

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 ____

2. Which persuasive argument can you think of that is not listed above?

3. Do you disagree with any of the arguments above? Explain.
