



‘Poll Everywhere’

Burke, Nygaard and Pursey

Background

- **Pathfinder**

- Need more challenge at part 1:
 - Interpreted, in part, as a need for more engagement with students.
 - Economics within wider societal debates.
- Departmental identity + employability agenda.

- **Response**

- Require students to meet and explore the work of members of the department.
- Analytical, reasoning and deductive skills beyond a mathematical approach.
- **To introduce debate(s) between members of staff to which all students and staff could contribute – Part 1 key audience.**

Mark Casson & Marina Della Giusta

- 1) Organised a debate (November 2001) between two members of staff of the Department of Economics.
"Cuts in UK public expenditure are essential: increasing expenditure to stimulate growth will only slow recovery in the long run."
- 2) Used Poll Everywhere – on-line text-based voting facility:
 - I. to undertake a pre-debate poll on the motion;
 - II. to allow the texting of questions both before and during the debate;
 - III. to take an immediate post-debate poll.
- 3) 'We' means Simon Burke, Andi Nygaard and Guy Pursey (as well as Nadja Guggi and Steve Gough). The enthusiastic co-operation and involvement of people was impressive and made things more enjoyable.

How

- **Technology**
 - Wanted to avoid the voting zappers – aim to include students in the debate
- **Technical Issues**
 - Needed to obtain license (Steve Gough)
 - Needed to check the hardware in the chosen room would support the software during the debate (Pursesey)
 - Setting up the polls and moderation of texts during debate (Pursesey)
- **Other issues**
 - Cost of texting in votes (and texts) – assumed minimal and would be regarded as such by participants
 - Access – assumes everyone has mobile phone

Contacting students

- The pre-debate poll for the debate on Monday November 7th is now open.
- The motion is:
"Cuts in UK public expenditure are essential: increasing expenditure to stimulate growth will only slow recovery in the long run."

Text **59722** to vote **FOR** the motion.


Text **59731** to vote **AGAINST** the motion.

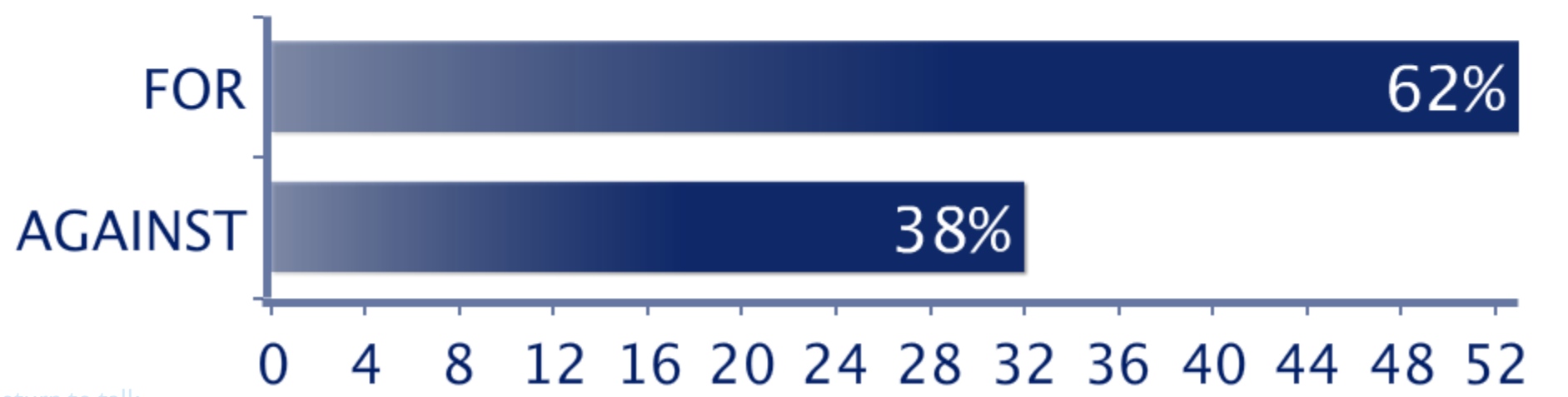
Send your text message to the number 07624806527.

Texts will be charged at your standard network rate.

The poll will remain open until Monday with a last chance to vote pre-debate just before the debate itself begins.

"Cuts in UK public expenditure are essential: increasing expenditure to stimulate growth will only slow recovery in the long run." PRE-DEBATE VOTE

 **Start** this poll to accept responses



[Return to talk](#)

Total Results: 85

How did it go?

- A reasonable number of votes prior to the debate (85).
 - It was easy to vote.
 - Very few texts (1 or 2) received before the debate – not enough for speakers to concentrate on initially.
 - Once texts came in they did so quickly.
 - Live text feed did not work initially – a matter of experience. (The idea was to encourage texts as the debate took place for a more dynamic atmosphere). At this stage question overload for speakers.
 - Final vote was exciting.

Moderator

- You **absolutely must** have a moderator for incoming texts. This is a big job and that person can't do anything else. This person needs to understand the software. Technical knowledge of the debate topic much less important. Thanks Guy!
 - There were about 50 texts during the debate (audience of 100).
 - Half of these were (correctly) blocked – are students of economics any different from other kinds of students?
 - Reason for blocking was that emails were 'off subject', but you can imagine the sort of range because the texts were anonymous.
(List of texts).
- Post-debate vote showed the running total of votes. Exciting, but not a good idea if you want a valid vote because voters targeted equality (which was approximate result).

Conclusion

- i) Informal feedback – engaging, but responses to live texts an issue. Probably does not substitute for questions from the floor – need to integrate.
- ii) Feedback from us to students – again need to develop this, but one question was whether to publish the texts, and especially whether to publish ALL the texts, regardless of content.
- iii) We will hold further debates on this basis, but need to review the details.
- iv) Poll Everywhere worked well in terms of what it was supposed to do.
- v) You need to know how to work with the software, especially if using live texting, if it will work in situ, and you need a moderator (sadly...).

Response	Approved?		
could you please guve mark a working mic, hes quiet from the back	No	Could part of the "crisis" and its impact derive from a lack of private sector and higher public?	Yes
would you rather be attacked by 1 horse-sized duck or a herd of duck-sized horses?	No	Economics social tonight. See george course rep, he wants you out. (Please allow this to go up on screen)	No
Do you think that the extensive welfare system might be an obstacle to the sustainable economic growth?	Yes	Talking of cuts if we were to cut the annogram 'HUMSS' further, would we save more time that would benefit the economy?	No
If an economics degree is infinitely better than a I.T degree, don't post this on the board.	No	UK appears to rely on financial sector for tax income. Given this reliance, can factor markets, industries adjust without government investment.	Yes
cuts look big, not as big as my penis	No		

why 8358 Is the uk suffering? Because we dont know wether special K is special?	No	has anyone ever been as far as decided to go do want even look more like?	No
is leaving the European union a valid path for the UK ?	Yes	If you read this your awful at economics.x An old lady said to me the other day: "we don't have any money to save us." is this worryingly true? PS Oh i love you guys <3 #legends	No
Where is my job going to come from? Gov accepted growing inequality in delusional times, should it not now accepted a lower return for those who ben	Yes	Dr casson, are you saying bigotgate helped the UK economy?	Yes
Economicd social tomight. See george course rep	No	How would you persuade lenders that the UK will be able to pay off its debts in forthcoming years if it wished to increase borrowing?	Yes
how will "going green" neccesarily lead to stability, could it lead to a double dip	Yes	How is cutting govt depts by 20% and making hundreds of thousands unemployed supposed to boost consumer confidence/ growth? a higher growth often comes with higher inflation, so based on current inflation rate, do you think we can afford a higher growth?	Yes