

## The Time Traveller

Three women in jumpsuits appeared from nowhere at the front of the council office queue.

The man behind the desk said, "Er. I think this gentlemen was before you."

"You were all before us", said one of the women. "That's just the problem. And you made a right mess of things. We're from the future, and we've come to register to vote."

"Oh. I might have to call my supervisor. I haven't dealt with this before."

"Well, you better get used to it. A lot more of us will be arriving soon. We thought we'd beat the rush."

"You do live here, I take it?"

"Yes, I live here, just not now. I'm up on the hill. It's the only bit that doesn't flood. Here's my passport."

He opened it. It said, in a polite, neutral voice, "Good morning. Cuthbert Brewster, European citizen. Date of birth 10th January 2153. No criminal record. No diseases."

He took out a calculator.

"Sorry. You're minus 139 years old. You have to be 18 to vote."

"That's ridiculous. I'm from 2177. I'm 24 then. So I'm old enough to know what's good for me. And let me tell you, what you people are doing right now isn't good for me at all."

"I'm sorry. You can only vote for things in your own time. I mean, I won't be travelling to the future to vote in your elections."

"You don't need to. You're still having your say in our time through the things you did. It's only fair we should have a say in your time."

"But aren't there more of you in the future than there are now? You'll outnumber us."

“That’s democracy. But don’t worry. We’ll go back to the future after we’ve voted and done some sightseeing. There are lots of things we’d like to see for real that we’ve only seen in 2D. Hopefully, they might still be there when we get home, but it’ll be nice to have some ussies if they’re not,” said the woman in the jumpsuit.

“I think I’ll have to book you an appointment,” said the man behind the desk.

## THE END

The theme is how much we should we care about the wishes of people who are going to live after us. Our actions will have consequences for future generations – extinctions, climate change, pollution. Which of these captures how we **should** pass on the planet to future generations? Which of 1-9 describes how we probably **are** going pass on the planet? Why?

1. As we found it.
2. As we would have liked to find it.
3. So that the next generation can put it back to how we found it, if they want to.
4. A bit better than we found it.
5. So that the good things we leave balance out the bad.
6. So that it’s not going to get worse.
7. So that the next generation can leave it the same way we did
8. It doesn’t matter because we won’t be here.
9. We don’t have to worry too much because people in the future will be richer and have better technology, so they can put it back how it was.

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