

**Public Opinion Research 04/05
The Electoral Commission (23825)**

An Audit of Political Engagement (2) – TOPLINE

Topline results are based on 2065 adults aged 18+ in UK
Interviews were conducted face-to-face, in home, between 2-6 December 2004 in Great Britain, and in Northern Ireland between 14-21 December 2004.
Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated
Data are weighted to the profile of the population
An asterisk (*) indicates a finding of less than 0.5% but greater than zero
Where percentages do not add up to exactly 100% this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't knows" or to multiple answers

Q1. How likely would you be to vote in a 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)	52
9	6
8	8
7	5
6	3
5	7
4	2
3	3
2	2
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	11
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Q2. 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. SHOWCARD. MULTICODE OK

	%
A Presented my views to a local councillor or MP	17
B Written a letter to an editor	7
C Urged someone outside my family to vote	17
D Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	16
E Made a speech before an organised group	17
F Been an officer of an organisation or club	13
G Stood for public office	1
H Taken an active part in a political campaign	3
I Helped on fund raising drives	30
J Voted in the last general election	61
K Flown on business overseas	8
L Flown on a business trip within the UK	8
None of these	23

Q3. **And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply. SHOWCARD. MULTICODE OK**

	%	
A	Been to any political meeting	6
B	Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	20
C	Contacted my local council	28
D	Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38
E	Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	44
F	Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	6
G	Done voluntary work	28
H	Helped organise a charity event	21
I	Served as a local magistrate	*
J	Served as a school or hospital governor	2
K	Signed a petition	44
L	Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a general election	2
M	Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a local election	2
N	Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march	6
O	Taken part in a sponsored event	22
P	Taken part in a strike	2
Q	Voted in the last local council election	50
	None	16
	Don't know	*

How interested would you say you are in the following...? SHOWCARD
SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH. ASK Q 4 FIRST, ROTATE Q 5-7

	Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	
Q4.	Politics	13	40	28	19	*
Q5.	Local issues	32	49	14	5	*
Q6.	National issues	25	52	17	6	*
Q7.	International Issues	21	44	26	8	*

Q8. **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about politics?** SHOWCARD. SINGLE CODE ONLY

A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know
4	41	44	10	*

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? SHOWCARD. SINGLE CODE ONLY ROTATE QUESTION ORDER 9-10

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q9. When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the country is run	7	29	20	31	10	2
Q10. I want to have a say in how the country is run	22	45	15	12	5	1

Q11. **Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?** SHOWCARD. SINGLE CODE ONLY

Works extremely well and could not be improved	2
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	32
Could be improved quite a lot	45
Needs a great deal of improvement	18
Don't know	3

Q12. **Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?** SHOWCARD. SINGLE CODE ONLY. BASE: ALL GB RESPONDENTS ANSWERING

I always vote at General Elections	64
I sometimes vote at General Elections	20
I never vote at General Elections	11
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	4
Don't know	*

Q13. **And now can you tell me the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement?** SHOWCARD. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I have a say in how the country is run at the moment	3	24	16	36	19	1