

## Appendix A. Information on the voting advice application, measurement, and operationalization







**Table A1.** Overview of VAA statements in *De Stemtest* and *De Jongerenstemtest*.

Statement	Ideologically left (L), right (R), or neutral (N)	Jongerenstemtest	Stemtest
The government should oblige banks to increase the interest rate on savings accounts.	L	Yes	Yes
Religious leaders such as priests, imams, and rabbis should no longer be paid with tax money.	N	Yes	No
The unemployed should automatically lose their benefits after a certain period.	R	Yes	Yes
Company cars ('salary cars') should be taxed as much as other income.	L	Yes	No
The mandatory closing day for shops should be abolished.	R	Yes	No
There should be a smoking ban on café terraces.	L	Yes	No
Those serving a life sentence should never be released early.	R	Yes	Yes
The police should be allowed to use cameras with facial recognition.	R	Yes	Yes
Drug users should mainly be helped rather than punished.	L	Yes	No
The next government should decide to build a new nuclear power plant.	R	Yes	Yes
Even after 2035, one should be able to buy a new gasoline or diesel car.	R	Yes	Yes
You should pay more taxes on airline tickets for short distances.	L	Yes	Yes
If you are driving, you should not have consumed any alcohol at all.	N	Yes	No
Abortion should be allowed up to 18 weeks of pregnancy.	L	Yes	Yes
The nuclear weapons stored in our country should be removed.	L	Yes	No
You should be able to work without limits as a student job.	R	Yes	No
The use of cannabis should be legally permitted.	L	Yes	No
Changing gender should be prohibited for anyone under 18.	R	Yes	No
From the age of 16, you should be able to vote in all elections.	L	Yes	No
For every higher education program, there should be a mandatory orientation test to assess if you are suitable for the field.	R	Yes	No
Primary school students should receive free school meals.	L	Yes	Yes
Teachers should never wear a headscarf in the classroom.	R	Yes	No
Summer school holidays should be shorter, and other holidays longer.	N	Yes	Yes
Parents of truants should temporarily lose their child benefit.	R	Yes	No

The government should not recognize new mosques.	R	Yes	Yes
There should be more bus lines, even in areas with few passengers.	L	Yes	Yes
Instead of building social housing, the government should help people rent on the private market.	R	Yes	Yes
There should be a deposit on cans.	L	Yes	No
Free menstrual products should be available in secondary schools.	L	Yes	No
There should be a presenter with a disability on VRT.	L	Yes	No
Concert organizers should be able to increase ticket prices during sales if demand is high.	R	Yes	No
Social media companies should decide how to handle fake news on their platform.	R	Yes	Yes
Ukraine should become a member of the European Union.	N	Yes	Yes
The EU should ensure that more people can migrate to Europe safely.	L	Yes	No
The EU should recommend that all member states allow same-sex marriages.	L	Yes	No
People with significant wealth (a lot of money or assets) should pay more taxes.	L	No	Yes
Strikers should not block access to business parks.	R	No	Yes
To obtain Belgian nationality, one should pass an integration exam.	R	No	Yes
Every municipality should be required to host a certain number of asylum seekers.	L	No	Yes
Social security should be completely split and handed over to the regions.	N	No	Yes
Belgium should leave NATO.	N	No	Yes
Belgium should pay reparations to Congo for the injustices committed in the former Belgian colony.	L	No	Yes
Service vouchers should become more expensive.	L	No	Yes
Building in flood-prone areas should be prohibited.	L	No	Yes
Restrictions on nitrogen emissions should be relaxed.	R	No	Yes
Flemish government staff should be allowed to wear headscarves at the counter.	L	No	Yes
Those who do not speak Dutch cannot get social housing.	R	No	Yes
The Flemish government should give more money to small municipalities and less to large ones.	N	No	Yes
Voting should remain mandatory.	L	No	Yes
The VRT should stop broadcasting mass services on TV.	N	No	Yes
The European Union should allow member states to have larger budget deficits.	L	No	Yes
EU member states that do not respect democratic rules should receive less money from the EU.	N	No	Yes
The European Union should stop subsidizing intensive livestock farming.	L	No	Yes
The European Union should remain neutral in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.	R	No	Yes
It should become more expensive to import electric cars from China into the European Union.	N	No	Yes

**Note:** Each VAA included 35 statements, of which 15 overlapped, and 20 were unique to each VAA version.

**Figure A1.** Overview of the differences between *De Stemtest* and *De Jongerenstemtest*

De Stemtest	De Jongerenstemtest
 <p><b>DOE DE STEMTEST</b></p> <p><b>Eens of oneens?</b></p> <p>Geef je standpunt voor 35 stellingen en ontdek bij welke partijen jouw standpunten het best aansluiten.</p> <p><a href="#">Doe de Stemtest</a></p> <p><b>Welcome screen</b></p>	 <p><b>JONGEREN STEMTEST</b></p> <p><b>Eens of oneens?</b></p> <p>Nieuwsgierig naar de partij die het beste aansluit bij jouw ideeën? Geef je mening over 35 stellingen en je krijgt je antwoord. Aan de slag!</p> <p><a href="#">Doe de Jongerenstemtest</a></p> <p><b>Welcome screen</b></p>
 <p><b>Ook na 2035 moet je nog een nieuwe benzine- of dieselwagen kunnen kopen.</b></p> <p><b>Eens</b> <b>Oneens</b></p> <p>Sla deze stelling over →</p> <p>Wat zijn de argumenten van de partijen?</p> <p><a href="#">Veelgestelde vragen</a> <a href="#">Contact</a> <a href="#">Privacy</a></p> <p><b>Statements</b></p>	 <p><b>Als je rijdt, mag je helemaal geen alcohol gedronken hebben</b></p> <p><b>Statements</b></p>
 <p><b>Wat zijn de argumenten van de partijen?</b></p> <p><b>Eens</b></p> <p>Na 2035 kunnen er nog wagens met verbrandingsmotor verkocht worden op voorwaarde dat ze uitstootvrij zijn. De ecoscore van voertuigen moet omhoog als we een gezondere leefomgeving willen. En elektrisch rijden moet betaalbaar worden voor iedereen.</p> <p>We staan in principe achter de Europese ambitie om nieuwe wagens zo snel mogelijk emissievrij te krijgen. Maar daar verbinden we telkens een reeks voorwaarden aan inzake haalbaarheid en betaalbaarheid. Die hebben voorrang op elke deadline.</p> <p>We verbieden de verkoop van nieuwe wagens met een verbrandingsmotor niet zolang elektrische wagens duurder zijn. Door volop in te zetten op openbaar vervoer en andere vormen van vervoer, zorgen we voor een echt alternatief voor de wagen.</p> <p><b>Oneens</b></p> <p>De EU heeft al besloten dat vanaf 2035 alleen nog emissievrije wagens verkocht mogen worden. We maken elektrische wagens goedkoper dan diesel- of benzinewagens, vooral voor de mensen die er nu geen kunnen betalen.</p> <p>De huidige technologie van fossiele brandstoffen is een eindig verhaal. We moeten de deur niet terug openzetten voor het verleden, wel voor de toekomst. Voor ons maakt het niet uit welke technologie in onze auto's zit, zolang ze zero emission zijn.</p> <p>Elektrische auto's moeten betaalbaar worden voor iedereen. Die zijn veel beter voor het milieu. Het is al lang beslist om tegen 2035 geen nieuwe wagens op fossiele brandstoffen meer toe te laten. Het beleid moet niet constant omgegooid worden.</p> <p><b>Arguments</b></p>	 <p><b>0,5 promille = ongeveer 2 pintjes</b></p> <p>hangt af van geslacht, gewicht, lengte, snelheid waarmee je drinkt, wat je gegeten hebt...</p> <p><b>Information cards (with arguments)</b></p>

<div> <div> </div> <div> <p>←</p> <p><b>Geef stellingen een boost</b></p> <p>De stellingen die je het belangrijkst vindt, kun je meer gewicht geven door op de knop 'Boost' te klikken.</p> <div>Verder zonder boosten →</div> <div> <div> <p>Diesel/bezinewagen na 2035</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Hoofddoek achter loket</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Meer buslijnen</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Werkloosheid verliezen</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Sociale media en fake news</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> <div> <div> <p>...tus tot 18 weken</p> </div> <div>Boost</div> </div> </div> </div> <div>Boosting</div>	<div> <div> <div> <div></div> <div>77%</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div></div> <div>75%</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div></div> <div>74%</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div></div> <div>50%</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div></div> <div>50%</div> </div> </div> </div>
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Boosting not included

**Table A2.** Policy proposal statements used in either *De Stemtest* or *De Jongerenstemtest*, whether the direction of the items was formulated right-wing or left-wing, and whether these items are about sociocultural or socioeconomic topics.

Policy proposal	VAA that included statement	Formulation: Right- or left-wing	Socioeconomic or sociocultural
1. The restrictions on nitrogen emissions should be relaxed.	De Stemtest	Right	Sociocultural
2. Strikers should not be allowed to block access to industrial estates.	De Stemtest	Right	Socioeconomic
3. People with large assets should pay more taxes.	De Stemtest	Left	Socioeconomic
4. You must be able to work without restrictions as a student worker.	De Jongerenstemtest	Right	Socioeconomic
5. The EU must ensure that more people can migrate to Europe safely.	De Jongerenstemtest	Left	Sociocultural
6. The use of cannabis should be legally permitted.	De Jongerenstemtest	Left	Sociocultural

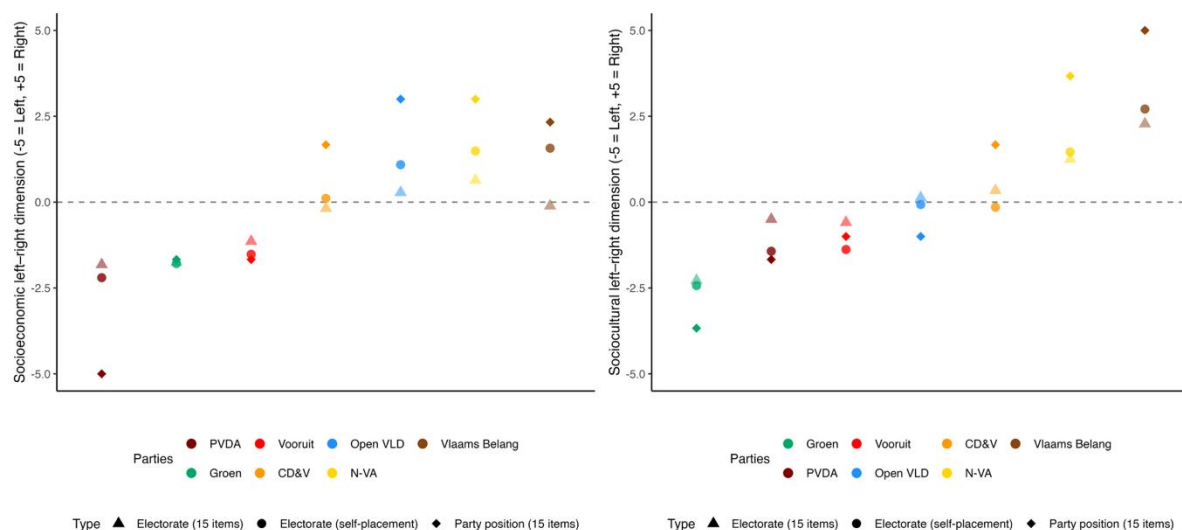
**Table A3.** The correct, incorrect, and don't know values for each PPK item.

<b>Statement – Party</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
PPK1 – CD&V	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – Groen	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – N-VA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – Open VLD	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – PVDA	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – Vlaams Belang	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK1 – Vooruit	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – CD&V	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – Groen	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – N-VA	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – Open VLD	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – PVDA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – Vlaams Belang	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK2 – Vooruit	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – CD&V	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – Groen	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – N-VA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – Open VLD	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – PVDA	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – Vlaams Belang	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK3 – Vooruit	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – CD&V	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – Groen	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – N-VA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – Open VLD	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – PVDA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – Vlaams Belang	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK4 – Vooruit	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – CD&V	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – Groen	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – N-VA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – Open VLD	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – PVDA	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – Vlaams Belang	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK5 – Vooruit	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – CD&V	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – Groen	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – N-VA	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – Open VLD	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – PVDA	Agree (2)	Disagree (1)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – Vlaams Belang	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)
PPK6 – Vooruit	Disagree (1)	Agree (2)	Don't know (3)

**Table A4.** Party extremity on the socioeconomic and sociocultural left-right axis

Party	Socioeconomic dimension	Sociocultural dimension
PVDA	-5	-1,67
Groen	-1,67	-3,67
Vooruit	-1,67	-1
CD&V	1,67	1,67
Open VLD	3	-1
N-VA	3	3,67
Vlaams Belang	2,33	5

**Note:** The positions of the parties on the socioeconomic and sociocultural dimensions range from -5 (extreme left/progressive) to +5 (extreme right/conservative). These scores are based on data from *De Stemming*, where political parties themselves placed their party on the left-right axis for each dimension (Lefevere et al., 2025).



**Figure A2.** Party and electorate positions on the socioeconomic and sociocultural left-right dimensions. Based on the data of De Stemming 2025 (Lefevere et al., 2025).