretation of the competition rules.

WHERE IDEAS MEET.

VOICES MATTER.

DEBATE INSPIRES.

We look forward to welcoming young debaters from across schools for a day of ideas, intellect, eloquence, and spirited discourse.

*May every argument challenge a perspective,
every rebuttal sharpens a thought,
and every voice leave an impact.*

St. Xavier's High School, Ghaziabad