

ELECTION TIME – WHY VOTE?

A

Democratic elections are a great historic achievement

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We ought to be grateful and proud to have the vote. In many other countries throughout the world people have to fight for free elections.

AA

Elections are the most important and most effective way of becoming involved in the democratic process.

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My vote gives me the opportunity to influence the future of my country. That's what the right to vote is all about. (That's why I vote)

AAA

Most politicians are motivated by inner conviction (their beliefs) and not a desire for power (because they want power).

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If you don't vote, you support the enemies of democracy instead of those who are committed to the political process. (support the political process)

AAAA

The low level of voter turnout is a disgrace to our democracy.

aaaa

I think refusing to vote is fundamentally undemocratic.

B

It's important to have a choice between the different political parties.

b

Political systems run by a single party often lead to dictatorship. That's a real danger.

BB

If I want to support my favourite political party I have to vote, don't I?

bb

I can contact my MP [political representative] whenever I like. That's why constituencies are important.

BBB

If there's no clear majority, parties have to adapt their policies. That's not a betrayal of their manifesto (That doesn't mean that they abandon their manifesto)

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Since the formation of a coalition is the inevitable outcome (is very common) at the end of most elections, the parties concerned should be prepared to compromise.

BBBB

Election slogans have to be simple and popular so that voters get the message and understand the main policies.

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Obviously no political party which presents complicated or unpopular policies will ever be elected.

C

During the election campaign it is possible to discuss issues with the candidates and exert direct influence on their policies (influence their policies directly).

c

All voters should attend (go to) party political meetings as they are the best places to get information about their political goals.

CC

Voting should be compulsory in Germany as it is in some other countries.

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If I don't use my vote, I can't then complain when others take decisions for me.

CCC

Voters who are well-informed about political parties and their manifestos are aware of the differences between them.

ccc

Voters should pass a test demonstrating their knowledge of the electoral system and the parties involved before they're allowed to vote.

CCCC

Parliament doesn't really reflect the composition of our society. That's not right.

cccc

Political parties should make sure that all levels of society are represented when they select candidates.

D

If a large turnout is not really important for a democracy, I may as well stay at home.

d

A large turnout is no guarantee of a healthy democracy. The former GDR used to have a turnout of almost 100%.

DD

The second vote [double voting system] should be abolished in favour of (be replaced by) one simple majority vote. This ensures that the final results and responsibilities are clearer.

dd

The voter turnout would be much higher if you could vote directly for the Prime Minister [Chancellor].

DDD

The 5% rule discriminates against small political parties so it should be abolished.

ddd

Small political parties are in a better position to take the interests of minorities into consideration who have no parliamentary representation.

DDDD

To register a protest, you have to vote even if it's only a spoilt ballot.

dddd

A spoilt ballot is a sign of participation, even if it has no influence on the final outcome (result).

E
Democracy works even if very few people actually vote.

e
People who don't vote are basically satisfied with the status quo (how things are).

EE
Only people who are well-informed and familiar with the different political parties should vote.

ee
The aims of the different political parties are almost impossible to distinguish.

EEE
Taking part in grass roots initiatives and similar activities is a better way of engaging in political activity than just casting your vote (going to vote).

eee
Freedom in a democracy means you have the right not to vote.

EEEE
Voters should be able to vote for candidates in caucuses [selection rounds] as they do in the US.

eeee
If people could participate in the choice of candidates, they would be better-informed and would be more willing to vote.

F
Imagine there's an election and no-one turned up (took part). What would it matter?

f
People aren't really interested in politics so why should they go out and vote?

FF
"Equal rights for everyone" is just a slogan. After all, children are citizens but they can't vote even if they are well-informed.

ff
Children should be allowed to vote (or be represented by their parents) since they will have to live longer under the consequences of political decisions.

FFF
Politicians should do more to encourage voter turnout.

fff
The number of MP's should depend on voter turnout.

FFFF
Political parties are all basically the same.

ffff
Political parties only attack each other during political campaigns.

G

By abstaining (not voting) I can put more pressure on politicians than by voting.

g

If political parties only react when turnout is low, they are clearly out of touch with reality.

GG

Expensive election campaigns should be banned.

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Future MP's should be selected from the population at random, and be obliged to serve, just like jurors.

GGG

Once they're in office, MP's only promote their own interests.

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MP's forget their voters until it's time for the next election.

GGGG

It doesn't really matter whether you vote or not.

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In the end it's business interests that decide how society develops, not politicians.