

## Smith Commission Survey: Devolution Preferences in England, Scotland and Wales

### ENGLAND QUESTIONNAIRE

#### BASE: ALL

1. **Some people are more interested in politics than others. Please could you tell us how interested you are in:**

#### START GRID

Politics in general

UK politics at Westminster

The Scottish referendum on independence

#### BY

Very interested

Fairly interested

Not very interested

Not at all interested

Don't know

#### END GRID

#### BASE: ALL

2. **Using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means very little knowledge and 10 means a very large amount of knowledge, how much knowledge do you think you have about?**

#### START GRID

Politics in general

The consequences if Scotland had voted to become an independent country

The consequences of Scotland having voted to remain within the UK

#### BY

0 – I feel I have very little knowledge

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – I feel I have a very large amount of knowledge

Don't know

#### END GRID

#### BASE: ALL

3. **Here is a scale I would like you to use to describe your national identity. To what extent do you**

#### START GRID

Think of yourself as English

Think of yourself as British

Think of yourself as European

#### BY

0 – Not at all

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – Very strongly

Don't know

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**4. And which, if any, of the following best describes how you see yourself?**

English not British

More English than British

Equally English and British

More British than English

British not English

Other nationality

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**5. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.**

0-You can't be too careful

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10-Most people can be trusted

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**6. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements**

**START GRID**

Private enterprise is the best way to solve Britain's economic problems

It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one

Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership

Ordinary working people get a fair share of the nation's wealth

There is no need for strong trade unions to protect employees' working conditions and wages

The UK government should step in to even out economic differences between the different parts of the UK

Money should be transferred from the richer parts of the UK to the poorer parts to ensure that everyone can have similar levels of public services.

Because Scotland is poorer than the rest of the UK it should get transfers to ensure that everyone can have similar levels of public services

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Because Scotland gets more money for public services than any other part of the UK it should get fewer transfers to ensure that everyone receives similar levels of government funding

Because Wales is poorer than the rest of the UK it should get transfers to ensure that everyone can have similar levels of public services

I would like to see an increase in government spending in England even if it has to be financed exclusively by taxpayers in England

**BY**

Agree strongly

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Disagree strongly

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**7. Using a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means that government should cut taxes a lot and spend much less on health and social services, and 10 means that government should raise taxes a lot and spend much more on health and social services, where would you place yourself?**

0 – Government should cut taxes a lot and spend much less

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – Government should raise taxes a lot and spend much more

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**8. Some people argue that governments should raise taxes in order to provide public services for all and redistribute wealth. Some other people argue that governments should lower taxes in order to make more money available to people to spend it the way they want. What do you think about it?**

Taxes should be increased to provide more funding for public services

The current level of taxation is appropriate

Taxes should be decreased so that people have more money to spend as they want

**BASE: ALL**

**9. In political matters people talk of ‘the left’ and ‘the right’. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is the most left and 10 is the most right, where would place your views on this scale, generally speaking?**

0 – Left

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – Right

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**10. On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way that democracy works in the UK as a whole**

Very dissatisfied

Somewhat dissatisfied

Somewhat satisfied

Very satisfied

**BASE: ALL**

**11. Can you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

**START GRID**

The UK Parliament doesn't care much about what people like me think

People like me don't have any say about what the UK Parliament in London does

Sometimes UK politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on

**BY**

Agree strongly

Agree

Disagree

Disagree strongly

Don't know

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**12. Which, if any, of the following parties do you think best stands up for the interests of the UK?**

**[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

The British National Party

The Conservative Party

Green Party

The Labour Party

The Liberal Democrats

The UK Independence Party (UKIP)

Another party (please specify)

Not applicable, I do not think any party stands up for the interests of the UK  
Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**13. And which, if any, of the following parties do you think best stands up for the interests of England?**

[ROTATE OPTIONS]

The British National Party

The Conservative Party

Green Party

The Labour Party

The Liberal Democrats

The UK Independence Party (UKIP)

Another party (please specify)

Not applicable, I do not think any party stands up for the interests of the UK

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**14. Recently the UK government created the Smith commission. Have you heard of the Smith Commission?**

Yes [go to q15]

No [go to q16]

**BASE: Only if they say Yes in Question 14**

**15. Can you recall what the Smith Commission was intended to do? The Smith Commission is:**

[ROTATE OPTIONS]

1. Investigating the prevention of cruelty to animals

2. Negotiating a new budget rebate with the EU

3. Investigating a new electoral system for the UK

4. Investigating constitutional change for Scotland following the referendum

**16. The Smith Commission is exploring further powers for the Scottish Parliament. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following sentences?**

**START GRID**

If a deal isn't reached quickly we won't get more powers

The 'Vow' for more powers made by the UK party leaders during the referendum was not very well thought through and we should not feel bound by it

The Scottish Referendum should have included an option on more powers for the Scottish Parliament

Scottish MPs should be prevented from voting at Westminster on laws that apply only to England

The Scottish Parliament should be given control over the majority of taxes raised in Scotland

The Scottish Parliament should be given the power to decide its own policies on welfare benefits

**BY**

Agree strongly

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Disagree strongly

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**17. Please, now look at the following picture for a few seconds:**



[Here, a 'Next screen' button]

**Could you tell me what position the person in the previous picture currently occupies?**

[ROTATE OPTIONS]

- Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Education
- Secretary of State for Health
- Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**18. Please, now look at the following picture for a few seconds:**



[Here, a 'Next screen' button]

**Could you tell me about this person**

[ROTATE OPTIONS]

- He recently defected from the Conservative Party to the UK Independence Party (UKIP)?
- He recently defected from the Conservative Party to the British National Party (BNP)?
- He recently defected from the Labour Party to the Green Party?
- He recently defected from the Liberal Democrats to the Labour Party?
- Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**19. Which of the following positions does the Conservative Party hold in Westminster?**

[ROTATE OPTIONS]

- The Conservative party heads a minority government
- The Conservative party heads a coalition government
- The Conservative party heads a majority government
- The Conservative party is in the opposition
- Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**20. Would you say that compared with other parts of the UK, each of these gets pretty much its fair share of government spending, more than its fair share or less than its fair share?**

**START GRID**

Scotland  
England  
Wales  
Northern Ireland

**BY**

Gets its fair share  
Gets more than its fair share  
Gets less than its fair share

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**21. Some people have more than one preference for how Scotland could be run in the future. Please assess how appealing each of the following options is to you. The scale runs from 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all appealing to me and 10 is very appealing to me:**

**START GRID**

Scotland should be an independent country  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should have more powers  
Scotland should remain within the UK and the Scottish Parliament should have the same powers as it has right now  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should have fewer powers  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should be abolished

**BY**

11 point scale: 0 to 10

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**22. And of the options listed above, which one is more appealing to you?**

Scotland should be an independent country  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should have more powers  
Scotland should remain within the UK and the Scottish Parliament should have the same powers as it has right now  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should have fewer powers  
Scotland should remain within the UK but the Scottish Parliament should be abolished

**BASE: ALL**

**23. Some people have more than one preference for how England could be run in the future. Please assess how appealing each of the following options is to you. The scale runs from 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all appealing to me and 10 is very appealing to me:**

England should be governed as it is now with laws made by all MPs in the UK Parliament  
England should be governed with laws made solely by English MPs in the UK Parliament  
England should have its own new English Parliament with law-making powers  
England should be an independent state inside the European Union  
England should be an independent state outside the European Union

**BY**

11 point scale: 0 to 10

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**24. And of the options listed above, which one is more appealing to you?**

- England should be governed as it is now with laws made by all MPs in the UK Parliament
- England should be governed with laws made solely by English MPs in the UK Parliament
- England should have its own new English Parliament with law-making powers
- England should be an independent state inside the European Union
- England should be an independent state outside the European Union

**BASE: ALL**

**25. Which of the following do you think currently HAS the most influence over the way England is run?**

- Local councils
- UK Government
- MPs representing English constituencies
- European Union
- Other
- Don't Know

**BASE: ALL**

**26. And which of the following do you think SHOULD have the most influence over the way England is run?**

- Local councils
- UK Government
- MPs representing English constituencies
- European Union
- Other
- Don't Know

**BASE ALL**

**27. And what if in the future there were different types of institutions in England. Which of the following do you think SHOULD have the most influence over the way England is run?**

- Stronger local councils
- New regional authorities based around the major cities in England
- Elected Regional Assemblies throughout England
- An English Parliament
- UK Parliament with English laws voted on solely by English MPs
- UK Parliament with laws decided by all UK MPs
- European Union
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know

**BASE ALL**

**28. The following ideas for changes to how England is governed have been proposed. Please indicate to what extent if any, you agree or disagree with each idea:**

**START GRID**

- A Secretary of State for England in the UK cabinet
- UK government ministers for each of the regions of England
- An English Parliament
- Changing the rules in parliament, so that only English MPs can vote on laws that would apply only in England
- New regional authorities based around the major cities in England



**BY**

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**29. Here are a list of policy areas. Can you tell me whether you think each policy should be uniform across the whole of the UK or should be a matter for England to decide itself?**

**START GRID**

Unemployment benefit

Tuition fees for higher education

Paying for the care of vulnerable old people

Punishment of young offenders

Income tax

Prescription charges

**BY**

Uniform across the UK

Matter for England to decide

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**30. Below are some statements. For each can you tell me whether you agree strongly, agree, disagree or disagree strongly.**

**START GRID**

We should keep tax levels the same across the UK because it would not be fair if people in different parts of the UK received higher levels of **benefits**

We should keep tax levels the same across the UK because it would not be fair if people in different parts of the UK who earned similar wages pay higher **tax** rates

We should keep tax levels the same across the UK to avoid tax competition across the different parts of the UK

Free university tuition in Scotland is not sustainable in the long term

You should not be entitled to a free bus pass if you are over 60 but are still employed

Levels of public spending in Scotland should be reduced to the levels in the rest of the UK

Scotland should be able to control the number of immigrants coming into Scotland

England should be able to control the number of immigrants coming into England

We should focus less on powers for the UK Parliament or devolved legislatures and more on increasing powers for local authorities

**BY**

Agree strongly

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Disagree strongly

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**31. Generally speaking, do you think that the UK's membership of the European Union is a good thing or a bad thing or neither good nor bad?**

- Good thing
- Bad thing
- Neither
- Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**32. If there was a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, how would you vote?**

- I would vote for the UK to remain a member of the European Union
- I would vote for the UK to leave the European Union
- I would not vote
- Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**33. How much trust do you have in the UK Government?**

- 0-None at all
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10-Very much

**BASE: ALL**

**Are you a man or a woman?**

- Man
- Woman

**BASE: ALL**

**What is your year of birth?**

**BASE: ALL**

**Where were you born?**

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Another European country
- A non-European country

**BASE: ALL**

**Where were your parents born?**

**START GRID**

- Father
- Mother

**BY**

England

Scotland

Wales

Northern Ireland

Another European country

A non-European country

**END GRID**

**BASE: ALL**

**How often do you travel outside the UK either for business or on holiday?**

Several times a year

Once or twice a year

Once every few years

Less often than that

Never or practically never

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**Have you ever lived outside England for a period of 3 months or longer?**

No

Yes

**BASE: IF YES**

**And where was that? Please select all that apply**

Scotland

Wales

Northern Ireland

Republic of Ireland

Somewhere else in the European Union

Somewhere else outside the European Union

**BASE: ALL**

**How often do you read a daily morning newspaper?**

Every day

Quite often

Rarely

Never

**BASE: ALL**

**Which daily morning newspaper do you read most often?**

The Express

The Daily Mail

The Mirror

The Daily Star

The Sun

The Daily Telegraph

The Financial Times

The Guardian

The Independent

The Times

Other local daily morning newspaper (please specify)

Other newspaper (please specify)

None

**BASE: ALL**

**Are you a citizen of the UK?**

Yes

No

**BASE: ALL**

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

Use English equivalents to Scotland questionnaire

**BASE: ALL**

**55 Do you consider yourself as belonging to any particular religion or denomination?**

Yes → Q56

No → Q57

**BASE: ALL**

**56. If yes to Q55: Which?**

Christianity (Catholic)

Christianity (Protestant – including Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Free  
Presbyterian, United Reform, Congregational)

Christianity (other)

Islam

Other (please specify)

**BASE: ALL**

**57. In general, how often do you attend religious ceremonies?**

Almost Never

A few times a year

Monthly

Almost every week

More often

**BASE: ALL**

**49. Which of these descriptions best describes your current situation?**

In full-time paid work → Q50

In part-time paid work → Q50

In education → Q54

On maternity/paternity leave → Q54

Unemployed and actively looking for a job → Q54

Unemployed and not actively looking for a job → Q54

Permanently sick or disabled → Q54

In retirement → Q52

Doing housework/looking after children/other persons → Q54

**BASE: ALL**

**50. If in paid work in Q49: In your main job are you an employee, self-employed or working for your family's own business?**

Employee → Q51

Self-employed → Q54

Working in family business → Q54

**BASE: ALL**

**51. If an employee in Q50: Are you an employee in the public or private sector?**

Public sector → Q54

Private sector → Q54

**BASE: ALL**

**52. If in retirement in Q49: In your main job were you an employee, self-employed or working for your family's own business?**

Employee → Q53

Self-employed → Q54

Working in family business → Q54

**BASE: ALL**

**53. If an employee in Q52: Were you an employee in the public or private sector?**

Public sector

Private sector

**BASE: ALL**

**54 Are you or have you ever been a member of a trade union or similar organisation?**

Yes

No

**BASE: ALL**

**And, which of the following represents the total income of your household from all sources before tax – including benefits, saving and so on?**

Less than £5,000

£5,000 to £10,000

£10,001 to £15,000

£15,001 to £20,000

£20,001 to- £25,000

£25,001 to £30,000

£30,001 to £35,000

£35,001 to £40,000

£40,001 to £45,000

£45,001 to £50,000

£50,001 to £60,000

£60,001 to £70,000

£70,001 and more

Prefer not to say

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**Which of these applies to you at present?**

Married

Married, but separated

Single

Divorced

Widowed

In a civil partnership

**BASE: ALL**

**Do you belong to a minority ethnic group in the UK?**

Yes

No

**BASE: ALL**

**Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a little closer to one political party than to the others?**

Yes

No

Don't know

**BASE: All who say 'Yes'**

**Which one?**

Conservative

Labour

Liberal Democrat

Green Party

United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)

British National Party (BNP)/ National Front

Other (please specify)

Don't know

**BASE: ALL**

**41 Thinking back to the last UK general election – that is the one in 2010 – do you remember which party you voted for then, or perhaps you didn't vote in that election?**

Did not vote/not eligible/too young to vote

Voted Conservative

Voted Labour

Voted Liberal Democrat

Voted Green

Voted for Other party

Don't know/can't remember