Chapter 10

**Knowledge based**

1. What are the main consequences of electoral systems?
2. Taking any country as an example, what difference would we expect to see in its politics if it changed from a PR electoral system to a non-PR system, or vice versa?
3. Are there certain subjects that are especially suitable, and certain subjects that are especially unsuitable, to be put to the people for decision by referendum?
4. Why is the referendum widely used in some democracies and rarely or never used in others?
5. How real is the danger that referendums will result in majorities infringing the rights of minorities?
6. Should the power of a sufficient number of ordinary citizens to initiate public votes, which at present is confined to a few countries, be given to people in every country?

**Critical thinking**

1. Should voting be made compulsory in modern democracies? What would be the main consequences of compulsory voting?
2. Do electoral systems shape party systems, or do the dominant actors in party systems choose the electoral system that suits them?
3. Does the use of the referendum result in better policies than would be made without it?
4. Does the use of referendums threaten representative democracy, enhance it, or have little impact either way?