

# BBC Licence Fee Scrapped

 Level: B2/C1  Topic: Culture & History  tokizz.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Warm-Up: Speaking

Discuss these questions with a partner before watching the video.

1. Do you watch or listen to the BBC? What do you think of it?
2. Should public television be funded by the government, viewers, or advertisers?
3. Is it fair to charge every household for a TV licence, even if they don't watch the BBC?
4. What would be lost if the BBC disappeared? What might improve?
5. How is public broadcasting funded in your country? Is it a good system?

## 2. Video: Good Morning Britain Debate

Watch the debate and take notes in the table below. Write arguments FOR and AGAINST scrapping the licence fee.

**Video:** Good Morning Britain — "Is It Time to Scrap the BBC Licence Fee?" (YouTube ID: iBnHqsGqiSU)

Category	FOR scrapping the fee	AGAINST scrapping the fee
Funding & fairness		
Quality of content		
Public service value		
Alternatives (subscription/ads)		
Impact on British culture		

## 3. Who Says These Words?

Match each quote to the correct speaker: *Esther*, *Madlaine*, or *Presenter*.

#	Quote	Speaker
1	"It's not fair to charge people who never watch the BBC."	
2	"The BBC is the envy of the world."	
3	"Without the licence fee, we lose the independence that makes the BBC what it is."	
4	"Young people don't watch live TV — they stream everything."	

5	"We need to have this conversation about what the BBC is for."	
6	"I've worked in television for decades and the BBC is irreplaceable."	

## 4. Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions in full sentences.

1. What is the BBC licence fee and how much does it currently cost?

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2. What argument does Esther Rantzen make in favour of keeping the licence fee?

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3. What does Madlaine McTernan suggest as an alternative to the licence fee?

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4. What does the presenter mean when she says the BBC is "the envy of the world"?

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5. What is the main risk of moving to a subscription model?

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6. What does "scrapping" the licence fee mean?

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7. How does the debate reflect broader questions about public vs. private media?

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## 5. Key Vocabulary

Term	Polish	Definition
<b>licence fee</b>	<i>opłata licencyjna</i>	A charge paid by households for the right to watch live television or use a public broadcaster's services.
<b>to scrap</b>	<i>zlikwidować</i>	To abandon or get rid of something completely.
<b>public service broadcasting</b>	<i>nadawanie w służbie publicznej</i>	Broadcasting that aims to serve the public interest rather than make profit.
<b>subscription model</b>	<i>model subskrypcyjny</i>	A system where users pay regularly to access a service.
<b>editorial independence</b>	<i>niezależność redakcyjna</i>	The freedom of a media organisation to make journalistic decisions without external interference.

<b>to privatise</b>	<i>sprywatyzować</i>	To transfer a publicly owned organisation to private ownership.
<b>impartial</b>	<i>bezstronny</i>	Not biased; treating all sides equally.
<b>universal service</b>	<i>usługa powszechna</i>	A service available to all citizens regardless of income or location.
<b>to abolish</b>	<i>znieść, zlikwidować</i>	To formally put an end to a law, system, or institution.
<b>outdated</b>	<i>przestarzały</i>	No longer relevant because of changes in society or technology.
<b>charter</b>	<i>karta, statut</i>	An official document defining an organisation's purpose and obligations.
<b>accountability</b>	<i>odpowiedzialność</i>	The obligation to explain and justify one's actions to others.
<b>evasion</b>	<i>uchylanie się</i>	The act of deliberately avoiding a legal obligation.
<b>to subsidise</b>	<i>dotować</i>	To provide financial support to keep costs low.
<b>irreplaceable</b>	<i>niezastąpiony</i>	Too valuable or unique to be substituted.
<b>to stream</b>	<i>streamować</i>	To watch or listen to media online in real time.
<b>to criminalise</b>	<i>kryminalizować</i>	To make something illegal; to treat an action as criminal.
<b>commercial broadcaster</b>	<i>nadawca komercyjny</i>	A TV/radio company that earns money through advertising rather than public funding.
<b>to fund</b>	<i>finansować</i>	To provide money for a project, organisation, or activity.
<b>to debate</b>	<i>debatować</i>	To discuss a topic formally, presenting arguments for and against.

## 6. Word Formation

Use the word roots in the box to fill in the gaps. You may need to add a prefix or suffix.

1. FOUND

2. POPULAR

3. UNITE

4. SATISFY

5. REFORM

6. FAIR

7. IMPORTANT

8. PRESS

9. PRIVATE

10. DEPEND

The BBC has long been considered a cornerstone of British public life. Its (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1927 gave Britain one of the world's first national broadcasters. For decades, the corporation enjoyed widespread (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and was seen as a symbol of cultural (3) \_\_\_\_\_. However, in recent years, growing (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with the licence fee model has led to calls for (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Critics argue that the current system lacks (6) \_\_\_\_\_, as it requires all households to pay regardless of whether they watch the BBC. Supporters, on the other hand, stress the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of maintaining a publicly funded broadcaster that is free from commercial (8) \_\_\_\_\_. They warn that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ would lead to a loss of editorial (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and ultimately damage the quality of British journalism.

## 7. ABCD Vocabulary Test

Choose the best word or phrase (A, B, C or D) to complete each sentence.

1. The government is considering \_\_\_ the licence fee and replacing it with a subscription model.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. abolishing	<input type="radio"/> B. establishing
<input type="radio"/> C. extending	<input type="radio"/> D. reviewing
2. Many viewers argue that the BBC's \_\_\_ makes it more trustworthy than commercial news channels.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. subscription	<input type="radio"/> B. impartiality
<input type="radio"/> C. evasion	<input type="radio"/> D. charter
3. The BBC is required by its \_\_\_ to provide content that informs, educates, and entertains.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. licence	<input type="radio"/> B. subscription
<input type="radio"/> C. charter	<input type="radio"/> D. accountability
4. Critics say the flat-rate fee is \_\_\_ because poorer households pay the same as wealthy ones.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. impartial	<input type="radio"/> B. irreplaceable
<input type="radio"/> C. unfair	<input type="radio"/> D. outdated
5. If the BBC were \_\_\_, it would need to rely on advertising or subscriptions to survive.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. subsidised	<input type="radio"/> B. privatised
<input type="radio"/> C. abolished	<input type="radio"/> D. streamed
6. The BBC's \_\_\_ obligation means it must serve all audiences, including minority communities.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. commercial	<input type="radio"/> B. universal service
<input type="radio"/> C. subscription	<input type="radio"/> D. editorial
7. Licence fee \_\_\_ is technically a criminal offence, though prosecutions are rare.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. evasion	<input type="radio"/> B. subscription
<input type="radio"/> C. funding	<input type="radio"/> D. reform
8. Supporters argue that the BBC is \_\_\_ — no other broadcaster could replace what it does.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. outdated	<input type="radio"/> B. impartial
<input type="radio"/> C. irreplaceable	<input type="radio"/> D. commercial
9. The BBC's \_\_\_ independence is protected by its charter, which prevents government interference in editorial decisions.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. editorial	<input type="radio"/> B. commercial
<input type="radio"/> C. subscription	<input type="radio"/> D. universal
10. Some economists suggest the BBC should be \_\_\_ through general taxation rather than a separate household fee.
 

<input type="radio"/> A. privatised	<input type="radio"/> B. streamed
<input type="radio"/> C. subsidised	<input type="radio"/> D. abolished

## 8. Speaking Vocabulary Revision

Use these words and phrases in the discussion. Tick each one as you use it.

**Quizlet Flashcards:** [quizlet.com/pl/487452782/bbc-licence-fee-scrapped-flash-cards](https://quizlet.com/pl/487452782/bbc-licence-fee-scrapped-flash-cards)

### licence fee

/ˈlaɪsəns fiː/

A charge paid by households for the right to watch live TV.

### to scrap

/skræp/

To abandon or get rid of something completely.

### impartial

/ɪmˈpɑːjəl/

Not biased; treating all sides equally.

### editorial independence

### to privatise

### subscription model

/ˌedɪˈtɔːriəlˌɪndɪˈpendəns/

Freedom to make journalistic decisions without external interference.

/ˈpraɪvətəɪz/

To transfer a publicly owned organisation to private ownership.

/səbˈskɪrɪpʃənˈmɒdəl/

A system where users pay regularly to access a service.

**accountability**

/əˌkaʊntəˈbɪlɪti/

The obligation to explain and justify one's actions.

**outdated**

/ˌaʊtˈdeɪtɪd/

No longer relevant because of changes in technology.

**to abolish**

/əˈbɒlɪʃ/

To formally put an end to a law or institution.

**public service broadcasting**

/ˈpʌblɪkˈsɜːvɪs/

Broadcasting that serves the public interest rather than profit.

**evasion**

/ɪˈveɪʒən/

Deliberately avoiding a legal obligation.

**to subsidise**

/ˈsʌbsɪdaɪz/

To provide financial support to keep costs low.

**irreplaceable**

/ˌɪrɪˈpleɪsəbl/

Too valuable or unique to be substituted.

**charter**

/ˈtʃɑːtə/

An official document defining an organisation's purpose.

**universal service**

/ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːsəlˈsɜːvɪs/

A service available to all citizens regardless of income.

**to stream**

/striːm/

To watch or listen to media online in real time.

## 9. Discussion Questions

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups. Try to use the vocabulary from Section 8.

### 1. Should every household be required to pay for public broadcasting, even if they never use it? Why / why not?

licence fee   universal service   to subsidise   accountability

### 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a subscription model for the BBC compared to the current licence fee?

subscription model   to privatise   editorial independence   commercial broadcaster

### 3. How important is it for a country to have a public broadcaster that is independent from the government and advertisers?

impartial   editorial independence   public service broadcasting   charter

### 4. Do you think the BBC licence fee model is outdated in the age of streaming? What would you replace it with?

outdated   to stream   to abolish   to scrap

### 5. Is it right to criminalise people who don't pay the licence fee? What does this tell us about how society values public media?

evasion   to criminalise   accountability   irreplaceable

### Answer Key

**Who Says These Words?** 1-Madlaine · 2-Presenter · 3-Esther · 4-Madlaine · 5-Presenter · 6-Esther

**Word Formation:** 1-foundation · 2-popularity · 3-unity · 4-dissatisfaction · 5-reform · 6-fairness · 7-importance · 8-pressure · 9-privatisation · 10-independence

**ABCD Test:** 1-A · 2-B · 3-C · 4-C · 5-B · 6-B · 7-A · 8-C · 9-A · 10-C