

Hansard Society Audit of Political Engagement — Audit 9 FINAL QUESTIONNAIRE

ENGAGEMENT INDICATORS

ASK ALL

Q1) How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

SHOW SCREEN IF NECESSARY. SINGLE CODE.

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

ASK ALL UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1

Q2) Which party are you most inclined to support?

SHOW SCREEN IF NECESSARY. SINGLE CODE.

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

ASK ALL

Q3) 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.

10 (Absolutely certain to vote)
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)
Refused
Don't know

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ASK ALL

Q4A) 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.

SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE.

- A) **IF ENGLAND:** Presented my views to a local councillor or MP
IF SCOTLAND/WALES: Presented my views to a local councillor, MP, MSP or 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
- F) Been an officer 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) Created a new e-petition on <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk>
- L) None of these

Don't know

ENGLAND ONLY - ASK IF CONTACTED MY LOCAL COUNCILLOR OR MP AT Q4A

Q4B) 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.

- Local councillor
 - MP
 - Both
 - Don't know
-

SCOTLAND/WALES ONLY - ASK IF CONTACTED MY LOCAL COUNCILLOR OR MP AT Q4A

Q4B) 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?

MULTICODE.

- Local councillor
 - MP
 - MSP
 - Welsh Assembly Member
 - Don't know
-

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ASK ALL

Q5) And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply.

SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE.

- A) Voted in the last local council election
- B) Discussed politics or political news with someone else
- C) Signed a petition / Signed an e-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
- J) Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march
- K) Voted in the last Welsh/London Assembly/Scottish Parliament election
- L) None of these

Don't know

ASK ALL

Q6) How interested would you say you are in politics?

SINGLE CODE.

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

ASK ALL

Q7) How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

- 1) Politics
- 2) The UK Parliament

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

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PARLIAMENT / MPs / CONSTITUTION

ASK ALL

Q8) Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?

SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.

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

ASK ALL

Q9) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the UK is run

SINGLE CODE ONLY

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

ASK ALL

Q10) If you were not happy with your local health services, who would you be most likely to contact to seek help. You can select up to three:

RANDOMISE LIST.

SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- A) Your local MP
- B) Your local AM/MSP [ask in Wales/Scotland only]
- C) Your local councillor
- D) Parliament
- E) Your local council
- F) Ombudsman
- G) The media
- H) Local advice service / Citizens Advice Bureau
- I) Lawyer/solicitor
- J) Friends/family
- K) Your doctor or GP, or someone else in your GP surgery
- L) Other
- M) No one.

Don't know.

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ASK ALL

Q11) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The UK Parliament...

RANDOMISE LIST.
READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

- 1) holds government to account
- 2) encourages public involvement in politics
- 3) is essential to our democracy
- 4) debates and makes decisions about issues that matter to me

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

ASK ALL

Q12) This is a list of some of the functions of the UK Parliament. Which would you say is the most important to you? You can choose either one or two.

RANDOMISE LIST.
SHOW SCREEN. MULTICODE UP TO TWO

- A) Holding government to account
- B) Scrutinising proposed new laws
- C) Representing the views of individual citizens
- D) Representing the views of local communities
- E) Representing the views of interest groups (e.g. businesses/charities)
- F) Representing the UK's national interests

Don't know

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT / LOCAL PARTICIPATION / BIG SOCIETY

ASK ALL

**Q13) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
When people like me get involved in their local community, they really can change the way that
their area is run**

SINGLE CODE.

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

ASK ALL

Q14). How much influence, if any, do you feel you have over decision making in...
READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

- 1) your local area
- 2) the country as a whole

A great deal of influence
Some influence
Not very much influence
No influence at all
Don't know

ASK ALL

Q15) To what extent, if at all, would you like to be involved in decision making in ...
READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

- 1) your local area
- 2) the country as a whole

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

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POLITICS AND THE MEDIA

ASK ALL

Q16) Which of these are your main sources of political news and information? You can select up to three options.

RANDOMISE LIST.
SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- A) Television
- B) Broadsheet Newspapers
- C) Tabloid Newspapers
- D) News websites
- E) Friends and/or family
- F) Radio
- G) Teachers and lecturers
- H) Political 'blogs'
- I) Social media (e.g. Facebook/Twitter)
- J) Leaflets and magazines produced by political parties
- K) Political party websites
- L) Leaflets and magazines produced by charities or pressure groups
- M) Charity and pressure group websites
- N) Something else
- O) Not applicable, I don't follow political news

Don't know

ASK IF ANSWERED TELEVISION AT Q16

Q17) And do you watch any of the following (when they're on)?

RANDOMISE.
SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE

- A) Have I Got News for You
- B) Mock the Week
- C) Question Time
- D) Daily Politics
- E) The Week
- F) Prime Minister's Questions
- G) Election coverage
- H) Party political broadcast
- I) Leaders' debates
- J) None of these

Don't know

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IF SELECTED ONLY ONE RESPONSE AT Q1: Thinking about your main source of political news and information...

IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE AT Q1: Thinking about your main sources of political news and information...

ASK ALL

Q18) 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

ASK IF ANSWERED FAIRLY/VERY DISSATISFIED AT Q18

Q19) Is your dissatisfaction with the way the media reports politics related to the following? Would you say reports often:

RANDOMISE LIST.
SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE.

- A) Don't explain the matter they're discussing in a clear way
- B) Are presented in a condescending way
- C) Use technical language and terms people find hard to understand
- D) Contain nothing of interest to me, my family or my work
- E) Make little or no attempt to explain why this should matter to me
- F) Make light of serious matters
- G) Try to make people unnecessarily scared or angry
- H) Make little or no effort to report positive political news
- I) Don't present the full facts
- J) Make little or no attempt to present a story in a balanced way
- K) None of these

Don't know

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ASK ALL

Q20) I am going to read out a list of statements about how political news is reported. Looking at the screen, please tell me which, if any, of these types of media the statement applies to.

RANDOMISE LIST.

1. They look for any excuse to tarnish the name of politicians
2. They do a good job of keeping politicians accountable for their conduct
3. They focus on negative stories about politics and politicians
4. They are generally fair in their representation of politicians
5. They are more interested in getting a story than telling the truth
6. They help the public to learn about what is happening in politics

SHOWSCREEN. MULTICODE.

A) **IF ENGLAND/WALES:**

The 'Broadsheet' newspapers like the Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Independent

IF SCOTLAND:

The 'Broadsheet' newspapers like the Times, Telegraph, Guardian, the Scotsman or the Herald

B) **IF ENGLAND/WALES:**

The 'Tabloid' newspapers like the Sun, the Mirror, the Daily Mail, Daily Express or the Daily Star

IF SCOTLAND:

The 'Tabloid' newspapers like the Sun, the Record, the Daily Mail, Daily Express or the Daily Star

C) Television news programmes

D) Radio news programmes

None

Don't know

ASK ALL

Q21) In your opinion, how much influence does the media have on:

RANDOMISE LIST.

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

- 1) how people vote
- 2) the topics politicians debate in Parliament
- 3) the decisions politicians make

A great deal

A fair amount

Not very much

Nothing at all

Don't know

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SUNSHINE AND STEALTH DEMOCRACY

ASK RANDOM HALF OF RESPONDENTS

Q22) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

SHOWSCREEN.

- 1) Openness to other people's views, and a willingness to compromise are important for politics in a country like ours.
- 2) It is important for elected politicians to discuss and debate things thoroughly before making major policy changes.
- 3) In a democracy like ours, there are some important differences between how government should be run and how a business should be managed.
- 4) It is important for the people and their elected representatives to have the final say in running government, rather than leaving it up to unelected experts

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

ASK HALF OF RESPONDENTS WHO WERE NOT ASKED Q22

Q23) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

SHOWSCREEN.

- 1) Elected politicians would help the country more if they would stop talking and just take action on important problems.
- 2) What people call "compromise" in politics is really just selling out one's principles.
- 3) Our government would run better if decisions were left up to successful business people.
- 4) Our government would run better if decisions were left up to non-elected, independent experts rather than politicians or the people.

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

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ASK Q24 AND Q25 TO ALL, BUT RANDOMISE WHICH COMES FIRST

Q24) If politics were MORE influenced by self-serving politicians and powerful special interests do you think that you would be more or less interested in getting involved in politics?

SINGLE CODE.

Definitely more interested
Probably more interested
Probably less interested
Definitely less interested
Don't know

ASK Q24 AND Q25 TO ALL, BUT RANDOMISE WHICH COMES FIRST

Q25) If politics were LESS influenced by self-serving politicians and powerful special interests do you think that you would be more or less interested in getting involved in politics?

SINGLE CODE.

Definitely more interested
Probably more interested
Probably less interested
Definitely less interested
Don't know

ASK ALL

Q26) To what extent do you agree or disagree that:

Important questions should be determined by referendums more often than today

SINGLE CODE.

Strongly agree
Partly agree
Partly disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know

Spontaneous: not sure what a referendum is

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DEMOGRAPHICS

ASK ALL

Q27) The last General Election was held on 6th May 2010. Did you manage to vote in that General Election?

SINGLE CODE

No, did not vote

Labour

Conservative

Liberal Democrat

SNP – Scottish National Party

Plaid Cymru

Green Party

UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party)

BNP (British National Party)

Other (specify)

Refused

ASK ALL

Q28) Starting from the top of the screen, please look down the list of qualifications and tell me the number of the first one you come to that you have passed.

SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.

Higher degree or postgraduate qualifications

Degree (undergraduate) (including B. Ed.), Postgraduate diplomas or Certificates (inc. PGCE), Professional qualifications at degree level (e.g. chartered accountant \ surveyor), NVQ \ SVQ Level 4 or 5

Diplomas in higher education or other HE qualifications, HNC \ HND \ BTEC Higher, Teaching qualifications for schools or further education (below degree level), Nursing or other medical qualifications (below degree level), RSA Higher Diploma

AVAS levels \ SCE Higher \ Scottish Certificate 6th Year Studies, NVQ \ SVQ \ GSVQ level 3 \ GNVQ Advanced, ONC \ OND \ BTEC National, City and Guilds Advanced Craft \ Final level \ Part III \ RSA, Advanced Diploma

Trade apprenticeships

O level \ GCSE grades A-C \ SCE Standard \ Ordinary grades 1-3, CSE grade 1, NVQ \ SVQ \ GSVQ level 2 \ GNVQ intermediate, BTEC \ SCOTVEC first \ General diploma, City and Guilds Craft \ Ordinary level \ Part II \ RSA Diploma

O level \ GCSE grades D-G \ SCE Standard \ Ordinary below grade 3, CSE grades 2-5, NVQ \ SVQ \ GSVQ level 1 \ GNVQ foundation, BTEC \ SCOTVEC first \ General Certificate, City and Guilds part 1 \ RSA Stage I-III, SCOTVEC modules \ Junior certificate

Other qualifications (including overseas)

None of these

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ASK ALL

Q29) Which of the following newspapers, if any, do you read nowadays? Which others? Any others?

SHOW SCREEN - MULTI CHOICE

The Daily Telegraph
The Times
The Guardian
The Financial Times
The Independent
The Daily Mail
The Daily Express
The Sun
The Mirror
The People
The Daily Star
The Daily Record
The Sunday Telegraph
The Sunday Times
The Observer
The Independent on Sunday
The Mail on Sunday
The Sunday Express
The Sunday Mirror
The Sunday People
The Sunday Sport
Local newspaper
Other newspaper

None
Don't Know
