

Political participation

Ways in which to participate

- voting
- arguing
- protesting, or rioting
- referendums—example: AV
- local authority or council; voting or becoming a councillor there
- watching the news to keep abreast of what is going on in the world/country and to increase knowledge levels
- paying tax
- opinion polls
- petitions—Govt. e-Petitions website
- blogging/social media participation
- becoming a member of a political Party
- debating, even on a small, familial scale
- pressure groups—example: Greenpeace etc.; or, trade union

Statistics for declining participation rates:

84% in 1950.

62% in 2001.

Reasons for non-activity

- not feeling like it counts
- lack of time
- lack of interest and/or political education
- active in the past, but now not liking how the country is going and feeling powerless to change it because not listened to in the past
- emigration
- immigration—language barriers etc.

- no Party that stands out
- division between MPs and the public—underrepresentation—Statism (many MPs went to Eton, for example)
- content with current Party/system/goings on
- globalisation that limits the importance of one nation?
- Party/class delalignment
- de-industrialisation/de-trade-unionisation

Ways to improve participation

- compulsory voting
- postal votes or e-voting
- electoral reform
- political education