

That's **politics** for you! Honest - schmonest?

**Discuss the following questions and statements. Give grounds.**

How do you define politics? What is it?

What do politicians do **a)** from day to day and **b)** when the elections are approaching?

What are the qualities of a good politician? Is there anything you don't want to see in a politician?

Which values or ideas are important for political parties? The traditional division of parties is this: right-wing, centre and left-wing. Are there certain social groups that are likely to support a particular party?

Name and describe the most important political parties in Finland.

Do you have any ideas for special interest parties?

A mini-quiz: Who is the minister of internal affairs(sisäministeri) in the current government? OK. How about the minister of education?

Young people are said to be lazy voters. Why is that?

Some people say that you are still making a statement by **not** voting in an election. Is it morally justifiable (oikeutettua) to criticize politicians or politics in general if you didn't vote in the last election?

Anarchism is a political belief that the laws and power of all governments and organizations should be replaced by people and groups working together freely. Do you think this is a viable (varteenotettava) option in today's society? What would life be like in an anarchy?

The legal age for voting is eighteen. Are you happy with that? Should it be lower?

They say that honesty is the best policy. However, people often feel mistrust in politicians. Why is this?

Should referendums(kansanäänestyksiä) be arranged more often? What would be a suitable issue to be decided with the help of the people?

The foreign policy of Finland is to stay neutral in issues involving the super powers. Are you happy with this? Do you think Finland should side with the east or the west more often than today?

What is your view of the future of Europe taking into account the European Community and the European Monetary Union? What will Finland's role be like?

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