Citizens' Preferences for Liberal Democracy and its Deformations. Evidence from Germany

Link to paper: https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773922000194

Questionnaire

English translation of German questions

Overview

Item	Question
DE5	Conceptions of democracy
PL06	Political disaffection/external efficacy (& internal efficacy)
VT04	Institutional trust
VT06	Satisfaction with democracy
PL07	Vote intention
PL01	Left-right position
PL02	Economic policy preference
PL03	Immigration policy preference
VT05	Political interest
DG02	Age
DG15	Gender
DG03	Education

Conceptions of democracy [DE5]

Please indicate for the following statements how much you agree with them.

- It is important that governments always justify and explain their decisions to voters.
- It is important that social interests can continuously contest and influence political plans and decisions also between election dates.
- The government should develop its positions and politics in ongoing dialogue with political interests and affected groups.
- The quality of politics is measured by the extent to which the government subjects itself to continuing societal critique.
- Openness to the views of others and readiness to compromise are important in politics.
- It is important that elected politicians debate important questions among themselves before they take decisions.
- In politics, it is important to understand why other people have different opinions.
- The political will of a society can only emerge if different perspectives have a voice in ongoing public debates.
- The primary task of politics is to recognize the true will of the people and to translate it into decisions as directly as possible.
- The quality of political decisions is defined by how strong and how directly the true will of the people is expressed in them.
- Ideally, a democracy realizes the uniform will of the people in a society.
- In politics, it should be left solely to professional politicians to negotiate politically feasible decisions.
- Political matters should be left to elected politicians who are motivated by political success to take satisfactory decisions.
- Politics should be the preserve of professional politicians who negotiate the right policies for the country among themselves as well as with social interests.
- The quality of politics is measured by the extent to which it is informed by the knowledge of independent experts regarding the best political decisions.
- To serve the interests of society, political decisions should be based on facts and knowledge as much as possible.
- Ideally, political decisions reflect what experts, not what elected politicians deem the best for society.
- Although there is no true will of the people, a clear majority for a position in the population means that it is the correct decision.
- Politics should follow the current majoritarian mood in the society as closely as possible, regardless of which mood or opinion this is.
- Politics should primarily follow what people think and feel about political matters as directly as possible, rather than party lines or data and facts.

1 = “Do not agree at all” to 7 = “Agree completely”

Political disaffection/external efficacy (& internal efficacy) [PL06]

What is your opinion on the following general statements about politics. Please indicate for each statement to what extent you agree or disagree.

- Politicians talk too much and act too little.
- Most politicians are not interested in citizens' opinions.
- I often find political matters hard to understand. [internal efficacy]
- I am confident that I can actively take part in a conversation on political issues. [internal efficacy]
- Most politicians are trustworthy. (inverted)
- Most politicians only care about the interests of the wealthy and powerful.
- Politicians care about what ordinary people think. (inverted)

1 = "Do not agree at all" to 5 = "Agree completely"

Institutional trust [VT04]

Please state for the following institutions how much you personally trust each of them. You can use the scale from 1 to 7.

How much do you trust…

- …the Parliament
- …the justice system
- …the federal government
- …political parties
- …the public administration

1 = „Do not trust at all" to 7 = "Trust completely"

Satisfaction with democracy [VT06]

How satisfied are you, on the whole, with democracy in Germany?

1 = „Very dissatisfied" to 7 = "Very satisfied"

Vote intention [PL07]

Which party would you vote for if elections to the federal parliament took place this Sunday?

1 = AfD

2 = B90/Die Grünen

3 = CDU/CSU

4 = Die Linke

5 = FDP

6 = SPD

7 = Other [free text field]

8 = Would not vote

-9 = don't know

Left-right position [PL01]

In politics, people often talk about "left" and "right". If you use the following scale from 1 to 7 where would you place yourself?

1 = "Left" to 7 = "Right"

Economic policy preference [PL02]

What is your position on the question of taxes and social benefits? Please use the following scale.

1 = "Lower taxes even if that means lower social benefits" to 7 = "More social benefits even if that means higher taxes"

Immigration policy preference [PL03]

What is your position on the question of the possibilities of foreigners to enter the country? Please use the following scale.

1 = “Foreigners‘ possibilities to enter and live in Germany should be extended” to 7 = “Foreigners‘ possibilities to enter and live in Germany should be restricted”

Political interest [VT05]

Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

1 = “very strongly”, 2 = “strongly”, 3 = “somewhat”, 4 = “hardly”, 5 = “not at all”

Age [DG02]

[Free text field]

Gender [DG15]

What is your gender?

1 = female, 2 = male, 3 = diverse

Education [DG03]

Please select the highest education degree that you have attained so far. [drop down selection]

1 = finished school without degree,

2 = Secondary level lower tier [Hauptschulabschluss, Volksschulabschluss, Abschluss der polytechnischen Oberschule 8. oder 9. Klasse]

3 = Secondary level mid-tier [Realschulabschluss, Mittlere Reife, Fachschulreife oder Abschluss der polytechnischen Oberschule 10. Klasse]

4 = Secondary level upper tier I [Fachhochschulreife (Abschluss einer Fachoberschule etc.)]

5 = Secondary level upper tier II [Abitur bzw. erweiterte Oberschule mit Abschluss 12. Klasse (Hochschulreife)]

6 = Other degree [free text field]

7 = Still in school