




Ideology and extremism: What is a radical ideology?



Danny often kicks back, leaving YouTube to play suggested videos. Sometimes the algorithm gets it bang on, showing weightlifting tips – something Danny's into. Yesterday though, it started playing a health channel he'd not seen before. At one point, the hosts started talking about how it should always be *'females that do the cooking'*.

Discuss: Why is YouTube playing this video to Danny when he's into sport and fitness?



Hmm. Obviously never tried my mom's cooking.

What do you think we mean by the word ideology?

I think ideology means...

CLUE: beliefs ideas

Ideology and extremism: What is a radical ideology?



Learning outcomes:

Describe how social media may disproportionately feature exaggerated or inaccurate information about situations, or extreme viewpoints; to recognise why and how this may influence opinions and perceptions of people and events.

Ideology - A system of ideas and beliefs belonging to an individual or a group. Some are harmful, some are not. Both Capitalism and Communism are ideologies. You can also have religious ideologies.

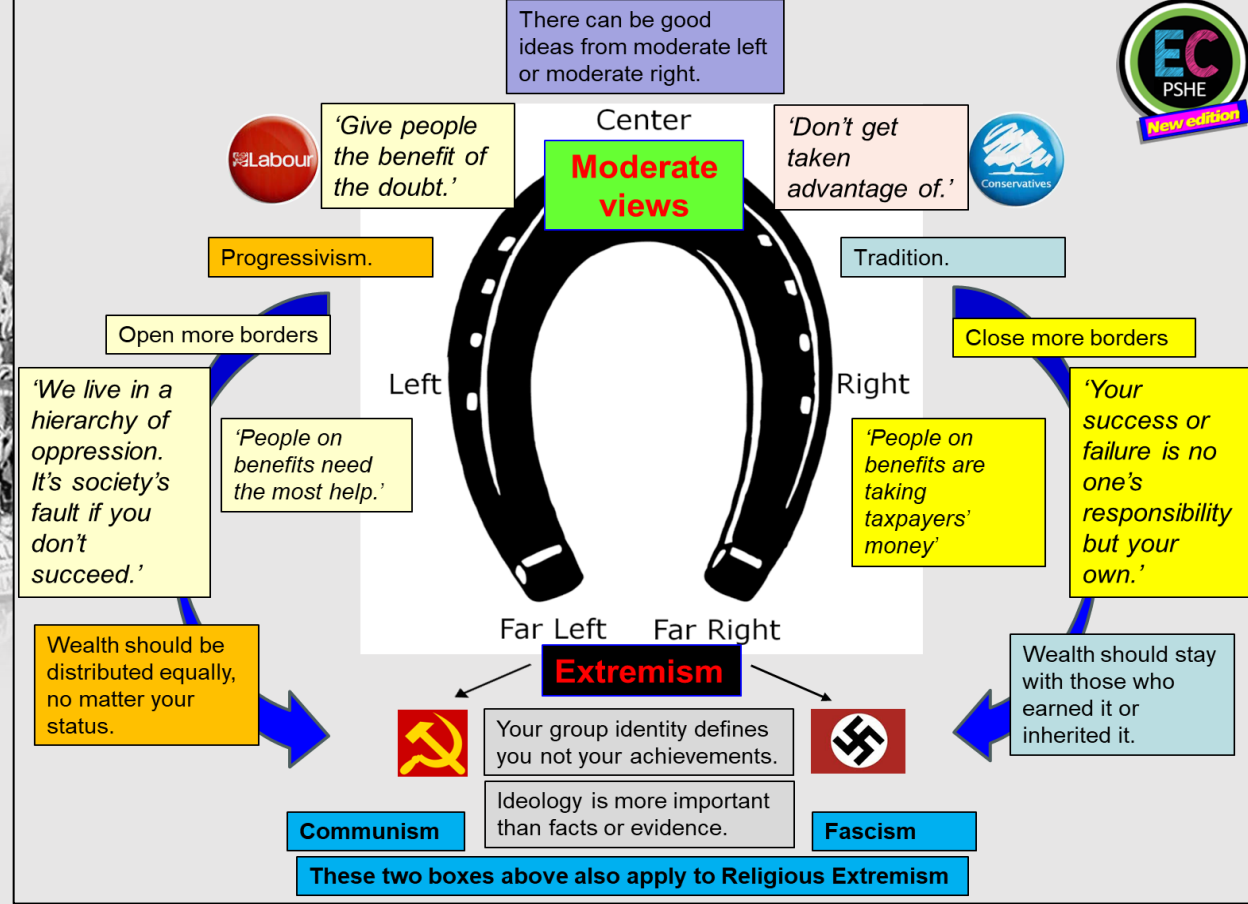


Did you know? The average teen spends 1.9 hours per day watching YouTube and 1.5 hours per day watching TikTok.

Today we're going to be focusing on how people can be gently indoctrinated into belief systems without their consent and sometimes without even realising it. Danny, through innocently watching health and fitness videos, has been shown a video where the hosts, although supposedly presenting a 'health and fitness' podcast, are also sharing their own misogynistic views. It may be that they think their audience will agree or find it funny, or it may be that they are trying to reach people like Danny, to convince him to begin to share their belief system, their *ideology*.

To help with today's tasks, you have just been given a political compass. There are many ways of showing a political compass, showing basic left, right and extremist ideology. This example uses the horseshoe shape and is quite simplified version.

Much detail could be added to this (as it's a very complex subject), but this version will be useful for our tasks today.



We'll go through this together as a class now. You might be interested in marking where you feel you currently fall on the political compass. Don't worry if you're not sure. Many people aren't sure as teenagers and it's most likely where you place yourself will change over the years, as you find out more about the world and further form your own opinions.

Your character, achievements and kindness to others is the most important thing about you.

There can be good ideas from moderate left or moderate right.

Your character, achievements and work ethic is the most important thing about you.



'Give people the benefit of the doubt.'

Center Moderate views

'Don't get taken advantage of.'



BELONG CARE ASPIRE SUCCEED

Progressivism.

Tradition.

Open more borders

Close more borders

Left

Right

'We live in a hierarchy of oppression. It's society's fault if you don't succeed.'

'People on benefits need the most help.'

'People on benefits are taking taxpayers' money'

'Your success or failure is no one's responsibility but your own.'

Wealth should be distributed equally, no matter your status.

Wealth should stay with those who earned it or inherited it.

Far Left Far Right

Extremism



Your group identity defines you not your achievements.



Communism

Ideology is more important than facts or evidence.

Fascism

These two boxes above also apply to Religious Extremism

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



We're now going to examine some statements which have been **shared thousands of times on TikTok.**

These are real statements but have been slightly shortened for our task. The profile pics and names have also been changed. **Some statements seem a little unusual or even shocking, but these are genuine opinions which have had many views, sometimes in the millions.**

If you are a TikTok user, you need to be able to recognise an extreme viewpoint from a moderate one, as they will never be labelled as such by the creators.

Todd, 17.

'People say there's no difference between races. As a Chinese guy, I know this isn't true. There's something about us that just makes us smarter, more hard-working and generally more successful than your average Brit.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?

Far Left Left Centre Right Far Right
Extreme Moderate Extreme



Let's look at our first example together. How might we fill in the first template? Use your political horseshoe to help.



Billie, 40.

'I think there's something broken in Britain right now. There are so many children in poverty, who have either one or both parents working. So many families have to use food banks and can't afford energy bills. The government should be doing more.'

Explain your reasoning:

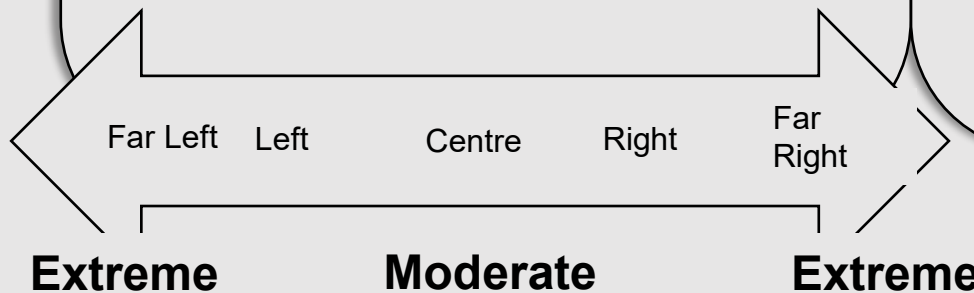
This is a pretty sensible statement that is hard to disagree with. Some might see it as slightly left of centre she criticises the UK's right of centre government. However, many people right of centre may agree with this too.

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

This isn't dangerous. It doesn't incite hate or harm for any group. It suggests the government need to make changes to help those in need.

What might a counter-argument

A counter argument might be that the situation is partly caused by factors outside of British control – energy prices are affected by war, for example.



Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



You will now complete some more templates yourself – choose three and we'll discuss our answers as a class later. Some people may have different opinions on where exactly on the scale each statement lies, but the main point is, you need to be able to identify the extreme views from the moderate ones.



Ensure you colour in or circle where the statement lies on the arrow scale (underneath the statement) and justify your ideas on the right-hand side.

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Far Left Left Centre Right Far Right

Extreme Moderate Extreme

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



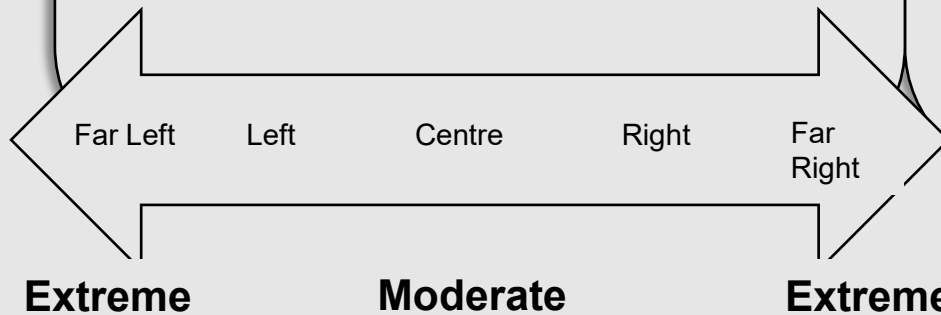
Richard, 20.

'We all know really that the sexes aren't equal. Why do we pretend? Why are there so many more male inventors than female ones? Modern women want it all on a plate and have no respect for men as their superiors.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



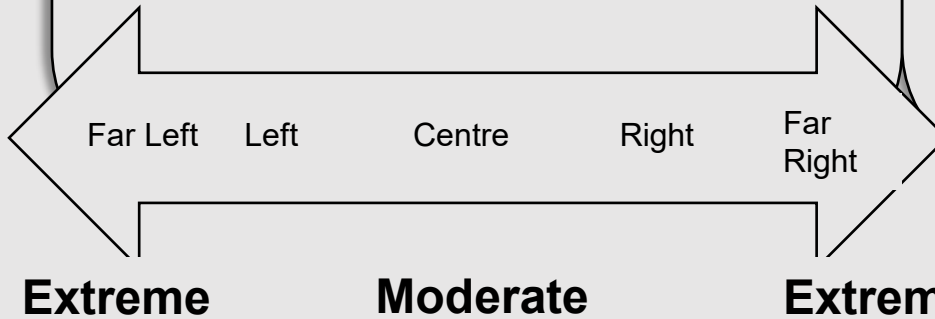
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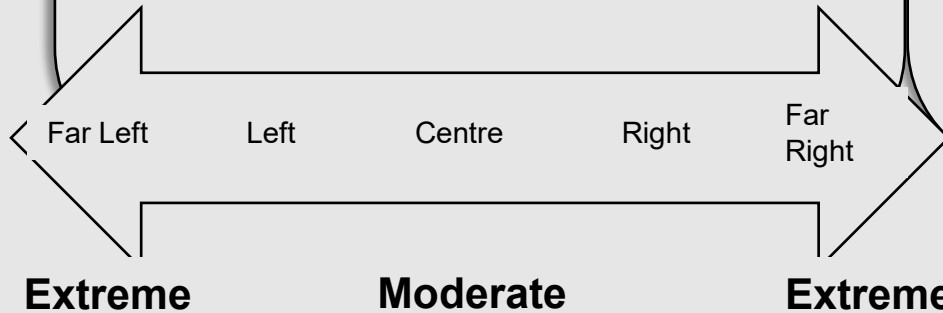
Lisa, 23.

'I think everyone who joins the police does so because they want to push people around and feel a sense of power. All cops are bad. All police are racist. Black police aren't real black people. A real black person would never join the police.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



Sammy, 35.

'I'm a proud transwoman. But you know what? I don't think transwomen should compete against biological women in certain physical sports. We have an advantage of muscle mass, bone density and years of growing up with testosterone in our system. I've seen people get hurt and I just don't think it's fair.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?

Far Left

Left

Centre

Right

Far
Right

Extreme

Moderate

Extreme

ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



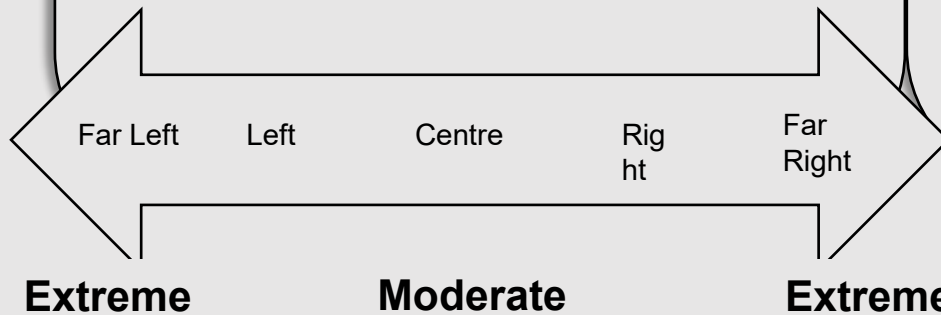
Maria, 40.

'People give me a hard time because I'm a trans woman on a lesbian dating app. No, I've had no surgery, yes part of the week I still live as a man, but if lesbians aren't prepared to accept my identity as a woman, that makes them the bigots.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



Teorii, 18.

'I think it's incredible in this day and age that huge companies like Amazon can get away with paying so little tax. Just think what that money could be spent on – schools, the NHS, homing the homeless, feeding the hungry. It's despicable.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?

Far Left

Left

Centre

Right

Far
Right

Extreme

Moderate

Extreme

ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



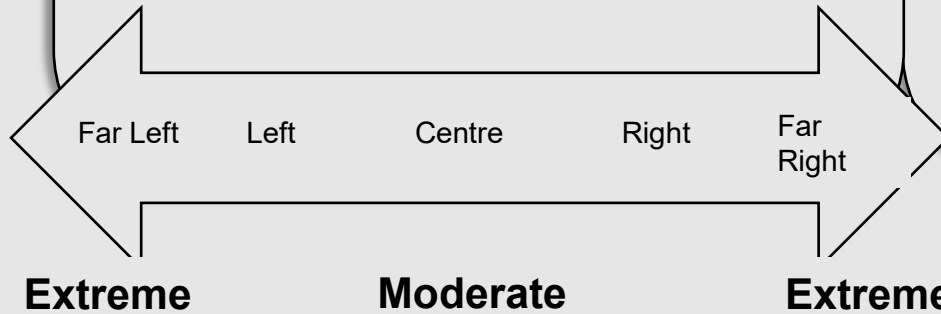
Jemma, 16.

'Burn the rich.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



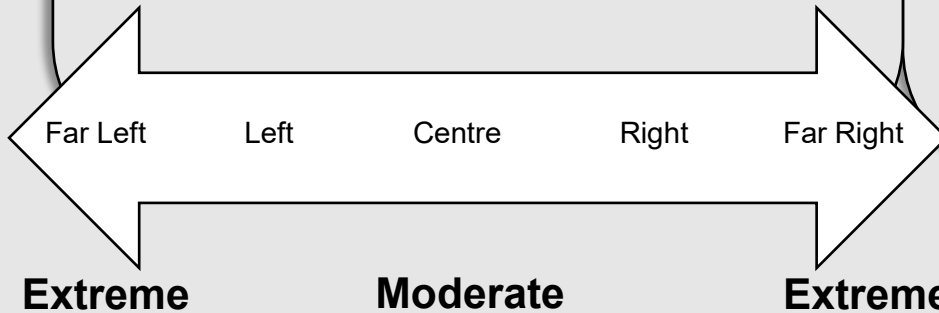
Clara 22.

'There are too many people coming to Britain illegally. We do need immigration, but it needs to be managed carefully. My parents had to prove they had jobs to come to, I think this should be the case for everyone, except some asylum seekers in severe need – but this should be rare.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



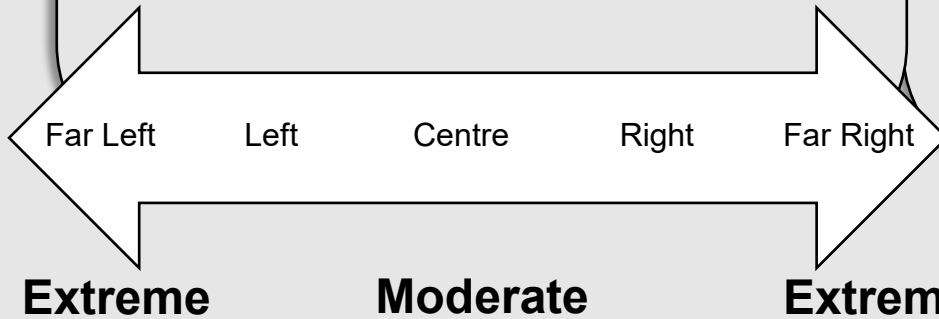
Elissa 34.

'ALL men are potential rapists.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



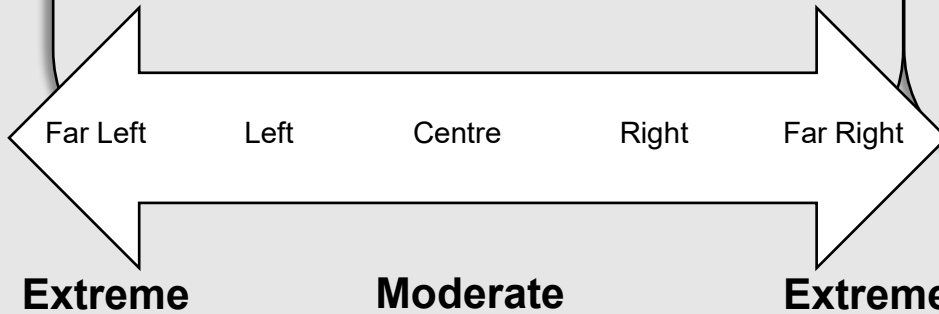
Kariel, 27.

'The responsible thing for us all to do is to stop having children. People should be fined for over-populating. The human race is destroying the world, we need far less of us.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



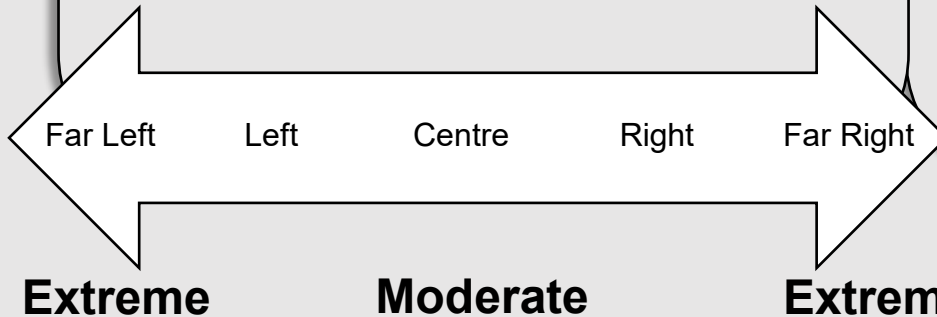
Brian, 30.

'We need to prioritise the climate above all else. Extinction Rebellion had some great ideas, but I actually think inconveniencing the public with roadblocks turns people off our cause. It's politicians and big business we need to target our message at.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



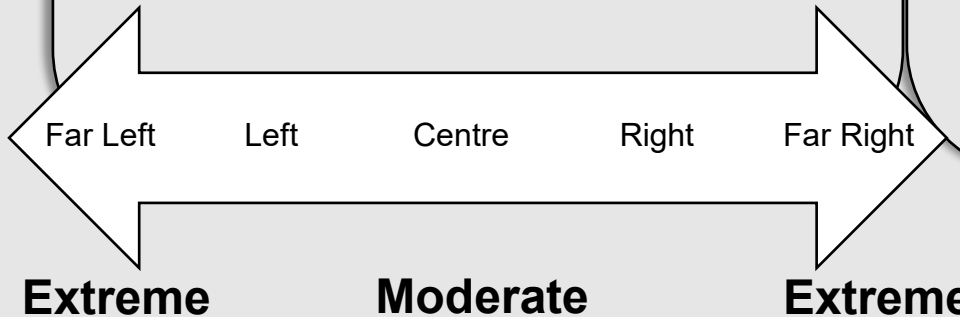
Darran, 25.

'I've seen in some American colleges they have segregated (white and black) common rooms and even separate graduation ceremonies. I agree with this as all white people are the living embodiment of black oppression.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



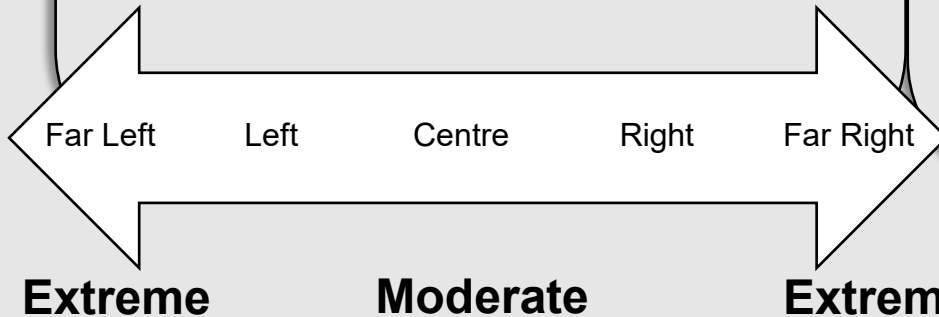
Emma, 24.

'I think it's so sad that some American institutions actually want segregation. It's like going back to the 1950s. No one is responsible for what happened before they were even born. Segregation breeds racism as it stops socialisation and stops us learning we really are just all the same.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



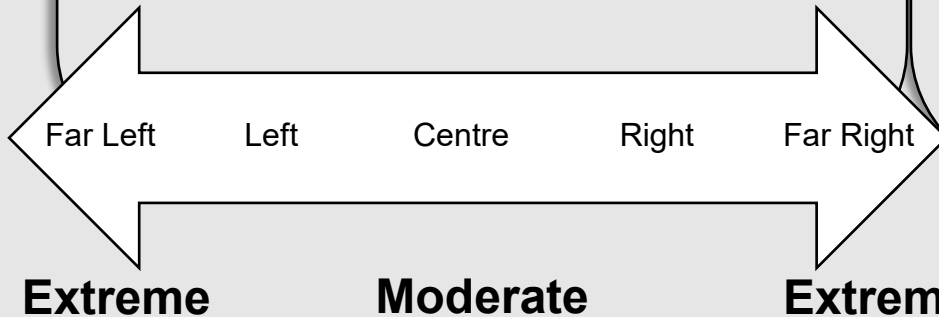
Roger, 55.

'Ban all Muslims from entering Britain. This is supposed to be a Christian country.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

Extreme and radical or moderate and sensible statement?



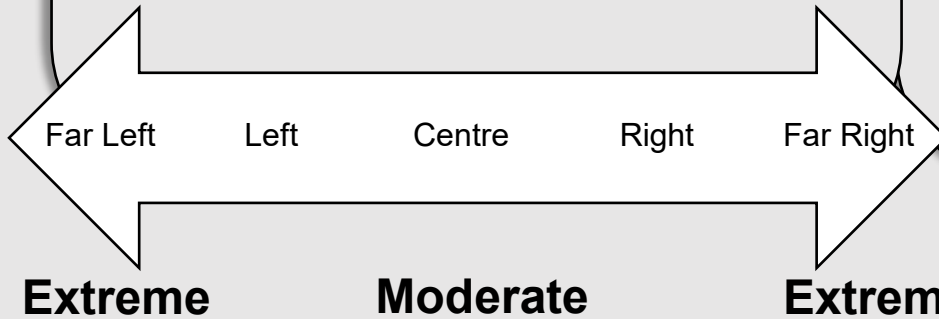
Kran, 60.

'I think that homosexuality is a serious sin and should be punished by death. Obviously, I wouldn't enact it myself, but I would like a religious government to do so.'

Explain your reasoning:

If you feel this is a dangerous statement, explain why:

What might a counter-argument be?



ANSWER

What is the 'Frog in the Pot' analogy?



If a frog is placed in a pot of boiling water, it will immediately jump out. However, if he is placed in cool water, which is heated very slowly, before the frog even realises it, he is cooked.

Discuss: How does the frog in the pot analogy relate to our topic today?

Delete this box to reveal the answer.

What if you don't really use TikTok or YouTube? How can you be radicalised online through gaming?



Watch the clips carefully and complete the table.
You only need to watch up to 9.53. We'll go through
our answers together afterwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCrGgMhvQXY&t=594s>

What kind of extremism was found promoted on gaming forums?	How did the recruiters try to convince the players of their ideologies?



Take a minute now to just complete any answers that you missed.

What kind of extremism was found promoted on gaming forums?	How did the recruiters try to convince the players of their ideologies?
Sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia	Promotion of far-right or Nazi figures (ideas like; isn't it great to play as the Nazis)
White Nationalist groups	Spaces built to enact far-right fantasy worlds. They make simulated terrorist attacks for 'fun'.
Misogyny (anti-female gamers / game characters)	Use dog-whistles (ideas which may fly over the head of those not familiar, but transmit ideas to those with a similar ideology).
xenophobia, antisemitism, racism	They use their play donations to expand their extremist groups' plans.



Ideology and extremism: What is a radical ideology?

Useful helplines and charities:

[Young Minds](#). Child and adolescent mental health charity for teens struggling with any subject.

Call: 0808 802 5544

[Teen Line | Teens Support hotline - Connect, talk, get help!](#) Teen Line's highly trained teen listeners provide support, resources and hope to any teen

<https://actearly.uk/> A site for anyone to report (anonymously) someone they are worried could harm themselves or others for reasons connected to extremism.

[0800 011 3764](#) Met Police Hotline for advice or concerns regarding extremism
(you can always ring 999 if there is an immediate danger).

Reporting a Concern at Thornden School

- It is important to us that all of you feel safe, happy and belong at Thornden.
- We also know that sometimes it is not as easy as simply telling a member of staff
- It could be:
 - A friend you are worried about
 - Someone being unkind to you
 - Something you have heard and think we should know



How can you report anything you are worried about?

- Speak to a member of staff or parent / carer
- Visit the Well Being Den or Head of Year area
- On Satchel each week you will be sent a link to a form to share any worries you have
- On our school website homepage there is a 'Report a Concern' link.
- In the Student Bulletin there is a 'Report a Concern' link
- On all school desktops there is a 'Report a Concern' logo to click and report anything

Need Support? You're Not Alone



If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.

Mental Health & Low Mood

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>

Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

Talk to Someone

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.

Wellbeing Team and School Nurse

Report a Concern on Satchel

Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

Healthy Lifestyle

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Apps That Can Help

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.

Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.

Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).

MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

Eating Concerns

Beat Eating Disorders –

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>

NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/>