

Adjudicator's guide to The Concern Debates

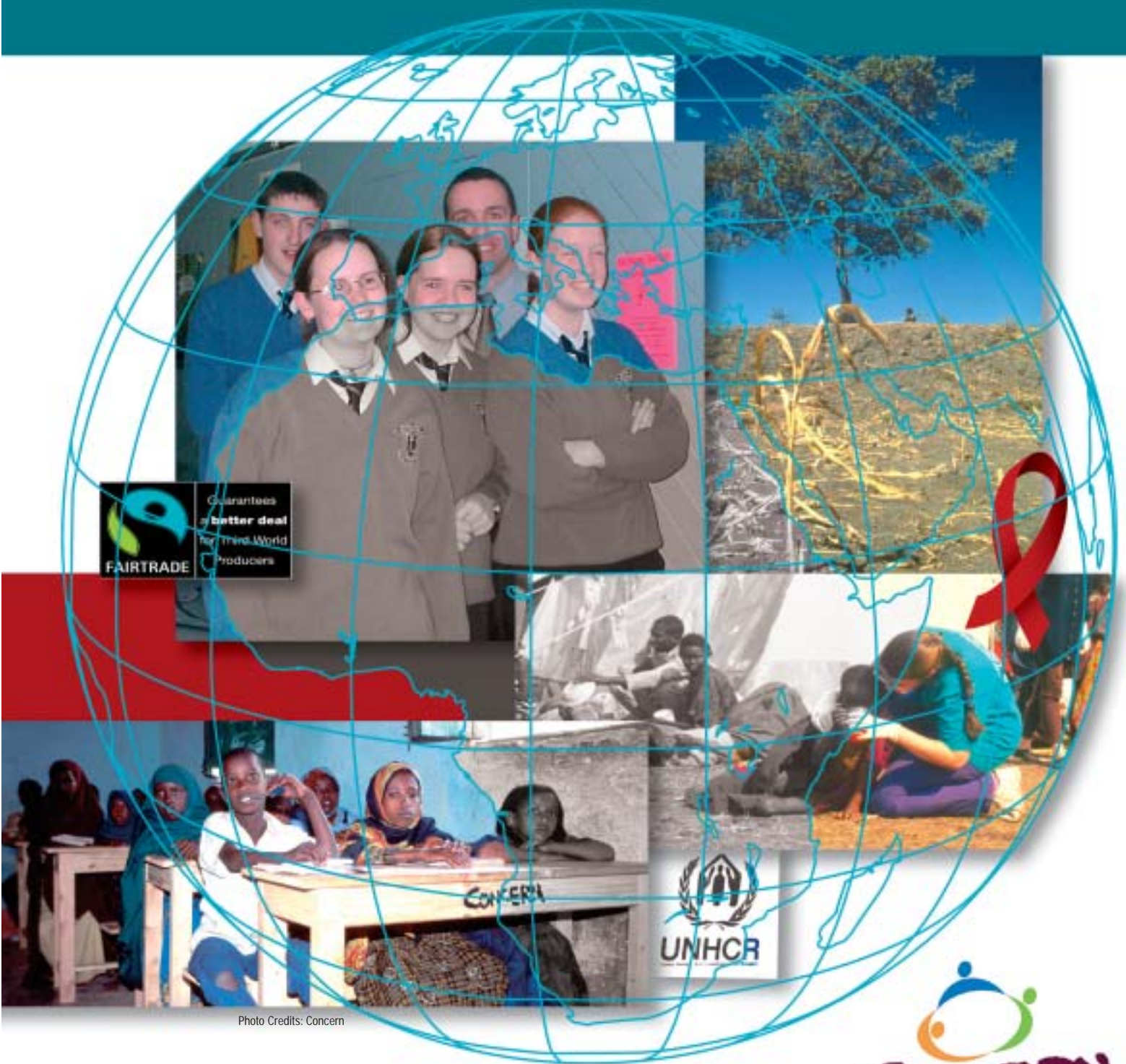


Photo Credits: Concern

...a blood supply was ready. He
...emergency arose in rela-
...case. He
...He said it
...minutes.
...ould take 30 min-
...a reasonably
...hysterectomy.
...with the hysterec-
...beginning about
...ft," on the kindest
...was upset at what had hap-
...what had she done wrong.
...Dr Neary denied he had said if
...he told her what had happened
...when she had the hysterectomy,
...she would never sleep again so she
...was better off not knowing and
...to go home and
...hysterectomy on Ms Gough had
...distressed him greatly. "I have pon-
...dered over it in my mind a thou-
...sand times as to whether anything
...different could have been done at
...the time and I am of the
...that I could



adjudicate (vb.) 1. to give a decision (on) esp. a formal or binding one. 2. (*intr.*) to serve as a judge or arbiter, as in a competition. (From Latin *adjudicare* to award something to someone.)

Collins English Dictionary, 1991

Adjudicator Check list

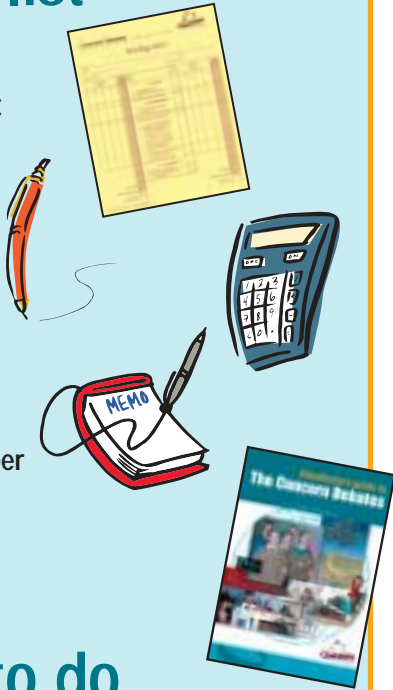
Marking Sheet

Pen / Pencil

Calculator

Blank notepaper

This guide



What to do in the event of ...

1. A team arriving late:

If a team fails to show after 30 minutes from the agreed starting time they will forfeit the debate. If, however they arrive just after the elapsed time and by mutual consent both teams agree to hold the debate then it may continue as per the running order.



2. An Adjudicator arriving late:

i. Allow a grace period of 15 minutes for an adjudicator to arrive.



After the 15 minute grace period has elapsed:

ii. Select either the chairperson or an impartial member of the audience to adjudicate.

iii. Proceed with two adjudicators

iv Phone the Concern Debates mobile on **(087) 797 3636**

Concern Debates Running Order

1. The Chairperson welcomes the participants, the adjudicators and the audience and outlines the nights proceedings
2. The Captain of the Proposition opens the debate by proposing the motion

Adjudicators mark the Captain

3. Speakers alternate between Opposition and Proposition until the fourth speaker from the Opposition has spoken

Adjudicators assign marks at the conclusion of each speaker's contribution

4. The Captain of the Opposition sums up on behalf of his/her team followed by the captain of the Proposition

Adjudicators assign marks at the conclusion of each captain's summation

5. The Adjudicators retire to an adjoining room to make their decision
6. Open Forum (while adjudicators are agreeing a decision) floor is opened to the audience
7. The Adjudicators return and the chief adjudicator delivers his/her feedback and the result
8. The Chief Adjudicator returns the timesheet, results sheet and marking sheets to Concern.

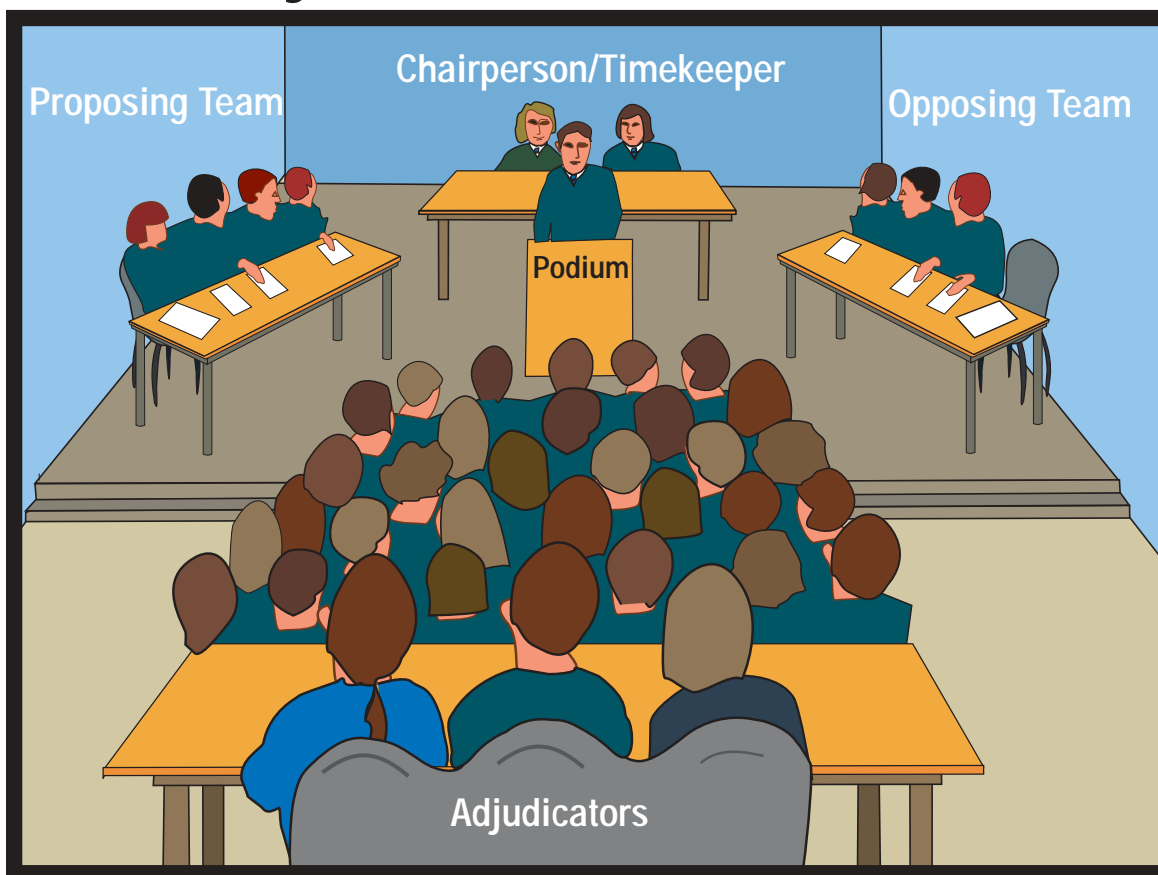
The Adjudication Panel

At each Concern Debate there are three adjudicators, one chief and two assistants. During the



League Phase of the debates, Concern appoints the chief adjudicator. The assistant adjudicators are supplied by schools from within the unit, a school-appointed adjudicator cannot be assigned to a debate in which his/her team is participating.

Room Layout



Hosting a Concern Debate

During each of the rounds in the league phase all four schools in a unit debate at the same venue and time. The school that is hosting the Concern Debates prepares two rooms. Both should be capable of holding an audience of 20-30 people.

Two rooms should also be provided to which the Adjudicators for each debate can retire to discuss their decision.

It is a custom of the Concern Debates that tea and coffee are provided for the teams and the audience after the Debates.



Concern Debates National Champions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1984-85 Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath | 1992-93 Sandford Park College, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 |
| 1985-86 Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim | 1993-94 St Joseph's College, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway |
| 1986-87 Pobalscoil Neasain, Baldoye, Dublin 13 | 1994-95 Ursuline Convent, Thurles, Co. Tipperary |
| 1987-88 Loreto Secondary School, Bray, Co. Wicklow | 1995-96 Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary |
| 1988-89 St Benildus College, Blackrock, Co. Dublin | 1996-97 Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon |
| 1989-90 St Patrick's Grammer School, Armagh, Co. Antrim | 1997-98 St. Joseph of Cluny, Kiliney, Co. Dublin |
| 1990-91 St Michael's College, Listowel, Co. Kerry | 1998-99 Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana, Co. Donegal |
| 1991-92 St Munchin's College, Corbally, Co. Limerick | 1999-00 Presentation College, Bray, Co. Wicklow |
| | 2000-01 No Final due to Foot and Mouth Alert |
| | 2001-02 St. Mary's College, Arklow, Co. Wicklow |

Arriving at a Decision

Once the Captain of the Proposition has concluded his/her summation and marks have been assigned, the three adjudicators repair to a nearby room to agree their decision.

Once in the room adjudicators can either begin by adding up the marking sheet or by engaging in a brief discussion highlighting a few general impressions of the debate.

Three options are open to adjudicators;

- 1) to give a unanimous decision (all three adjudicators agree),
- 2) to decide no team has emerged victorious (two agree)
- 3) to award a draw where the debate is so close that the adjudicators decide that no team has emerged victorious.

When the sheets have been added up and a decision agreed the Chief will then ask the two assistants for points that should be included in his/her feedback. It is not recommended that feedback be addressed to each individual speaker, rather points should be more broadly directed toward each team.

It is recommended that adjudicators spend a maximum of 15-20 minutes agreeing a decision.



Remember to give the Chief Adjudicator all marking sheets before leaving the adjudicators room.



Draw Rule

In the league phase it is permissible for adjudicators to reach the verdict of a draw if they feel both schools are equally matched.

Chief Adjudicator's Feedback

The Chief Adjudicator's feedback forms a vital part of the overall Debate. Good feedback will include **positive** remarks and **constructive** critique, focussing on each of the areas listed below. Individual students should only be singled out for exceptional effort and never for personal criticism.

Salient Points to be included in feedback:

- Definition of the motion (too narrow/too broad/just right)
- Research (Clear evidence of adequate and relevant research)
- Content (content appropriate and relevant to the motion)
- Refutation and Rebuttal (Clear evidence of both)
- Quoting of sources (facts supported by named sources)
- Captain's Summation (good reiteration and analysis)
- Team Work (evidence of team cooperation in preparation and delivery)
- Time Penalties (discipline regarding length of each speakers input)
- Use of humour (appropriate and engaging --- beware of sarcasm)



Chief Adjudicator Muiris O'Keefe

Credit: Concern

(for further tips see the 'Pocket Guide for Adjudicators').

World Poverty Map



Concern is a non-denominational organisation working to improve the lives of people living in absolute poverty in the least developed countries of the world

Development Education within Concern, seeks in a balanced way, to raise awareness and understanding of global issues that impact most severely upon those living in absolute poverty in the developing world.

Through active participation in education networks, provision of funding to development education and campaign groups as well as work at national and European level, Concern seeks to raise awareness leading to positive action at grassroot and government levels.

Through participation in the Concern Debates it is hoped that students will not only become active in justice and human rights issues, but will also acquire vital skills in critical thinking and public debate.

For more information about Concern Development Education contact 01 417 7733 or log onto



www.concern.net

Completing the Marking Sheet

The Concern Debates marking sheet is divided into three sections; Content, Debating Skills and Team Effort. Below is a guide to assigning marks under each of the relevant headings.

Marks Table

	Max. 30 marks	Max. 20 marks	Max. 15 marks	Max. 10 marks
Excellent	26-30 marks	18-20 marks	14-15 marks	10 marks
Very Good	22-25 marks	15-17 marks	11-13 marks	8-9 marks
Good	18-21 marks	12-14 marks	9-10 marks	6-7 marks
Moderate	14-17 marks	9-11 marks	7-8 marks	5 marks
Fair	>14 marks	> 9 marks	> 7 marks	> 5 marks

Time penalties:

Each participant speaks for 4 minutes and 30 seconds. The timekeeper rings the bell after 3 minutes and again after 4 minutes. Anyone who speaks for longer than 4 minutes and 30 seconds incurs a time penalty of 3 marks per minute or part thereof. Adjudicators should not take into account any information, rebuttal etc. that takes place after 4 minutes and 30 seconds.

Interruptions:

Calling for points of order or any form of interruption during a speaker's contribution is not permitted.

Sarcasm:

Sarcasm and personal remarks are not part of the Concern Debates. Teams deemed to be engaging in the above will be marked down by the adjudicators.

Captain's Summation:

The captain should summarise the arguments of his/her own team as well as refuting and rebutting the arguments presented by his/her opponents. A captain is not permitted to introduce new material during his/her summation, any new material should be penalised by adjudicators (approx. 5 marks)

- Marks are given for clear evidence of adequate research through the quotation of sources and the speakers understanding of the motion **(30 marks)**

- Marks are awarded for the relevance of the content to the motion **(20 marks)**

- Marks are awarded for a student's ability to interact with the audience by way of eye contact, body language, ease of comprehension etc. **(15 marks)**

- The speaker should have clear, well connected and forceful points **(10 marks)**

- To REFUTE something is to assemble evidence in order to prove it untrue. To REBUT something is to disprove or discredit it by offering a contrary contention or argument.

- Under refutation and rebuttal the captain of the proposition is marked on his/her definition of the motion and outlining his/her team's arguments. The captain of the opposition is marked for responding to the motion, outlining his/her team's arguments and for refuting the motion as proposed. **(20 marks)**

- Speakers should be marked down for constant use of his/her notes. Marks should be given if reference is made to the other team's arguments. **(10 marks)**

- The captain's summation should not only summarise his/her team's arguments but should analyse those of their opponents. New material should not be introduced in a captain's summation. **(30 marks)**

- Marks are assigned for obvious display of teamwork and coordination during the debate **(20 marks)**



Information about the Concern Debates

Background

Started in 1984, the Concern Debates is Ireland's longest running Secondary School Debates competition. Each year over 160 teams register for the debates from all regions of the country. The Debates aim to engage students in tackling global issues that impact on the lives of thousands of people living in the Developing World. The Concern Debates are open to all senior cycle secondary school students, from Transition Year to Sixth Year. Each team consists of four members and substitutes.

Concern Debates Resources

Adjudicators guide to the Concern Debates

"Speak Out" – a handbook for the Concern Debates

Pocket Guide For Adjudicators

Concern Debates Rule Book



Concern Debates Calendar

At the beginning of each year participating schools are divided into units comprised of 4 teams. Teams finishing first in their unit progress to the knockout phase, which concludes in May at the National Final.

League Phase – Before Christmas

Round 1	<i>Mid October</i>
Round 2	<i>First week in November</i>
Round 3	<i>First week in December</i>

Knockout Phase – January - May

Round 4	<i>Third week in January</i>
Round 5	<i>Mid February</i>
Round 6	<i>Early March</i>
Quarter Finals	<i>Late March</i>
Semi Finals	<i>Mid April</i>
National Final	<i>Early May</i>

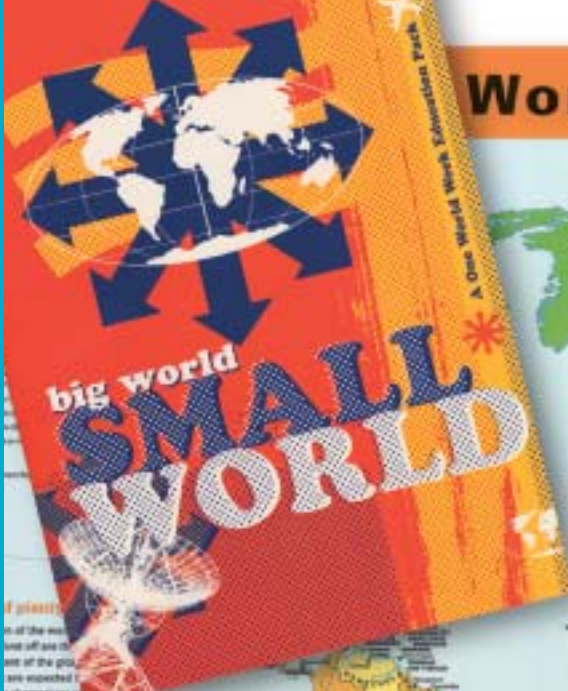
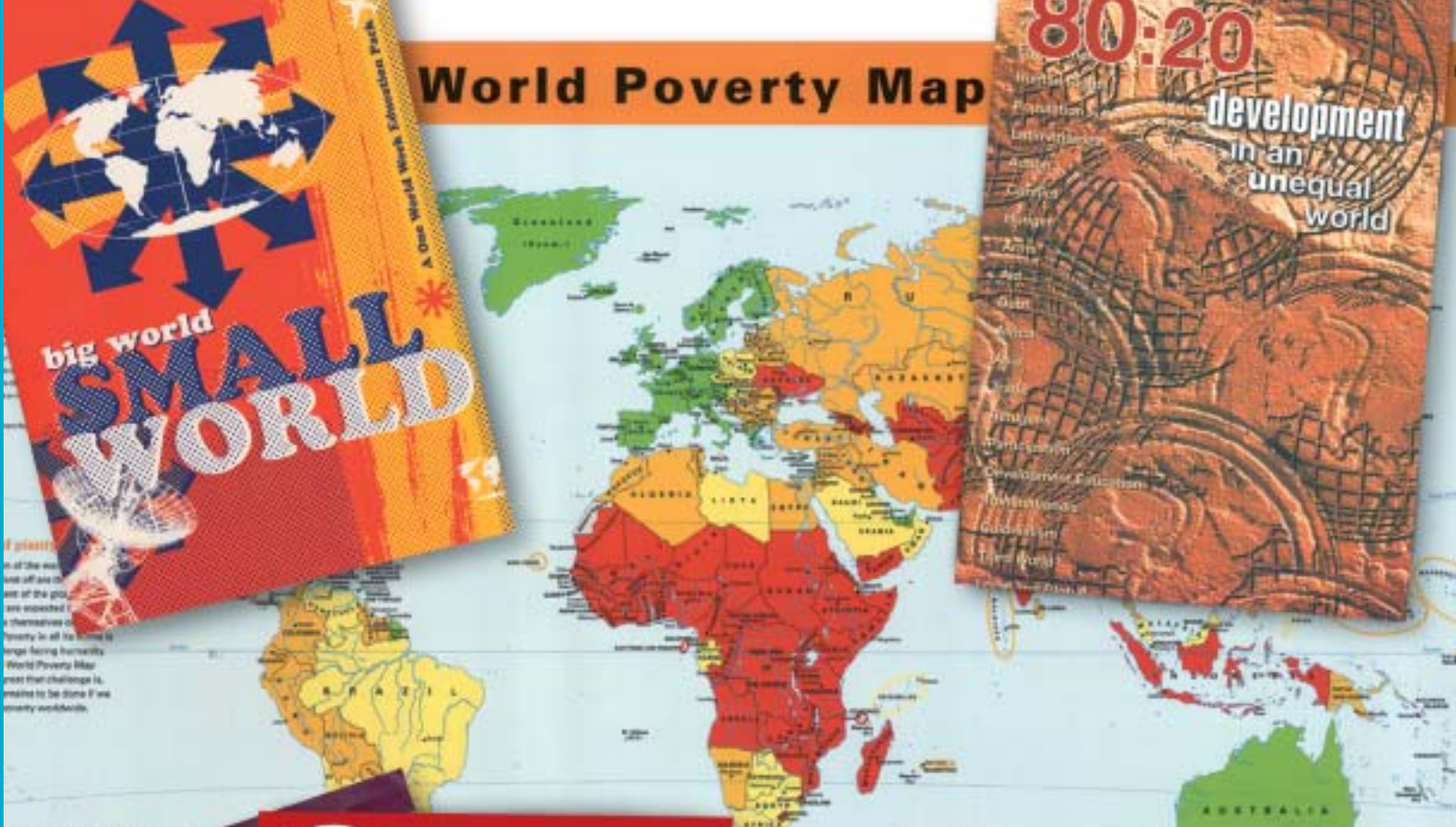
Points Table

The following table demonstrates how points are allocated after each debate in the League Phase.

Unanimous Win	3
Majority Win	2
Draw	1.5
Majority Loss	1
Unanimous loss	0



WEDNESDAY, Thursday
WORLD NEWS
...n w
...ough was call
...vidence in
...that certain
...his case. He
...was ready
...arose in rela-



- Concern Resources**
- World Poverty Map
 - 80:20 – 'Development in an unequal world'
 - Development Issues Series
 - big world SMALL WORLD
 - Concern Annual Review



www.developmenteducationireland.org

How to contact us:
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 Email: debates@concern.ie • Websites: Debates: www.concerndebates.org • Concern: www.concern.net

...as a matter of course
 1992. He said he stood con
 over his stating on Tuesday
 'are. Mr Nugent said that s
 ly broke in 1994. Dr Neary
 t before 1994, there was c
 n in relation to HIV.
 He appea