



What shall we do with the King?

- It is 1649. King Charles has been captured after trying to invade England with the Scots, and Oliver Cromwell is demanding that we charge the King with treason (betrayal) against the English people.
- You are an MP who has been summoned to Parliament to discuss this delicate situation. In the debate which took place, the points which you see in the table have all been raised.
- The debate has now finished, and you have been asked to offer your opinions on each of the following questions.

Task

- Use your own knowledge and the information below to answer each of the following questions
 - TIP: Divide a clean page into four boxes to limit how much you write.
1. Do you think that the King should be put on trial?
 2. If a trial took place and he was found guilty, what sentence should he be given?
 3. If the trial took place, should it be held in public, or in private?
 4. What methods could we use to make sure that the King is found guilty?

NOTES FROM THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

If the King is found guilty, what do we do with him then?	The King says he has been appointed by God. So is it a sin to put him on trial?
A trial is a good way of getting to the truth	Both sides have committed terrible acts of violence during the wars
If the King is punished in any way he could become a martyr – everyone would have sympathy for him.	After escaping from the Isle of Wight, the King used the Scottish Army to start another war against the English
No King has ever been put on trial before	Lots of MP's are very uncomfortable about the idea of putting the King on trial
Oliver Cromwell's army is getting more and more powerful	The King's son (Prince Charles) is still on the loose
Is the King right to say that God has appointed him as King so he cannot be brought to trial?	If the King is found guilty, what should be done with him?
If we don't have a trial, what do we do with the King?	The King clearly cannot be trusted
What if he is found not guilty?	The Roundheads have committed terrible acts of violence too, not just the Cavaliers