



Audit of Political Engagement 7

Hansard Society

FINAL QUESTIONNAIRE

9 November 2009 – WITH AMENDMENTS FROM 6 NOV

Q1. What do you understand by “politics”?

INTERVIEWER: CODE ALL THAT APPLY. DO NOT READ OUT. PROMPT: **What else?**

- Arguments between parties/politicians
- Boring
- Campaigning
- Choices for society/how the country should be run
- Cronyism/jobs for the boys/nepotism
- Disagreement/confrontation/argument
- Elections/voting
- Important issue of the day
- Irrelevant/doesn't involve me/something for other people
- Local government/councils
- Not listening/ignoring public opinion
- Old fashioned/out of date
- Parliament
- Party system/alignment of groups
- People with power/people who run things
- Popularity contest
- Posturing/playing games
- Public link with/control over government/representation
- Religion
- Sleaze/corruption/they are all crooks
- Spin/lies
- Talking/people discussing issues/reaching agreement
- The way the country is governed/running the country/what the government does
- Way of making decisions
- Other SPECIFY
- None of these
- Don't know

Question as asked in APE 1 & 3. Precode list developed from APE 3

60 SECONDS

Q2. SHOWCARD (R) **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**
SINGLE CODE ONLY

Conservative
Labour
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist
Green Party
UK Independence Party
BNP
Respect
Other
Would not vote
Undecided
Refused

Key demographic
question

STANDARD QUESTION - DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS LENGTH

ASK ALL UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q2

Q3. SHOWCARD (R) AGAIN **Which party are you most inclined to support?** SINGLE
CODE ONLY

Conservative
Labour
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist
Green Party
UK Independence Party
BNP
Respect
Other
Would not vote
Undecided
Refused

Key demographic
question

STANDARD QUESTION - DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS LENGTH

ASK ALL

Q4. And how likely would you be to vote in an immediate general election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote? SINGLE CODE ONLY

Core indicator

10 (Absolutely certain to vote)

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)

Refused

Don't know

STANDARD QUESTION - DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS LENGTH

Q5A) SHOWCARD (R) Which, if any, of the things on this list have you done in the last two or three years. Just read out the letters that apply. MULTICODE OK

SPLIT SAMPLE WORDINGS FOR OPTIONS A AND F SO c.500 GET EACH VERSION

SPLIT SAMPLE 1 (original wording)

A) Presented my views to a local councillor or MP (SCOTLAND/WALES Presented my views to a local councillor /MP/MSP/Welsh Assembly Member)

SPLIT SAMPLE 2 (revised wording)

A) Contacted my local councillor or MP (SCOTLAND/WALES Contacted my local councillor /MP/MSP/Welsh Assembly Member)

B) Written a letter to an editor

C) Urged someone outside my family to vote

D) Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP

E) Made a speech before an organised group

Core indicator

SAMPLE 1 (original wording)

F) Been an officer of an organisation or club

SAMPLE 2 (revised wording)

F) Been an office holder of an organisation or club

G) Stood for public office

H) Taken an active part in a political campaign

I) Helped on fund raising drives

J) Voted in the last general election

K) Flown on business overseas

L) Flown on a business trip within the UK

None of these

Don't know

STANDARD QUESTION - DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS LENGTH



ENGLAND ONLY - ASK IF CONTACTED MY LOCAL COUNCILLOR OR MP AT Q5A
 Q5B) **You said that you have presented your views to a local councillor or MP. Was this to a local councillor, an MP or both?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

Core indicator

Local councillor
 MP
 Both
 Don't know

SCOTLAND/WALES ONLY - ASK IF CONTACTED MY LOCAL COUNCILLOR OR MP AT
 Q5A
 Q5B) **You said that you have presented your views to a local councillor, MP or MSP/Welsh Assembly Member. Was this to a local councillor, an MP, MSP or Welsh Assembly Member?** MULTI CODE OK. CODE ALL THAT APPLY

Core indicator

Local councillor
 MP
 MSP
 Welsh Assembly Member
 Don't know

20 SECONDS

ASK ALL

Q6) SHOWCARD (R) **And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply.** MULTICODE OK

Core indicator Codes as asked in APE 6

- A) Voted in the last local council election
 - B) Discussed politics or political news with someone else (7)
 - C) Signed a petition
 - D) Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation
 - E) Done voluntary work
 - F) Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons
 - G) Expressed my political opinions online
 - H) Been to any political meeting
 - I) Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party
- SPLIT SAMPLE 1 (original wording):
- J) Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march
- SPLIT SAMPLE 2 (new wording):
- J) Taken part in a demonstration, march or strike

None
 Don't know

40 SECONDS

ASK ALL

Q6B) SHOWCARD I (R) **And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply.** MULTICODE OK

- A) Joined a political group on Facebook
 - B) Followed a politician or political group on Twitter
 - C) Served as a school governor
 - D) Served as a hospital governor
 - E) Served as a local magistrate
- None of these

Q7) SHOWCARD (R) **How interested would you say you are in politics?**
SINGLE CODE ONLY

Core
indicator

Q8) SHOWCARD (R) AGAIN **How interested would you say you are in local issues?**
SINGLE CODE ONLY

Q9) SHOWCARD (R) AGAIN **How interested would you say you are in national issues?**
SINGLE CODE ONLY

Very interested
Fairly interested
Not very interested
Not at all interested
Don't know

40 SECONDS

Q10) SHOWCARD (R) **Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?** SINGLE CODE ONLY (13)

Core indicator

Works extremely well and could not be improved
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well
Could be improved quite a lot
Needs a great deal of improvement
Don't know

25 SECONDS

Ipsos MORI

Q11) SHOWCARD (R) **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about....**
STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO D). SINGLE CODE ONLY

- a) Politics
- b) Your local council
- c) The Westminster Parliament
- d) The role of MPs

Core indicator

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- Nothing at all
- Don't know

40 SECONDS

Q12) SHOWCARD (R) **Which of these local , national and international issues, if any, have you discussed with your family or friends in the last year or so? Just read out the letters that apply.** MULTICODE OK.

- A written Bill of Rights
- Devolution of central government powers to Scotland/Wales
- How political parties raise or spend their money
- Local council elections
- Local government reform/election of local mayors
- MP's expenses
- Open primary selections
- Recall of MPs via a petition of their constituents
- Reform of the House of Commons
- Reform of the House of Lords
- The electoral system
- The European Union
- The leadership of the main political parties
- Written constitution
- None of these
- Don't know

Question revised to focus primarily on constitutional / democratic issues (process issues), to assess the relative salience amongst these issues, rather than their place within the wider political debate. The relative importance of other issues (transport, education, etc) can be assessed using other research approaches – and indeed is on Ipsos MORI's monthly Issues Index of the most important issues facing Britain

40 SECONDS

Q13) **What is the name of your local Member of Parliament?**

- [Name of MP] – DO NOT PROMPT
- Name given but not same as above
- Don't know

Core indicator

30 SECONDS



Q14) **Please tell me if you think that the following statements are true or false. If you don't know, just say so and we will move on to the next question.** RANDOMISE STATEMENTS A) TO H). SINGLE CODE ONLY

- A) Cabinet ministers stop being MPs when they become a minister.
- B) British members of the European Parliament are directly elected by British voters every five years.
- C) You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax
- D) Members of the House of Lords are elected by the British public
- E) MPs can raise problems their constituents are having in the House of Commons.
- F) The minimum age for voting at a general election is 16
- G) Most of the money that local councils spend is raised locally, through council tax.
- H) Government and Parliament are the same thing
- I) Political parties have to declare publically where they receive their money and donations from

True

False

Don't know

90 SECONDS

RANDOMISE ORDER OF Q15 TO Q17

Q15) SHOWCARD (R) **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that Parliament works?** SINGLE CODE ONLY (15)

Q16) SHOWCARD (R) AGAIN **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way MPs in general are doing their job?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

Q17) SHOWCARD (R) AGAIN **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way your MP (INSERT NAME) is doing his/her job?** SINGLE CODE ONLY (16)

Very satisfied

Fairly satisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Fairly dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

Don't know

30 SECONDS

Core indicators

Q18) SHOWCARD (R) **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?** RANDOMISE ORDER OF A) TO D)

- A) Politics is a waste of time
- B) Voting in a General Election gives me a say in how the country is run.
- C) It is my duty to vote
- D) When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the UK is run (12)

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

40 SECONDS

Core indicator (people like me statement)



Q19). SHOWCARD (R) **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?** RANDOMISE ORDER OF A) TO D)

The Westminster Parliament...

- (A) holds government to account**
- (B) is welcoming to the public**
- (C) is working for you and me**
- (D) is worthwhile**

Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know

40 SECONDS

Q20) SHOWCARD (R) **From this list, which two or three of the following do you believe have most impact on people's everyday lives? You can select up to three options.** MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- A) Civil Service
 - B) Business
 - C) Cabinet
 - D) European Union
 - E) Local Councils
 - F) Media
 - G) Prime Minister
 - H) Westminster Parliament
- FOR SCOTLAND, WALES. ADD IN AS APPROPRIATE:
- I) Scottish Parliament
 - I) National Assembly for Wales

40 SECONDS

Q21) SHOWCARD (R) **How much would you say you trust politicians generally?**
SINGLE CODE ONLY (14)

A great deal
A fair amount
Not very much
Not at all
Don't know

Core indicator

20 SECONDS

Q22) SHOWCARD (R) **Which TWO or THREE, if any, do you feel are the most important ways that MPs should spend their time?** MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- A. Debating important issues in the House of Commons
- B. Representing the views of their political party
- C. Presenting their views through the media
- D. Dealing with the problems of individual constituents
- E. Representing the views of local people in the House of Commons
- F. Holding the government to account
- G. Participating in local public meetings and events
- H. Representing the UK's national interests
- I. Communicating with constituents on the doorstep or by telephone
- J. Making laws
- K. Furthering personal and career interests
- Other (specify)
- None of these
- Don't know

30 SECONDS

Q23) SHOWCARD (R) **Which TWO or THREE, if any, do you feel that MPs spend most their time doing?** MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- A. Debating important issues in the House of Commons
- B. Representing the views of their political party
- C. Presenting their views through the media
- D. Dealing with the problems of individual constituents
- E. Representing the views of local people in the House of Commons
- F. Holding the government to account
- G. Participating in local public meetings and events
- H. Representing the UK's national interests
- I. Communicating with constituents on the doorstep or by telephone
- J. Making laws
- K. Furthering personal and career interests
- Other (specify)
- None of these
- Don't know

40 SECONDS

New question added to assess / compare what people think MPs SHOULD do, vs. what the DO actually do. Note that Ipsos MORI have a similar question on this that we collect data on fairly regularly

Q24) SHOWCARD (R) **Here is a list of different professions. Please indicate which, if any, you would be proud for a child or family member of yours to do? Just read out the letters that apply.**

MULTICODE OK.

- A) Businessman/woman
- B) Council manager
- C) Estate agent
- D) Family doctor
- E) Broadsheet journalist
- F) Tabloid journalist
- G) Judge
- H) NHS manager
- I) Local politician (Councillor)
- J) National politician (Member of Parliament)
- K) School head teacher
- L) Senior civil servant
- M) Senior police officer
- N) Solicitor
- None of these

45 SECONDS



Q25) SHOWCARD (R) **In general, what do you think motivates most people who try to become MPs?**

**Which of the following is the most important? Just read out the letter that applies.
Which is the second most important?
Which is the third most important?**

Q26) SHOWCARD (R) **In general, what do you think motivates most people who get involved in politics?**

**Which of the following is the most important? Just read out the letter that applies.
Which is the second most important?
Which is the third most important?**

- A. for their own personal gain,
- B. to help their political party,
- C. to help people in their local area
- D. to help the country as a whole

40 SECONDS

Q27. **How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the media reports politics in the UK?**

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neither/nor
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

20 SECONDS

SHOWCARD (R) **Which of these, if any, do you personally use? PROBE FULLY And which others? MULTICODE OK**

PLEASE PROBE FULLY TO COLLECT ALL THAT APPLY

- A - PC - desktop, laptop or other computer at home, place of work or study, or elsewhere
- B - Internet at home via 'dial up' modem
- C - Broadband internet at home via a high-speed, always-on connection (e.g. via ADSL or cable modem)
- D - Internet at work, place of study or elsewhere
- E - Digital or multi-channel TV: that is you can watch channels in addition to BBC1, BBC2, ITV1, Channel 4 and five
- F - Interactive services on digital TV (e.g. games, shopping, banking or extra information accessed by pressing the 'red button' on your remote control)
- F2 - Interactive TV services to obtain information to help plan and organise every day life (i.e. not for entertainment)
- None of these

STANDARD DEMOGRAPHIC – DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS INTERVIEW LENGTH