

Compiled by Kelly Ho

Edited by Charlotte Ames-Etridge



talking points

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# Should there be higher taxes on meat products?



**Tina Li Nga-kwan, 14, Pope Paul VI College**

I think so. Climate change is the biggest problem humanity is facing. In addition to the fossil fuel industry and transport industry, the meat industry is one of the major causes of climate change. If we keep producing meat at our current rate, climate change will only get worse. Furthermore, processed meat has been classified as a Group 1 carcinogen – that puts it in the same category as cigarettes and asbestos for health risks. If taxes on meat products became higher, people might think twice about buying so much meat, and sales would decrease. With less demand for meat, less meat would be produced. In a nutshell, higher taxes on meat products could help alleviate climate change and improve public health.



**Nester Chik Yiu-kai, 17, Sing Yin Secondary School**

Taxes should not be raised; in fact, they should be lowered. Meat production is expensive, and suppliers need to earn a living. Given that Hong Kong's meat industry is already withering, increasing the tax burden would sadly be the last straw on the camel's back.

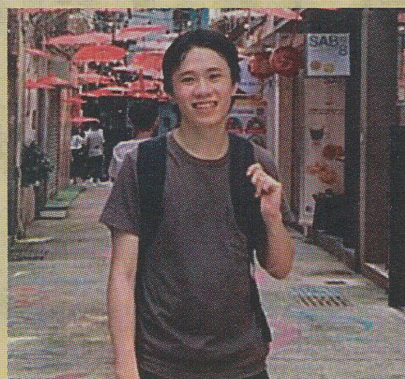
**Janice Ko, 16, Fung Kai No.1 Secondary School**

No, there should not. Meat makes up a big part of the diets of ordinary people, and right now, it is already too expensive. If taxes were raised, many low income families would struggle to afford to eat.



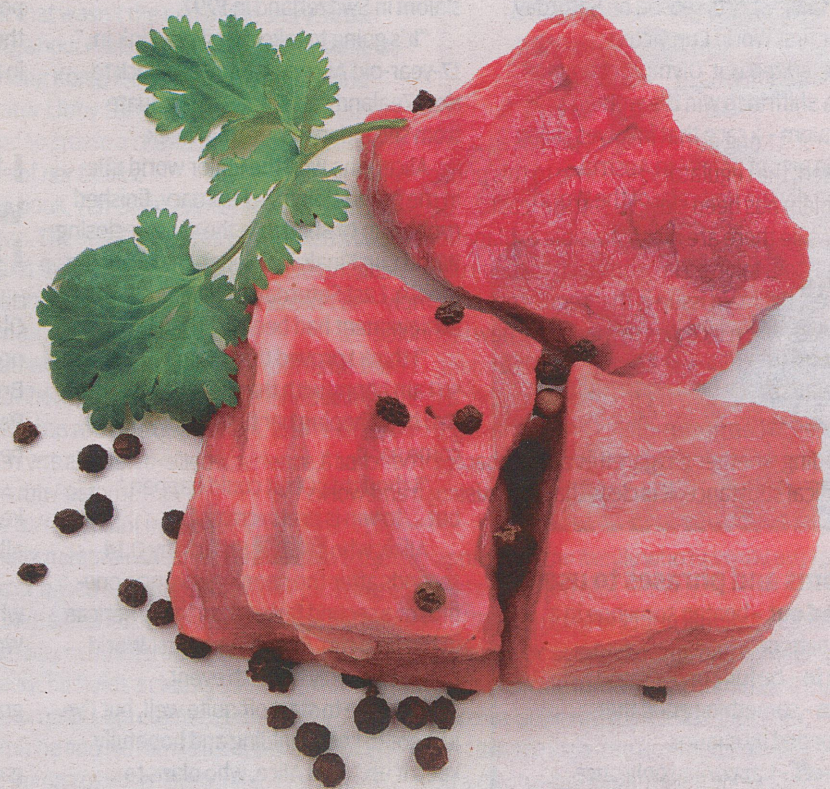
**Oorvi Goyal, 12, HKMA David Li Kwok Po College**

I think that having higher taxes on meat products would help the environment. Many people eat meat several times a day, and do not realise that doing so can be harmful to the planet. But taxes alone may not change people's eating habits. So in addition, the government should educate people about the negative aspects of the meat industry, and encourage them to make healthier, more ethical choices. We should care about how livestock are treated before they end up on our plate, in addition to thinking about the environment.



**Joshua Lee, 21, The University of Hong Kong**

A tax on meat products may raise the cost of living for many people and disproportionately affect the poorest in society the most. However, I also believe that it is highly beneficial for the environment if people move towards a plant-based diet. The government should instead provide subsidies to make plant-based meats, fruits, and vegetables cheaper and more attractive for people.



Our topics always get a lot of responses. Check out what other students had to say and join the conversation at [yp.scmp.com](http://yp.scmp.com). In our next Talking Points, we'll discuss: Should social media apps have a "teenager mode" that filters content and limits usage time? We are now accepting your answers for this topic. To take part, email your answer with your name, age, and school, along with a nice, clear selfie (make sure it's not blurry), to [yp@scmp.com](mailto:yp@scmp.com) by lunchtime on Monday. Don't forget to include "Talking Points" in the subject line.