Interviewee:

Party:

Date:

Interviewer: Pontus Odmalm/Betsy Super

**Starter question**

I – If you were to describe [party] to someone who has never heard of it before, how would you do this?

**Ideology (position)**

I – When parties are discussed it is sometimes done with reference to a ‘left-right’ scale. How would you describe [party] from according to this scale?

I – On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is very much to the left and 10 is very much to the right, where would you place [party]?

I – Has this position changed significantly over the last twenty years?

I – People sometimes talk about a “new” left-right dimension which is about more with values and lifestyles. How would you describe [party] according to this scale?

I – If we again think of a scale from 1 to 10, where the closer a party is to 1 the more the party would emphasise individual freedom, the environment and so forth and the closer to 10 the party is the more it would emphasis traditional lifestyles, economic growth, etc – where would you place [party]?

I – Has this position changed significantly over the last twenty years?

**Ideology (relevance and role)**

I – Some people say that ideology has become less important when parties decide to adopt a particular position, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

I – If we recall the two conflict dimensions we just discussed, how much difference is there between the parties in parliament on these scales?

I – Would you say that these differences have become greater over time or have they been more or less the same?

I – If we think about these two dimensions again, which party or parties would you say [party] sees itself closest to?

I – How do you think voters see [party] position on these two dimensions?

I – Which of the two dimensions would you say is the most important one when it comes to party competition today?

I – Would you say that parties in parliament are very different regarding their views on what society should look like? Or do they, broadly, agree on the goals but differ in the means used to achieve them?

**Party competition**

I – And in terms of your main political competitor, who would this be?

I – Have they always been your main competitor?

I – Does this mean that [party] is trying to move in on some of those issues the [party mentioned] is said to “own”?

I – What group or groups would you say are [party] core voters?

I – Parties are sometimes said to behave differently when in government, e.g. they cannot “afford” to be as radical as they would be if they were in opposition. How does statement compare to [party] experience?

I – So if [party] is in a governing position does this have a moderating effect on the party’s policy positions?

I – So when [party] decides on what position/s to adopt, would you say these positions are the result of a particular ideological conviction or is it done to clearly mark out [party’s] profile compared to other parties?

**Public opinion**

I – How important is public opinion for the position/s [party] decides to adopt?

I – How important are election results for whether or not [party] changes positions?

**EU and Immigration**

I – Finally, let’s turn to the two issues, EU and immigration. How would you describe [party] position on the EU, both in terms of [country] membership of the Union and the EU as a project?

I – How does [party] position compare to that of other parties in parliament. Is your position unique or fairly typical?

I – How important is the EU compared to other issues parties compete on?

I – When EU related questions are debated, is this done primarily on the “old” or “new” dimension we discussed?

I – Moving on to the last issue, immigration policy, how would you describe [party] positions here?