Motion of the debate is …

This House believes that the prime minister should be directly elected by citizens.

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

ESUJ Debate Club - Practice meeting(2024.11.24 (Sun.))

Round1:

This House believes that the prime minister should be directly elected by citizens.

Background: Representation and accountability are key factors in choosing a politician or political leader during an election. To improve the state of politics, is there room to consider alternative methods for selecting the prime minister in a parliamentary system?

参考：●首相公選制とは？ https://blog.smartsenkyo.com/2967/
●ディベート甲子園「日本は首相公選制を導入すべきである」
https://nade.jp/files/uploads/2013%20%E9%AB%98%E6%A0%A1%E8%AB%96%E9%A1%8C%E8%A7%A3%E8%AA%AC__2.pdf
●Pros & Cons of Direct Democracy
https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/revision-notes/a-level/political-studies/edexcel/1-1-2-pros-and-cons-of-direct-democracy
●Should prime ministers be elected by direct election by popular vote? What are pros and cons of this?
https://www.quora.com/Should-prime-ministers-be-elected-by-direct-election-by-popular-vote-What-are-pros-and-cons-of-this

Proposition

Directly electing the prime minister would improve the situation in representation and accountability for the role of the prime minister.

1. legitimacy of choosing the prime minister

(Claim)

-Directly electing the prime minister by popular vote is more legitimate for citizens.

(Reason)

-Citizens directly listen to and assess candidates for the prime minister according to candidates' character, career, political beliefs, and promises in the election. Citizens would feel the outcome is more legitimate and acceptable towards a political leader.

(Example)

-General election in Japan:
Despite the result of a significant loss of parliament seats, the prime minister can remain in their position under the status quo. If the prime minister is chosen directly, the prime minister's representation would more directly reflect the will of the people.

Opposition

Directly electing the prime minister is potentially harmful to politics, as it may lead to 'mob rule' driven by popular votes.

1. Accountability under the status quo

(Claim)

-The accountability of political leaders and political parties is largely assured under the status quo.

(Reason)

-Citizens choose a political party and candidates through news, social media platforms and public speeches during the general election campaign. Citizens can also access various sources of information based on their interests. If existing media coverage or the accountability of politicians is insufficient, they will lose seats and support in the parliament ultimately.

(Example)

-In general elections in the UK and Japan: Televised debate with audience, SNS by political parties. Political leaders are required to explain their past activities and political achievements.
In 2024, the Conservative Party in the UK and the Liberal Democratic party in Japan lost in the general election, due to failures in economic policy and a lack of accountability in political fund reporting.

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Proposition

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2. Interests and participation of citizens in the election

(Claim)

-Directly electing the prime minister by popular vote enhances political functioning.

(Reason)

-Candidates for the position of prime minister are expected to articulate their policies and future vision for gaining support from citizens.
Also their achievements and failures in the past are evaluated.

(Example)

-The election of a prefectural governor is a clear judgment based on their career, character and achievements during the campaign.

Opposition

Directly electing the prime minister is potentially harmful to politics, as it may lead to 'mob rule' driven by popular votes.

2. Chaos in the parliament

(Claim)

-Directly electing the prime minister will bring harm to decision-making.

(Reason)

-An elected prime minister does not align with majority of the party or its members in the parliament.
It is likely to result in a hung parliament and chaotic situations in political decision-making and lawmaking.

(Example)

-In the 1990s in Israel, the prime minister found it difficult to negotiate with small parties, which prolonged decision-making and led to dysfunction in the parliament.

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Comments/Questions after debate.

(Questions)

Q. Is it okay to raise example with actual political figures?

A. No problem. The important thing is to explain the situation or logic that supports why your opinion is superior, using examples of specific politicians or political systems.

(Comment)

(key terms, possible expressions)

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Reference - Defining Democracy - Summary

Democracy: A system of governance that seeks to maximise…

Accountability

'Checks and Balances'

Some sort of oversight and everyone is answerable to someone.

'The separation of Powers' *advanced by Charles Montesque*

Parliament(Legislative), Courts(Judiciary) &Executive (Government)

Representation

'the principle of representation'

All citizens and people have a right to be heard in their political system.

'Representation for minorities'

e.g. Subsidiarity(補完性), Opposition(野党), Proportional voting(比例代表)

Participation

'the most basic/important principle'

unless there is a very good reason, everyone deserve a vote and all votes should have equal weight.

'exceptions' – no rights to vote

Reference:
"The Next Step – A guide to first principles for idea junkies."
By Time Sonnreich – Easters 2008 Edition
https://ashtonc.ca/debate/books/Guide_To_First_Principles-Tim_Sonnreich.pdf