

To generate the “divisiveness score”, we take the difference in category responses for seven of our climate questions across each of the subgroups of our demographic and voting/values questions. Take the example of “age” across the categories of the question “Which do you think is the top reason that the UK should take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?” This question has nine categories: “It will promote environmental/habitat restoration”, “It will reduce waste/pollution,” etc. We take the percentage of respondents selecting each question option within each age group and then for each question option, take the absolute value of the difference of percentages between the three age groups. Then we sum these differences across each question option. We do the same thing for our other six climate questions and sum these question totals, giving us the “divisiveness score” for age. Then we do the same for our other five values and demographics variables, giving us a total of six “divisiveness scores”. Formally, the Divisiveness Score for each three category (denoted a, b, c) values/demographic variable x over our seven climate questions q and their question options o is:

$$DS_x = \sum_{q=1}^7 \sum_{o=1}^n |x_{aqo} - x_{bqo}| + |x_{aqo} - x_{cqo}| + |x_{bqo} - x_{cqo}|$$