

# What can we learn from a 17th Parliamentary rule book about debates in parliament at this time?

Look at the pages of 'Memorial of the Method and Maner of Proceedings in Parliament'. This book was produced in 1656, during the Interregnum, after Charles I had been executed and the monarchy abolished, and when Oliver Cromwell was in power as Lord Protector. The book was very small – it was designed to fit in an MP's pocket so that they could carry it with them and refer to it when needed.

## Questions

1. What is this chapter of the book about? (page 21)
2. What sort of things were Parliament debating in the 1600s? (pages 23, 25 and 30)
3. How was it decided which side had 'won' a debate? (page 24)
4. If the house was equally divided on an issue, who had the casting vote? (page 27)
5. How many times could MPs speak on a particular issue? (page 29)
6. How did MPs have to address/refer to other people in Parliament? (page 30)
7. How were people expected to behave during a debate when an MP is speaking? (page 31)
8. What should the Speaker do if an MP was making an 'impertinent' speech? (pages 31-32)
9. Could a judgement be reversed once an issue has been debated and a judgement made? (page 33)

