

# Anonymous Survey on Political Engagement and Imagined Futures

This questionnaire aims to explore how young people engage with politics and imagine futures. It will involve a series of multiple-choice, short-answer, and long-answer questions. If you have any questions about the nature of the research, please contact Hila Davies ([hila.davies@lis.ac.uk](mailto:hila.davies@lis.ac.uk)).

**THE RESEARCH** The aim of this research is to develop and propose alternative methods of engaging young people with traditional politics. The results of this survey will contribute to these findings, as well as provide a foundation for exploration of the problem space. The output of this research will be made accessible to all. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and no incentives will be provided. To participate in this study, you must be aged 18-24 years old. Please do not continue with this survey if this does not apply to you. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. No question will be required beyond collecting consent and participant ID.

**CONFIDENTIALITY** Any and all answers in this research will be anonymous. Participants will be identifiable only by an anonymous, unique participant ID, which will be used for analysis purposes and to withdraw participants from the study if they so wish. Any collected data will be stored for up to two years in a secure cloud-based system according to LIS guidelines and will not be shared other than if required with the supervisor of this research. The overall findings may be used in assessments, presentations or publications; there will be no identifying information shared. This research has undergone checks for ethical research in accordance with the LIS Research Ethics Policy. You are entitled to access the information you have provided at any time and can save your answers at the end of the survey. If you wish to report any issues with how this research has been conducted, please contact the supervisor of this project, Dr James Carney ([james.carney@lis.ac.uk](mailto:james.carney@lis.ac.uk)).

**SENSITIVITY** While none of the questions contain sensitive ideas or require you to write anything sensitive, questions may incite feelings or memories relating to misogyny, racism, and/or trauma. If you feel that your mental wellbeing has been affected by any issue that comes up in this study, please contact The Samaritans on 116 123, or text SHOUT to 85258 for text-based support. If you reside outside of the UK and require urgent help, please find your local hotline via <https://findahelpline.com>.

## Basic information

This section will ask for your basic demographic information

1. Do you give informed consent to be a participant in this study? \*

☐ Yes

2. To help us link your answers across different parts of the study (without collecting personal data), please create a unique Participant ID using the following format. Please remember the ID - it will be the only identification for your data if you wish to withdraw from the study. \*

First two letters of your mother's first name + last two digits of your birth year + first two letters of the city where you were born. (Example: If your mother's name is Sarah, you were born in 2001, and in London — your ID would be **Sa01Lo**)

## 3. How old are you?

Participants must be aged between 18 - 24. Please do not fill in the survey if this doesn't apply to you!

Number must be between 18 ~ 24

## 4. Please select the gender you identify with

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## 5. Which country did you reside in March 2020?

i.e. where did you spend the first global COVID-19 lockdown?

## The Future

This section will ask you to describe your feelings towards the future.

6. How do you feel about the future?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Very Negative Extremely Positive

7. When the future feels overwhelming, how do you usually respond?

- ☐ Try to get involved in organising change
- ☐ Join online discussions (e.g. Reddit Forums, TikTok)
- ☐ Disengage and try think about something else
- ☐ Learn more about the issues that concern me
- ☐ Other

8. Can you name a specific societal event that has influenced how you feel about the future?

e.g. a specific election, a policy change

9. Thinking about that event, how does it make you feel?

What emotions does it invoke? Was this a positive or negative moment for you?

10. I believe the world will look radically different in 25 years.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

11. In 2050, I believe society will be better than it is today.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Strongly disagree Strongly Agree

12. Describe how you imagine society to look like in 2050.

Is it a place you'd want to live in? Who or what holds power?

13. Describe a place (real or imagined) where you would feel politically and socially content.

Feel free to be as narrative as you like and go into detail. There is no word length requirement.

14. What makes this imagined place feel that way?

Why does it make you feel content?

## Fiction consumption

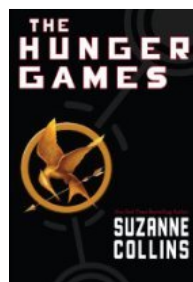
This section will ask you to provide information around fiction you have consumed.

15. What books, movies, shows, or online content do you feel have significantly influenced your perspectives on society and politics?

Please mention specific titles or genres.

16. Which, if any, of these books have you read?

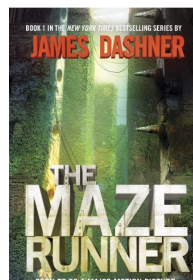
Please select if you have read >1 book(s) in the series



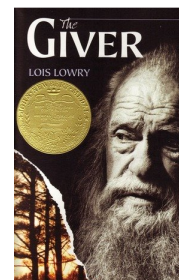
☐ 'The Hunger Games' trilogy by Suzanne Collins



☐ 'Divergent' trilogy by Veronica Roth



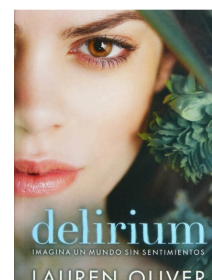
☐ 'The Maze Runner' series by James Dashner



☐ 'The Giver' quartet by Lois Lowry



☐ 'Matched' trilogy by Ally Condie



☐ 'Delirium' trilogy by Lauren Oliver





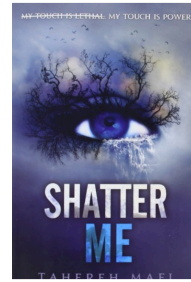
☐ 'Legend' series by Marie Lu



☐ 'Uglies' series by Scott Westerfield



☐ 'The Selection' series by Kiera Cass



☐ 'Shatter Me' series by Tahereh Mafi

☐ None

17. At what age did you first read the majority of books selected?

If your answer to Q7 was 'none', please select 'N/A'

☐ 8-10 years old

☐ 10-12 years old

☐ 14-16 years old

☐ 16-18 years old

☐ As an adult

☐ N/A

18. Which, if any, of these films have you watched?

Please select if you have watched >1 film(s) in the series



☐ 'The Hunger Games' trilogy



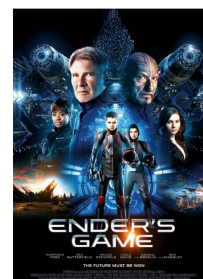
☐ 'Divergent' trilogy



☐ 'The Maze Runner' series



☐ 'The Giver'



☐ 'The 5th Wave'☐ 'Ender's Game'☐ 'The Darkest Minds'☐ 'The Host'☐ None

19. At what age did you first watch the majority of films selected?

If your answer to Q9 was 'none', please select 'N/A'

☐ 8-10 years old☐ 10-12 years old☐ 14-16 years old☐ 16-18 years old☐ As an adult☐ N/A



## Political Engagement

This section will ask you questions about if and how you engage with politics.

20. Would you consider yourself to be interested in politics and social issues?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Not at all

Very much so

21. Who first got you interested in politics?

This could be a person, public figure, online creator, author, teacher, or even a fictional character.

22. What about this person inspired you?

23. Where do you get your information about politics from?

- ☐ Mainstream newspapers
- ☐ News-based social media accounts (e.g. PoliticsUK)
- ☐ Social media influencers
- ☐ Meme-based social media posts
- ☐ Campaigns (e.g. posters, street campaigners)
- ☐ Academic sources (e.g. lectures, articles)
- ☐ Indie media (e.g. blogs, Substack)
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ I avoid information about politics
- ☐ Other

24. How would you describe your level of political engagement right now?

- ☐ Very engaged – I actively participate in political or social causes regularly
- ☐ Somewhat engaged – I stay informed and occasionally participate
- ☐ Minimally engaged – I'm aware of political issues but rarely take action
- ☐ Not engaged – I don't participate or follow politics
- ☐ Actively disengaged – I avoid political content or activity on purpose

25. Rank the following methods by how likely you are to use them to engage with politics

Donating to political or activist causes
Sharing political content on social media (e.g. infographics)
Voting
Creating political or issue-based social media content
Signing online petitions
Attending protests
Participate in formal campaigning (e.g. phone-banking, door-knocking)
Engaging in online political discussion forums (e.g. Reddit)
Expressing political views creatively (e.g. creating art, going to cultural events)
Boycotting brands or practicing ethical consumption

26. Think about your top 3 answers. Why these methods?

--

27. How do you feel when you use these methods of engagement?

Do they make you feel empowered? Hopeful? Angry?

--

28. If there were an election tomorrow, who would you be most likely to vote for?

- ☐ A major left-leaning or progressive party (e.g., Labour, Democrats, Social Democrats)
- ☐ A major centrist or liberal party (e.g., Liberal Democrats, Liberal Party, En Marche)
- ☐ A major right-leaning or conservative party (e.g., Conservatives, Republicans, Christian Democrats)
- ☐ A green or environmentalist party (e.g., Green Party, Europe Écologie Les Verts)
- ☐ A nationalist or far-right party (e.g., National Rally, Alternative for Germany, Vox)
- ☐ A socialist, communist, or far-left party (e.g., Democratic Socialists, Left Bloc)
- ☐ A single-issue or independent party
- ☐ I don't plan to vote
- ☐ I am not eligible to vote

29. Why would you vote for them?

Rank the following options, highest being your most important reason

I like the leader
The values of the party align with my personal ones
My parents vote for them
Tactical voting
I agree with their policies
I believe they will best serve my needs

30. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: "When one group in society moves forward, another group usually has to give something up."

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

## Further Study

31. Would you be open to being contacted to take part in a follow-up creative activity (a cultural probe) as part of this study? If so, please provide your email address below.

This would involve an optional task to create a moodboard. If selected, you'll receive a £10 gift voucher as a thank you for taking part in the cultural probe. Participation will take approx. 30-60mins.

Please enter an email

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.



Microsoft Forms