

“ Je certifie que j’ai fait ce travail seul, que je n’ai pas utilisé de traducteur automatique, et que je n’ai pas bénéficié d’une aide extérieure. Je suis informé, qu’en cas de doute, Mme Florence Lescoffit peut me convoquer pour un oral de contrôle afin de valider le travail rendu.”

Questions

1) Résumer le texte en français (100 mots maximum). 4 pts

Le texte parle d’une méthode d’élection pour un gouvernement : le tirage au sort (sortition). Cette méthode consiste à tirer au sort un certain nombre de personnes afin de leur donner le pouvoir législatif. Elle a déjà été utilisée dans le passé, durant la période de la Grèce Antique et la Renaissance. Le système proposé par Terrill Bouricius est le suivant : pour la partie développement de la législation, il y a 3 organes (Agenda Council, Review Panels et Rules Council). Les élus sont volontaires et donc tirés aléatoirement. L’organe qui s’occupe de voter les lois (Jury Policy) lui peut être composé de n’importe quelle personne âgée d’au moins 30 ans, volontaire ou non (comme les jurés). Actuellement, des méthodes similaires ont déjà été testées, comme en Irlande par exemple.

2) What are the main problems with the current system (modern democracy)? 1pt

The main problems with modern democracy are self-dealing and corruption. For example, lawmakers beholden to special-interest groups, donors, political parties and demographic biases.

3) Define sortition (in your own words). 1pt

Sortition is a pseudo random way to select lawmakers of a government. It allows to divide the power in order to make the most impartial decisions. It also gives everybody a chance to make a difference for their country.

4) What are the advantages of sortition? 1pt

Sortition is an effective way to cure many of the ills plaguing modern democracies. Also, by dividing the creation and approbation of laws, it allows to reflect more the will of the people.

5) What are the limits of sortition? 1pt

The limits of sortition can be how much we value the ability and capability of those who are chosen randomly. Moreover, how can we be sure that a group will not be overrepresent or underrepresent? This can lead to partial and influenced decisions.

6) What is the “wisdom of crowds”? 1pt

The wisdom of crowds is to think that every opinion matters and the result of those is the best according to the people will and the greater good. Simply, people together are always right.

7) Give examples of sortition experiments in ancient and recent history.

1pt

In ancient history, we can quote Athenian and Florentine governments. As well as the Kingdom of Aragon.

In modern history, we can quote Ireland, the Netherlands, Canadian provinces and Belgium.

Expression écrite

Dear President,

I am writing you this letter regarding the decision you have to make about sortition election. As you can expect, I will try to convince you to use this method for the new constitution.

First, I must say this will be only applied to 50 % of the Parliament. We will be testing it in a careful way. I think we all can see that the actual system is not working as it should. We all can see it is a time for a change. It is a time where inequality and injustice must be amended. I am sure you want to be remembered as the President who fought for your people. And in order to do so you need a fair system, you need impartiality, integrity; you need sortition.

Of course, sortition is not perfect. We can argue that people in charge of the legislation must be competent and therefore randomness is not an ideal solution. But I think at some point, everyone can be capable if you give them an opportunity and trust. The power will be divided which decrease significantly the risk of any mistake. And more practically, the lawmakers will be advised by experts and will have to follow some formation in order to avoid incompetence.

What is the goal of a President? Is it to reflect the people will or to serve own interest? Sortition is the best way to give anybody a chance to do better for his or her country.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Regards,

Charles Cogoluègues