



COMPARATIVE POLITICS WITH DR JONAS PONTUSSON

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE:

1. How much did Jeff Bezos' wealth grow by in 2020 alone?

COMPREHENSION:

2. Almost 50 per cent of humanity lives on less than \$5.50 per day. Can you calculate how many days a person would have to work (assuming they earned exactly \$5.50 per day) to earn the amount that Jeff Bezos' wealth grew by last year? How many years does that equate to?
3. What is Jonas' survey designed to find out?
4. Why is finding this out important?

APPLICATION:

5. Can you think of some of the ways we might take the findings from the survey to enact change in our society?
6. How might we encourage MPs to pass bills that bring about positive societal change?

ANALYSIS:

7. What are your personal opinions regarding respondents thinking climate change and unemployment are more important than income inequality? What does this belief assume? Do you think a person has to be in a specific position within society to think that way?

EVALUATION:

8. What do you think about income inequality in your country? How important do you think it is to address? How might you go about addressing the issue? Of course, we do not expect you to provide all the answers, but really try and think about how we might make income more equal around the world and narrow the gap between rich and poor.

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- One of the findings from the survey is that citizens who are disenfranchised with the political system are less likely to vote. Many of you are approaching an age where you will be able to vote for the first time. Either on your own, or with classmates, discuss whether or not you are going to vote in any upcoming election. You do not have to state which party you will vote for (if you are going to vote) but try and think of some of the benefits of voting. Also, consider why people might not vote.
- Think about a political cause that is close to your heart. This could be endangered wildlife, climate change, reduced public funds or something else entirely. Write a five-minute speech that is designed to explain to people why they should be passionate about your political cause. Research some facts and statistics to include, but also try and speak from the heart. Consider the reasons why this cause matters to you – that will help you explain to others why it should matter to them.

MORE RESOURCES

THE OBSERVER 100 BEST POLITICAL BOOKS

This list of 100 political books might take you a lifetime to get through, but what a life that would be! Take a look through the list and see if anything is immediately appealing, then try and grab hold of a copy:

<https://www.listchallenges.com/the-observer-100-best-political-books>

25 MOST POLITICAL BANDS

Music has long been a medium through which people communicate the need for political change. It would be impossible to provide an exhaustive list, but Yard Baker has provided 25 of the most political acts. Listen at your leisure – you will not like all of them, but they are sure to get you thinking:

https://www.yardbarker.com/entertainment/articles/the_25_most_political_bands/s1_32785829#slide_3