

# Was the trial of King Charles I fair?

Cut out the boxes below. Place all the statements that suggest the trial of Charles I was fair under YES and all the statements that suggest it was not fair under NO.

<b>Yes - the trial of King Charles I was fair</b>
<b>No – the trial of King Charles I was not fair</b>
The trial was carried out in the open.
There were a large number of judges – almost 70.
There were a large number of witnesses whose testimonies proved that Charles I was guilty.
Charles had a chance to answer the charges against him, but he refused to do so.
The High Court of Justice was established by Parliament and therefore sat with the authority of Parliament.
After the House of Lords refused to try King Charles I for treason, the House of Commons declared itself supreme and established the High Court of Justice to try the King.
The army played too big a role in the trial.
The chief judge would not allow Charles I to speak after the guilty verdict had been read out.
The Parliament that passed the law saying that Charles I should go on trial for treason had been purged (cleared out) of MPs who were sympathetic to the King.
The House of Lords refused to agree to putting Charles I on trial but the House of Commons passed the law saying that Charles I should go on trial anyway.
The High Court of Justice was made up of supporters of Parliament.

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Use the statements from the sorting activity you have just completed to help you write a balanced answer to the question: **Was the trial of King Charles I fair?**

You may wish to use the writing frame below to help you.



Some people would argue that the trial of King Charles I was/was not fair. They would say that....  
They would also point out that...  
Furthermore, they would argue that...  
However, I think the trial of King Charles I was/ was not fair. This is because...  
Also....  
Finally, ....  
Therefore, although some people would disagree, I think I have shown that the trial of King Charles I was/was not fair because....

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