

Survey items

Internal political efficacy

How well do you think you would do the following activities?

- Discuss a newspaper article about a conflict between countries.
- Argue your point of view on a controversial political or social issue.
- Run for a school election.
- Follow a televised debate on a controversial (or much-discussed) issue.
- Give a presentation in your class about a social or political issue.

1. Not good at all
2. Not so good
3. Pretty good
4. Very good

Civic learning experiences

How much did you learn in school about the following subjects?

- How citizens can vote in local or national elections.
- How laws are introduced and changed in Belgium.
- How you can contribute to solving problems in the local community.
- How civil rights are protected in Belgium.
- Political issues and events in other countries.
- How to critically look at media coverage.

1. Nothing
2. A little
3. Somewhat
4. A lot

Open classroom climate

How often do the following occur when discussing political and social topics in class?

- Teachers encourage students to form their own opinion.
- Teachers encourage students to express their own opinion.
- Students themselves propose current political events to discuss in class.
- Students openly express their views in class, even if they differ from most other students.
- Teachers encourage students to discuss topics with people holding different opinions.
- Teachers discuss different sides of the topics they are explaining in class.

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often

Active student participation

Did you ever participate in any of the following activities at school?

- Actively participate in a debate or discussion.
- Vote for class representatives or be involved in the composition of the student council.
- Participate in decisions about how things are arranged at school.
- Participate in discussions during student meetings.
- Apply as a class representative or as a member of the student council.

1. No, I have never participated in this before.
2. Yes, I participated in this in the last 12 months.
3. Yes, I participated in this, but more than a year ago.

Political home environment

Approximately how many books do you have at home? Do not count magazines, newspapers, comics, or school books. (Select only one answer.)

- None or very little (0-10 books).
- One bookshelf (11–25 books).
- One bookcase (26–100 books).
- Two bookcases (101–200 books).
- Three or more bookcases (more than 200 books).

What is the highest education diploma or certificate you obtained? (Select only one answer for each parent.)

- Mother
 - Father
1. Primary education not finished.
 2. Completed primary education¹.
 3. Completed lower secondary education².
 4. Completed higher secondary education³.
 5. Completed higher education⁴.

How interested are your parent(s) in political and social topics? (Mark only one answer on each line.)

- Mother
 - Father
1. Not interested at all
 2. Not so interested
 3. Quite interested
 4. Very interested

How often do you participate in each of the following activities?

- Talking about political or social topics with your parents.
1. Never or rarely
 2. Monthly (at least once a month)
 3. Weekly (at least once a week)
 4. Daily or almost daily

¹ Both mainstream and special primary education are eligible for this.

² This is a diploma, certificate, or certificate of successful completion of the first 3 years of mainstream or special secondary education (for example, A3, A4, or B3) or a certificate of part-time vocational secondary education or of the apprenticeship (VIZO/Syntra apprenticeship contract).

³ This is a diploma or certificate of higher secondary education ASO, TSO, KSO, BSO, A2, B2, HTSL, or a diploma of the fourth degree BSO. Special secondary education is not eligible for this.

⁴ This is a diploma from a college or university, for example A1, B1, graduate, bachelor, licentiate, master, engineer, doctor.