

Selb, Peter and Romain Lachat (2009). 'The More, the Better? Counterfactual Evidence on the Effect of Compulsory Voting on the Consistency of Voting Choice'. *European Journal of Political Research*.

Appendix 2

English translations of the question wordings used in the BES 1995 (Billiet and Frogner 1998)

Turnout propensities

If voting for parliament were no longer obligatory in Belgium, would you then 'always', 'generally', 'sometimes', or 'never' vote, or don't you know for certain?

Respondent – Catholic / Non-Catholic

People are sometimes classified to the degree to which they are 'Catholic' or 'non-Catholic'. Card No. 21 presents this. Someone who is very strongly 'Catholic' would mark the '0' and someone who is very strongly 'non-Catholic' would mark '10'. Of course, there are intermediary positions to the degree that one is more or less 'Catholic' or 'non-Catholic'. When you consider your own ideas on this, where would you place yourself?

Parties – Catholic / Non-Catholic (exemplary)

To answer the next questions, we will use these wooden squares on which the names of different political parties are printed. Political parties are said to be 'non-Catholic' or 'Catholic'. Please place the squares of the various parties on Card No. 21 at the place that, in your opinion, corresponds best to the degree to which the party is 'non-Catholic' or 'Catholic'. If two or more parties are just as 'Catholic' or just as 'non-Catholic' in your opinion, place the wooden squares on the same square. If you do not know how 'Catholic' or 'non-Catholic' a party might be, then simply put its square aside.

Respondent – free enterprise / government regulation

In politics, there are differing ideas about the organisation of the economy. Some think that 'businesses must be completely free to do what they want'; others think that 'businesses must be regulated by the community'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 22? And where would you place the parties on the scale of free enterprise on Scale No. 22?

Respondent – immigrants same rights / fewer rights

About immigrants, and here we mean Turks and Moroccans, there are different conceptions. Some think that they must receive 'the same rights' as the Belgians, others think that they should have 'fewer rights' than the Belgians. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 23?

Respondent – conservation of environment / jobs

In politics, sometimes one has to choose between alternatives. Suppose that a choice had to be made between 'conservation / protection of the environment' and 'jobs'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 24?

Respondent – public order / freedom of speech

Sometimes in politics, one also has to choose between 'public order' and 'freedom of speech'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 25?

Respondent – right to security / right to privacy

Similarly, one sometimes has to choose between the 'right to security of the citizen' and 'right to a private life/privacy of the citizen'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 26?

Respondent – quality of life / economic growth

Sometimes, too, one must choose between 'the quality of life' and 'the preservation of a high rate of economic growth'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 27?

Respondent – new identities / Belgium must decide

The form of state that the country has to have is still being discussed. Some think that 'Flanders [Wallonia]—the new identities—must be able to decide over everything itself'. Others think that 'Belgium must be able to decide about everything'. Where would you place yourself on Scale No. 28?