Notes du cours 08/09/2025  DECREASING THE VOTING AGE IN THE UK The Guardian

Accroche :

Due to young voters’ sense of frustration when their concerns aren’t taken into account and the low turn out at each general election, the British government has decided to take drastic measures to lower the voting age in their Manifesto.

And that is what this article from The Guardian, a British daily, is about.

PLAN suggéré :

The article gives the **reactions to** this decision, as it is a first.

A / which are mainly negative ; hence (d’où) varied concerns or worries (keywords) :

* **Voiced** / expressed by some MPs, both Labour and Tories.

1. They are afraid of seeing far-right or far-left parties win more votes. A reference to Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, warning that his party will **appeal to** young males.
2. They fear youngsters might easily be influenced and manipulated because of fake news and **dis**information online.Their votes would be **biased.**
3. However, **not only** young people can be the victims of **mis**information during election campaigns with foreign interference through donations to finance political parties. The new bill now forbids these practises.

B/ Other views are given, making the change less dramatic and even more positive.

1. A think tank (a group of experts reflecting on social issues) says that numbers are too small to make a real difference.
2. Contrarily, campaigners, advocating an electoral reform, **put forward** a need for increased democratic participation, and therefore support the measure.
3. Finally, Labour says the measure is fair as some 16 and 17 **year** old**s** work, pay taxes, and so **are entitled to** **have a say.**

(Even if they can’t smoke, drink or gamble, as the Conservatives **point out.)**

**The point I’d like to develop now is :**

**It raises the following question :**

1. To what extent are democracies endangered ?
2. Do you think a young electorate could be more easily influenced ?
3. What difference could a younger electorate make ?