

Motion of the debate is ...

This House believes that
age limit should be introduced
in politics.

Structure/Teamwork
-Consistency in points,
Signposts, role division

Dynamism
(Response/Linkage)
-Make clash and relevant
Issues through debate.
-Clarify clash and issues.

Persuasion/Expression
-choice of words,
speech organisation

This House believes that age limit should be introduced in politics.

Background : Age limits on employment in workplace is quite common (around 60 years old). Why don't we apply in politics? Are there any specific reasons or considerable matters for choosing politicians?

- 参考 : ●THE CONVERSATION.COM 'There's no age limit for politicians – as people live longer, should that change?'
<https://theconversation.com/theres-no-age-limit-for-politicians-as-people-live-longer-should-that-change-211318>
 ●「閣僚の平均年齢」が高い国ランキングTOP30 <https://nlab.itmedia.co.jp/research/articles/614298/>
 ●日本の政治は世界から何を学べるか <https://fq.yahoo.co.jp/politics2019/5.html>

Proposition

Choosing politicians would be revitalised when age limitation introduced.

1. Performance of politicians

(Claim)

-Age must be considered as one of the capability of politicians .

(Reason)

-Political activities require physical strength and quick response for politicians especially when he/she holds a high position like a minister or the President.

(Example)

-US president: physical and mental strength is quite critical for national crisis or administrative role like considering use of nuclear weapons and military operations.

-Cabinet members' age: it's roughly around 60 years old in Japan, US and South Korea. On the other hand, it's around 50 years old in western countries like UK, Australia, and Canada.

So physical and mental health directly affects decision making in critical situation.

Opposition

Choosing politicians are better to be judged by member of parliament(MP)'s performance and achievement without intervention.

1. Performance of politicians

(Claim)

-Age should not be the matter of choosing politicians.

(Reason)

-Politicians' performance would be evaluated based upon his/her excellence with experience, connections and background.

If the politician could perform well with physically strength, voters would not care about their age.

(Example)

-US president: Voters don't evaluate politicians with their age, rather evaluate their political competence with career, physical strength and personality.

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2. Generational change

(Claim)

-Politicians should be circulated with a new generation for enhancing innovative policy making.

(Reason)

-Stagnation of policy making for a long time would be made by same, old politicians who are not welcome changes.
 And the age range among politicians would be worse from the perspective of diversity for representing voters' opinions.

(Example)

-Our society has been changing dramatically with new industry, innovation of new technologies like SNS, Generative AI.
 But politics would not be caught up if there are only elder politicians, or they feel difficult to understand/make policies towards the situation of younger people couples, workers in economic suffering.

Opposition

Choosing politicians are better to be judged by member of parliament(MP)'s performance and achievement without intervention.

2. legitimacy of choosing politicians

(Claim)

-Intervention(pre-screening) for choosing politicians are not legitimate.

(Reason)

-Age limits for elder politicians means elimination of certain generations regardless of their performance.
 -Politicians should be chosen by voters' judgment, and their opportunities for elections should be open for all.

(Example)

-Job opportunities: When principles of equality are considered, people are able to have equal chances without factors unrelated to job performance, such as age, race or gender identity.
 So it is quite natural for maintaining environment without age limits for politicians.

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Comments/Questions after debate.

(Questions)

Q. When talking about age with physical strength, how can we consider 'physically challenged people' in a debate?

A. It is difficult to be consistent for the proposition, but you are expected to establish a distinction between those two.

e.g. Physically challenged people: impairments are not their fault, rather it is an issue for society/politics to achieve diversity.

Elder politicians: fall of physical strength affects performance for political activities and it's likely to happen when people reach at certain age.

-> freezing, losing memories caused by aging; they are directly affecting low performance of political activities.

Q. Referring an example of Joe Biden in presidential debate, how can we have sufficient reasoning to set age limits in politics?

A. Biden's health condition at the last presidential debate was symbolic, but the debate is not about 'Biden should be the US president or not.', but 'Age limits should be introduced or not.' So you can analyse and explain criteria when choosing political candidates.

(Comment)

Considerable issues in the debate;

1.Representation – World with/without age limits achieve better representation?

e.g. senior candidates have capital and ability to achieve policies and represent voices from voters.

2.Circustances - Age limits brings diversity and variety in politics?

3.Changes in the future - What kind of changes would happen in the future?(with current timeline, or with age limits)