

Champion: Hok Yau Club 31st Students' Top News Election 2022

News Commentary Competition: Senior Form

Hong Kong True Light College

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Title: Britain and the world bid farewell to Queen Elizabeth as state funeral marks end of era

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3193053/britain-world-bid-farewell-queen-elizabeth-state-funeral-marks>

Queen Elizabeth, as Britain's longest reigning sovereign ever, people from world leaders to members of international royalty to citizens mourn the death of the most capable leader of England.

The Queen has a very important part to play in the life of the nation – undertaking constitutional and representational duties and she carries out a busy programme of engagements, including visiting charities for a number of which she acts as Royal Patron or President, hosting visiting Heads of State, or taking part in annual programmes of investitures, garden parties, receptions and other ceremonies. But do all of you know what quality she has that is important for a leader?

There is no doubt that acting quickly on the sensitive issue is one of the most crucial qualities that a leader should include. Leaders with this quality do not freeze in times of uncertainty or when a decision needs to be made. They courageously decide and act and hold themselves accountable for their decisions and actions. For instance, during Queen Elizabeth's remarkable time as a monarch, she has lived through war and peace, recessions and times of growth, family scandals and tragedies and one global pandemic. In total, she's appointed 15 different Prime Ministers. Nevertheless, she's seen a mind-blowing number of changes and challenges in her lifetime and has demonstrated an extraordinary level of resilience and adaptability. Acting quickly on the sensitive issue is one of primary duties as a leader. By practicing this behavior, the team can develop trust in your quick response abilities. This can also allow you to increase your efficiency when time is an essential resource.

Apart from that, another vital quality for being a leader mentioned in the article is belief in her purpose. Purpose is a soothing sedative to alleviate suffering in difficult times. The leader must embody the purpose and share a collective mission that everyone can identify with. This common identity creates a sense of community that conveys optimism and unity. The symbolic value of leadership lies in this inclusive language. For example, Elizabeth II addressed the British people during the pandemic by saying: "We will succeed – and that success will belong to every one of us." This is

just what the population needed to hear in those moments of collective vulnerability. As leaders, they articulate, model, and embody purpose in every communiqué, conversation, and interaction. In order to be truly motivated and highly effective, the team needs to see the alignment between what the leader envisions, the values the leader lives, and the strategy the leader outlines to get there. With sufficient genuineness, expressing passion will electrify the entire team. Likewise, purpose is the soul of leadership. Purpose fosters alignment across the organization. Purpose makes a difference. It is the glue that keeps the organization united, cohesive, and on track to achieve a grander vision.

Last but not least, she was unapologetically female in her leadership. With the highest power, the cracks in the glass ceiling remain too small for many women to slip through. Leaders like Finland's Sanna Marin, New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern, Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Liz Truss or India's Indira Gandhi are notable precisely as the exceptions. However, male leaders are too numerous to remember. It's no secret that women have historically faced greater barriers than men when it comes to fully participating in the economy. Across geographies and income levels, disparities between men and women persist in the form of pay gaps, uneven opportunities for advancement, and unbalanced representation in important decision-making. However, as a leader, you should not discriminate against female and not commit to placing even more women in positions of power. Having female leaders in positions of influence to serve as role models is not only critical to the career advancement of women but stands to generate broader societal impacts on pay equity, changing workplace policies in ways that benefit both men and women, and attracting a more diverse workforce.

Queen Elizabeth's leadership was not based on her power, title or how talkative she was, but on the relationship between her and the British citizen. Elizabeth made really hard work on how to enhance the society's welfare, changes of policies for citizens and stood her ground on purpose. For a long time, the Queen was a woman in a man's world, and over the last 60 years, she has been both criticized and idolized. Nonetheless, she has also consistently proven to be an ambitious leader and social entrepreneur, while also being a wife and a mother - a job description most women can relate to. More than ever, women are thriving, pushing boundaries and speaking up for what they think is right.

Word Count: 805 words