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# Listening comprehension task:

# “Thinking Allowed: Political polarization” on BBC Radio 4:. ~ 14Min; ab 14:08.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07wtd74>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **True or false?** (1 credit each) | true | false |
| 1. In the current political debate in the US, partisanship does not matter. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. The attitudes of both major parties have never overlapped. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. Both sides said in a survey they preferred illegal immigrants to people from the opposite   party. | 🞏 | 🞏 |

1. **Complete this sentence**. (1 credit)

|  |
| --- |
| ***Marc J. Hetherington*** thinks that the rising distrust………………………………………………………………  ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………  ……….  distrust……………………………………….. |

1. **Tick the one correct answer.** (1 credit)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Robert Ford*** explains that in the UK | a | 🞏 | this phenomenon of distrust is exactly the same as in the US. |
| b | 🞏 | Labour supporters have less negative stereotypes about Conservatives than the other way round. |
| c | 🞏 | In the UK, the people most distrustful of the government seem to choose other political parties rather than focusing on the two major ones. |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **True or false?** (1 credit each) | true | false |
| 1. In the 1950s and 1960s, American politicians were able to cooperate across party lines. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. Today, Republicans are willing to give up some of their political goals in the process of law-making. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. In the Uk, the governing party needs support from people of the other party to get their work done. | 🞏 | 🞏 |

1. **Complete the sentences in your own words**. (2 credits each)

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Unlike the Democrats, Republicans do not seem to mind political gridlock in Congress because ………   ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………... |
| 1. According to ***Prof. Hetherington***, radical politicians like Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump are able to garner   so much support because……………………………………………………………………………………………… |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **True or false?** (1 credit each) | true | false |
| 1. ***Prof. Hetherington*** thinks that government can only work with compromises. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. In the UK, those people who voted to remain in the EU tended to come from the lower trust end of the political spectrum. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. According to a survey from 2010, 49% of Democrats would be dissatisfied if their children married someone from the Republican party. | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| 1. In the UK, Conservative parents would rather see their children marrying a criminal than a UKIP supporter. | 🞏 | 🞏 |

**Proper names:**

1. *Marc J. Hetherington*, Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University
2. *Robert Ford*, Professor of Political Science at the University of Manchester

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