

UK Data Archive

Study Number 6861

Qualitative Election Study of Britain, 2010

USER GUIDE

Consent Form – Focus Groups

Understanding people’s attitudes toward current events
Dr. Kristi Winters (Birkbeck College, University of London)

Funded by the British Academy

- I have read and understood the project information brochure **Understanding people’s attitudes toward current events**.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the project. I also understand I may ask further questions about this research at any time.
- I agree to take part in the project. Taking part in the project will include being interviewed and recorded (video and audio).
- I understand that my taking part is voluntary; I can withdraw from participating at any time and I will not be asked any questions about why I no longer want to take part. The focus group discussions I have participated in until my withdrawal may still be used.
- I agree for the data I provided to be archived at the UK Data Archive and I understand that other researchers will have access to this data only if they agree to preserve my anonymity and confidentiality terms as specified in this form.
- I understand that my words may be quoted in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs **but my name or other identifying details** will not be used.
- I hereby assign the copyright of my contribution to Dr. Kristi Winters, so that my words may be quoted in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs.
- I would / would not (delete as appropriate) like to be notified of any publications which are produced from this research. I would like to be notified of this by e-mail / text / phone call (delete as appropriate) and have provided the relevant contact information to Dr. Winters.
- I understand my personal details such as phone number and address will not be revealed to anyone except Dr. Kristi Winters or her assistants.
- I confirm that I have freely agreed to participate in this qualitative research project conducted by Dr. Kristi Winters. I have been briefed on what this involves and I agree to the use of the findings as described above. I understand that the material is protected by a code of professional ethics.

Name of Participant

Signature

Date

Understanding people's attitudes toward current events

A study funded by the British Academy

Seeking participants for focus group discussions about current events

£25 participation compensation

The British Academy and Birkbeck College are committed to ethically conducted social research. We ask you to consider the following points **before** agreeing to participate.

- Your contribution to the research will take the form of a focus group participant. This will be digitally video recorded and transcribed.
- Your name and any information which may directly or indirectly identify you will be altered to protect your anonymity.**
- Any recordings of the discussions will be kept securely, and only authorised to other researchers on the condition they preserve your anonymity.
- The transcriptions (*excluding* names and other identifying details) will be retained by the researcher and analysed as part of the study. They will also be deposited with the UK Data Archive which has strict regulations about accessing data for research and protecting participant confidentiality.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the study, or the details of this form, please contact **Dr. Kristi Winters**.

Phone: ..

E-mail:

Web page: .

Focus group details:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Other research in the media:

Drs. Rosie Campbell and Kristi Winters (2007) 'The myth of the homogeneous voter.' *Thinking Aloud* Podcast available at: www.bbk.ac.uk/polsoc/research/rcampbellvoting/

Research conducted by Dr. Kristi Winters
Birkbeck College, University of London
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow
email

Common Questions:

Q: What is this research about?

Local elections, an up-coming general election, economic worries, climate change, the future of public services, personal and national security...

At the start of the 21st century, Britain faces many challenges. The aim of this research is to talk to people about current events and issues and learn more about what people think about the challenges facing Britain.

What do I have to do?

Just talk and give your views.

The focus groups will consist of 5 to 10 other people and will be led by a moderator. You will first be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. In order to get a good cross-section of the public not everyone who applies will be invited to participate in the focus groups, however you might be invited to participate in a one-on-one interview instead.

There will another focus group after the next general election which will review many of these topics again. If you are invited to the first focus group you may participate in the post-election focus group, and will again be eligible for £25 in participant compensation.

The focus group will take place at a location convenient for you. It will be recorded with a digital video recorder and transcribed.

The transcripts will be analysed to better understand the views of Britons today.

I also understand your time is valuable, and to help offset the costs you might incur travelling to and from the focus groups I am offering £25 compensation to all participants.

How long will it take?

The focus group will last about 90 minutes. The first 5 minutes will be devoted to reviewing and signing a consent form which lists your rights as a participant and to answer any other questions you might have before we begin. You may also request a copy of the consent form in advance of our meeting.

Participants will also be required to fill out a questionnaire after the focus group session.

What happens to the video files and written transcripts?

You will be assigned a participant ID number so your contact details will never be kept with the video or transcript files.

All files will be kept in a password-protected file on a password-protected computer. Files **will not** be sent by e-mail, only on password-protected data sticks and by registered post.

Transcribers will be required to sign documentation binding them legally to protecting your anonymity. During the course of transcription all **direct identifiers** (names, addresses,

employment, streets, etc.) and **indirect identifiers** (workplace, organisations) will be **removed or changed**.

Any other researchers who use the data must comply with strict regulations about accessing

data for research and protecting participant confidentiality.

The findings of this research will be written up and published. They may also be used for teaching and research training. The published works may include quotations from your discussions, but **individuals will never be named**. To aid in the use of your words in published works I request that you assign copyright to the researcher.

Can I change my mind about participation?

Your contribution is immensely valuable. However, if you wish to withdraw at any time I will respect your decision immediately.

How do I find out about publications which come out of this study?

Participants who would like to be notified of publications which come out of this research should identify how they would like to be notified on the participation consent form.

How do I find out more or become a participant in this study?

Just contact Dr. Kristi Winters by e-mail or by phone with any questions.

Participant ID:

1) Do you read any newspaper(s) on a regular basis? Yes No

1a) If so, which? _____

2) Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your THREE highest priorities for government spending (please indicate 1, 2, 3)?

___ Benefits ___ Defence ___ Education ___ Housing

___ International aid ___ National Health Service ___ Police and prisons

___ Public transport ___ Reduce the general level of taxation

___ Tax breaks for British businesses ___ None of these/Other: _____

3) Why do you think there are still people living in need in the UK (check one which best describes your view)?

___ Because they have been unlucky ___ Because of laziness or lack of willpower

___ Because of injustice in our society ___ It's an inevitable part of modern life

4) People often describe themselves as being on the left or right wing of political opinion. Would you describe yourself as (circle one):

Very Left-Wing

Slightly Right of Centre

Fairly Left-Wing

Fairly Right-Wing

Slightly Left of Centre

Very Right-Wing

Centre

The items below inquire about what kind of person you think you are. Each item consists of a pair of characteristics, with the letters A-E in between. The letters form a scale between the two extremes. Please choose a letter that describes where you fall on the scale.

Not at all independent	A	B	C	D	E	Very independent
Not able to devote self completely to others	A	B	C	D	E	Able to devote self completely to others
Not at all excitable in a major crisis	A	B	C	D	E	Very excitable in a major crisis
Give up very easily	A	B	C	D	E	Never give up easily
Feel very inferior compared with others	A	B	C	D	E	Feel very superior compared with others
Not at all self-confident	A	B	C	D	E	Very self confident
Not at all kind	A	B	C	D	E	Very kind
Not at all helpful to others	A	B	C	D	E	Very helpful to others
Go to pieces under pressure	A	B	C	D	E	Stand up well under pressure
Feelings not easily hurt	A	B	C	D	E	Feelings easily hurt
Very passive	A	B	C	D	E	Very active
Not at all aware of others' feelings	A	B	C	D	E	Very aware of others' feelings
Never cry	A	B	C	D	E	Cry very easily
Indifferent to others' approval	A	B	C	D	E	Highly desire others' approval
Not at all understanding of others	A	B	C	D	E	Very understanding of others
Very little need for security	A	B	C	D	E	Very strong need for security
Very cold in relations with others	A	B	C	D	E	Very warm in relations with others
Not at all competitive	A	B	C	D	E	Very competitive

Qualitative Election Study of Britain 2010

Variable names and labels

id	Participant ID
readpap	Read paper
paper	Which papers
spendben1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendben2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendben3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spenddef1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spenddef2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spenddef3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spended1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spended2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spended3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendhouse1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendhouse2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendhouse3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendaid1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendaid2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendaid3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendnhs1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendnhs2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendnhs3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendpo1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendpo2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendpo3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtrans1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtrans2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtrans3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtax1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtax2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendtax3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendbus1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendbus2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendbus3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendoth1	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendoth2	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
spendoth3	Here are some items of government spending. Which would be your three highest
need	Why do you think there are still people living in need in the UK (check one)
leftright	People often describe themselves as being on the left or the right of political opinion. Would you describe yourself as (circle one)
indep	Not at all independent to very independent
devote	Not able to completely devote self to others to able to completely devote self
excite	Not at all excitable in a major crisis to very excitable
givesup	Gives up easily to never gives up easily
inferior	Feel very inferior to feel very superior
selfcon	Not at all self confident to very self confident
kind	Not at all kind to very kind
help	Not at all helpful to others to very helpful to others
pressure	Goes to pieces to stand up well
feelings	Feelings not easily hurt to easily hurt
passive	Very passive to very active
aware	Not at all aware of others' feelings to very aware
cry	Never cry to easily cry
approval	Indifferent to others' approval to needful of approval
underst	Not at all understanding of others to very understanding
security	Very little need for security to very strong need for security

relations	Very cold in relation to others to very warm in relation to others
compete	Not at all competitive to very competitive
brpers10	Thinking about Gordon Brown please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Personality
brcomp10	Thinking about Gordon Brown please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Competence
brtrust10	Thinking about Gordon Brown please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Trustworthiness
brperschg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Brown's personality changed?
brcompchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Brown's competence as a leader changed?
brtrustchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Brown's trustworthiness changed?
campers10	Thinking about David Cameron please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Personality
camcomp10	Thinking about David Cameron please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Competence
camtrust10	Thinking about David Cameron please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Trustworthiness
dcperschg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Cameron's personality changed?
dcompchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Cameron's competence as a leader changed?
dctrustchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Cameron's trustworthiness changed?
clegpers10	Thinking about Nick Clegg please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Personality
clegcomp10	Thinking about Nick Clegg please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Competence
clegtrust10	Thinking about Nick Clegg please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Trustworthiness
ncperschg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Clegg's personality changed?
ncompchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Clegg's competence as a leader changed?
nctrustchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Clegg's trustworthiness changed?
wjpers10	Thinking about Ieuan Wyn Jones please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Personality
wjcomp10	Thinking about Ieuan Wyn Jones please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Competence
wjtrust10	Thinking about Ieuan Wyn Jones please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Trustworthiness
wjperschg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Wyn Jones' personality changed?
wjcompchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Wyn Jones' competence as a leader changed?
wjtrustchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Wyn Jones' trustworthiness changed?
aspers10	Thinking about Alex Salmond please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Personality
ascomp10	Thinking about Alex Salmond please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Competence
astrust10	Thinking about Alex Salmond please indicate your assessment of him with 0 as lowest and 10 as highest Trustworthiness
asperschg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Salmond's personality changed?
ascompchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Salmond's competence as a leader changed?
astrustchg	In the last 3 weeks has your opinion of Salmond's trustworthiness changed?