**Worksheet 1.13b: Why should over-18s make the most of the right to vote?**

Below, read some reasons why it is important to make the most of our right to vote. Then answer the questions that follow.



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** The right to take part in government is one of our human rights. | **B.** Voting sets a good example for children and teenagers who know us. | **C.** If we don’t bother voting, we can’t complain when politicians make mistakes. |
| **D.** We live in a democracy where everyone’s voice genuinely matters. | **E.** An extremist party could end up running the country if not many people vote in a general election. | **F.** It is important to show people in other towns/ cities that lots of people in our area turn up on election day. |
| **G.** Many people have been arrested or injured (and even died) in the past to ensure that future generations can vote. | **H.** Voting is part of every citizen’s responsibility (like respecting the speed limit or paying taxes). | **I.** People who argue that ‘politicians are all the same’ simply haven’t done enough research. |
| **J.** Citizens from all social and family backgrounds need to make sure their opinion is respected. | **K.** Part of being an adult is having the courage to decide who represents us when war breaks out. | **L.** Although each person only gets one vote, single votes add up to thousands. |
| **M.** Politicians’ wages are paid by the taxpayer. | **N.** We have so many rights in the UK, many of which were secured by hardworking politicians who were elected through voting. | **O.** If certain political parties get enough seats, the rights of minority groups can significantly improve. |

1. One of your friends has just turned 18. She, or he, says that voting is a waste of time. Which five arguments will you use to persuade them to vote?

**1 2 3 4 5**

 Using the information above, as well as your own views, write a paragraph to your friend explaining

 why it is important to vote in UK elections.

**Theme A Living together in the UK**

© HarperCollins*Publishers* Ltd 2016