

audit10\_questions\_final.doc

# Audit of Political Engagement

## Hansard Society

### General / Core Questions

**(T) Q1) How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow? SHOW SCREEN IF NECESSARY. 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

ASK ALL UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1

**(T) Q2) AGAIN Which party are you most inclined to support? SHOW SCREEN IF NECESSARY. 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

ASK ALL

**(T) 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 ONLY**

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

**NEW Q4: In the last 12 months have you done any of the following to influence decisions, laws or policies**

SHOW SCREEN. MULTICODE

- A) Contacted a local councillor or MP (SCOTLAND/WALES Contacted a local councillor /MP/MSP/Welsh Assembly Member)
- B) Contacted the media
- C) Taken an active part in a campaign
- D) Created or signed a paper petition
- E) Created or signed an e-petition
- F) Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation
- G) Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons
- H) Attended political meetings
- I) Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party
- J) Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march
- K) Voted in an election
- L) Contributed to a discussion or campaign online or on social media
- M) Taken part in a public consultation

None of these

**NEW Q5: Which of the following would you be prepared to do if you felt strongly enough about an issue?**

SHOW SCREEN. MULTICODE

- A) Contact a local councillor or MP (SCOTLAND/WALES Contact a local councillor /MP/MSP/Welsh Assembly Member)
- B) Contact the media
- C) Take an active part in a campaign
- D) Create or sign a paper petition
- E) Create or sign an e-petition
- F) Donate money or pay a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation
- G) Boycott certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons
- H) Attend political meetings
- I) Donate money or pay a membership fee to a political party
- J) Take part in a demonstration, picket or march
- K) Vote in an election
- L) Contribute to a discussion or campaign online or on social media
- M) Take part in a public consultation

None of these

**(T) Q6) How interested would you say you are in politics?**

SINGLE CODE ONLY

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

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

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY

**a) Politics**

**b) The UK Parliament**

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

**(T) Q8) Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain? SHOWSCREEN. SINGLE CODE ONLY**

- 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

**(T) Q9) What is the name of your local Member of Parliament?**

- CAPI auto enter name
- CAPI auto enter second name
- Name given
- Don't know

**Q10) 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
- 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) There is a minimum number of days that MPs have to attend Parliament each year
- F) Most of the money that local councils spend is raised locally, through council tax.
- G) Government and Parliament are the same thing
- H) Political parties receive some state funding
- I) The minimum age for voting at a general election is 16

- True
- False

**Q11) How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way that Parliament works? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

**Q12) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way MPs in general are doing their job? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

**Q13) 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/nor  
Fairly dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied  
Don't know

**(T) Q14) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH. ROTATE STATEMENTS**

- a) When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the UK is run
- b) Politics is a waste of time
- c) The only way to be really informed about politics is to get involved
- d) Participating in politics is not much fun
- e) I enjoy working with other people on common problems in our community
- f) A person like me could do a good job as a local councillor
- g) A person like me could do a good job as a local MP
- h) Every citizen should get involved in politics if democracy is to work properly
- i) If a person is dissatisfied with political decisions, he/she has a duty to do something about it
- j) I don't have enough time to get involved in politics

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

**Q15). To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? RANDOMISE ORDER OF A) TO D)**

**The UK Parliament...**

**(A) holds government to account**

**(B) encourages public involvement in politics**

**(C) is essential to our democracy**

**(D) 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

**NEW QUESTION**

**Q16) Which of the following have you ever done in relation to Parliament? SHOW SCREEN [MULTICODE OK]**

- Watched it on TV or online
- Visited Parliament's website
- Viewed the building from outside
- Been on a tour of the building
- Been to an event in the building
- Met my MP / lobbied my MP in Westminster
- Attended a debate or committee session
- None of these [FIX AT BOTTOM OF LIST]

**Q17) Which of the following changes do you think would improve the British political system the most? Please pick up to three.**

SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE. MULTICODE UP TO THREE

- Make politics more transparent so that it is easier to follow
- Make politicians more accountable for their performance between elections
- Better information and education about politics for all citizens
- Less 'spin' in political communication
- Give citizens more of a say (e.g. more referendums, more consultation)
- More people like me as MPs
- Constitutional changes (e.g. an elected House of Lords, a different voting system)
- Get experts more involved in decision-making
- More positive media coverage of politics
- None of these [FIX AT BOTTOM OF LIST]

**Q18) Thinking back, at school do you wish you had learned more about politics and how our democracy works?**

Yes

No

Don't know

IF YES TO Q18

**Q19: What from this list, if anything, would you like to have learned more about at school? SHOW SCREEN. MULTICODE – UP TO THREE**

- A) How to register to vote
- B) How to vote
- C) How to contact my MP
- D) How best to have my say about politics
- E) How laws are made and implemented
- F) How government works
- G) How Parliament works
- H) How the local council works
- I) How the European Union works
- J) How political parties work and what they stand for
- K) Social policy issues in this country such as health, education, environment or transport
- L) None of these [FIX AT BOTTOM OF LIST]

**Q20). How much influence, if any, do you feel you have over decision making in...**  
... **your local area?**  
... **the country as a whole?**

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

**Q21) To what extent, if at all, would you like to be involved in decision making in ...**  
**Q. ... your local area?**  
**Q. ... the country as a whole?**

**SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH STATEMENT**

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

**Q22) As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is, the official list of people entitled to vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?**

**MULTICODE FOR 1 AND 2 ONLY**

1. Yes – where living now
2. Yes – another address
3. No
4. DK

## **COGNITION, CONFLICT AVOIDANCE, JUDGEMENT**

### ***NEW QUESTION***

**Q23) How much interest do you take in news and current affairs?**

A great deal of interest  
Some interest  
Not much interest  
No interest at all

### ***NEBLO ET AL + CITIZEN AUDIT SURVEY***

**Q24) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

- When people argue about politics, I feel uncomfortable.
- Sometimes politics & government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on
- I usually find it easy to see political issues from other people's point of view
- I do not take it personally when someone disagrees with my political views
- When I'm in a group, I often go along with what the majority decides is best, even if it is not what I want personally

Strongly agree  
Tend to agree  
Neither agree nor disagree  
Tend to disagree  
Strongly disagree

### ***NEW QUESTION***

**Q25) Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?**

- The best decisions are made by leaders who follow their instincts rather than consulting widely
- The best decisions are made by leaders who try to seek agreement from all interested groups

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Ethnic group, internet usage, age, gender, region, working status, social grade, newspaper readership, income and the number of children in the household, seat marginality, affiliation of MP

**ASK Q26 AND Q27 TO ALL, BUT RANDOMISE WHICH COMES FIRST**

**Q26) 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

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**ASK Q26 AND Q27 TO ALL, BUT RANDOMISE WHICH COMES FIRST**

**Q27) 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

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