

Audit of Political Engagement 4
UK Topline
11/12/06

- APE4 topline results are based on 1,490 adults aged 18+ in the UK. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 23 - 28 November 2006
- Where applicable trend data from the Audit of Political Engagement 1, 2 and 3 are included.
- APE 1 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 1,976 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 11-17 December 2003 and in Northern Ireland between 6-15 December 2003.
- APE 2 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 2,065 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 2 - 6 December 2004 and in Northern Ireland between 14-21 December 2004.
- APE3 topline results are based on 1,209 adults aged 18+ in UK. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 1-5 December 2005
- Other trend data is included where appropriate
- 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. **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**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4
	%	%	%	%
10 (Absolutely certain to vote)	51	52	55	55
9	6	6	7	6
8	8	8	7	7
7	5	5	7	6
6	3	3	2	3
5	7	7	6	5
4	2	2	1	1
3	2	3	2	2
2	2	2	1	2
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	11	11	10	11
Refused	2	1	1	1
Don't know	0	0	0	0

- Q2. **And how likely are you to vote in the Northern Ireland Assembly election scheduled for 7 March 2007, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote and 1 that you would be absolutely certain NOT to vote? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

Base: All in N.I. (208)

	%
10 (Absolutely certain to vote)	49
9	4
8	6
7	9
6	3
5	6
4	1
3	2
2	3
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	14
Refused	3
Don't know	0

- Q3. **SHOWCARD 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. MULTICODE OK**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4
	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last general election	64	61	70	69
Helped on fund raising drives	21	30	22	18
Presented my views to a local councillor or MP	13	17	15	14
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14	17	17	13
Made a speech before an organised group	11	17	13	11
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14	16	14	10
Been an officer of an organisation or club	8	13	9	7
Written a letter to an editor	6	7	8	6
Taken an active part in a political campaign	3	3	3	3
Stood for public office	1	1	1	1
None of these	25	23	20	24

- Q4. **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 ONLY**

Base: All who have presented views to councillor or MP

	APE 1 (263) %	APE 4 (203) %
Local councillor	48	41
MP	27	29
Both	24	29
Don't know	2	1

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

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4
	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last local council election	51	50	55	53
Signed a petition	39	44	45	47
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38	38	39	40
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	41	44	44	38
Contacted my local council	26	28	28	33
Done voluntary work	23	28	22	27
Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	18	20	18	20
Taken part in a sponsored event	15	22	19	20
Helped organise a charity event	16	21	20	19
Been to any political meeting	5	6	6	8
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	5	6	6	5
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march	5	6	5	5
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a general election	1	2	2	3
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a local election	1	2	2	3
Taken part in a strike	2	2	2	3
Served as a school or hospital governor	2	2	2	3
Served as a local magistrate	1	*	1	1
None	17	16	17	19
Don't know	0	*	*	1

Q6.- Q9. SHOWCARD **How interested would you say you are in ...? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

			Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know
Q6.	Politics						
	APE1	%	11	39	32	18	0
	APE2	%	13	40	28	19	*
	APE3	%	13	43	30	14	*
	APE4	%	13	41	27	19	*
Q7.	Local issues						
	APE2	%	32	49	14	5	*
	APE3	%	30	51	13	5	*
	APE4	%	28	51	14	7	*
Q8.	National issues						
	APE2	%	25	52	17	6	*
	APE3	%	23	52	18	7	*
	APE4	%	23	52	15	9	*
Q9.	International Issues						
	APE2	%	21	44	26	8	*
	APE3	%	18	47	26	9	*
	APE4	%	19	51	19	11	1

Q10. SHOWCARD **Which of these local, national and international issues, if any, have you discussed with your family or friends in the last year or so? Just read out the letters that apply. MULTICODE OK.**

	%
Iraq	69
Crime or anti-social behaviour	69
Terrorism in the UK	66
Quality of health services	65
Immigration/asylum	64
Council tax	59
Climate change/environmental issues	57
Street cleaning, refuse collection or recycling services	55
Educational issues	54
Pensions	53
Public transport	50
World poverty/fair trade	41
The leadership of the main political parties	41
The European Union/the Euro	32
How political parties raise or spend their money	23
The electoral system	17
Reform of the House of Lords	9
None of these	6
Don't know	1

Q11. SHOWCARD **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?** STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). SINGLE CODE ONLY

			A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know
A	Politics						
	APE 1	%	3	39	45	12	1
	APE 2	%	4	41	44	10	*
	APE 3	%	4	35	51	10	*
	APE 4	%	6	43	40	11	*
B	The European Union						
	APE 1	%	2	22	55	20	1
	APE 4	%	3	26	52	17	2
C	Your local council						
	APE 1	%	4	34	49	12	1
	APE 4	%	5	42	43	9	1
D	The Westminster Parliament						
	APE 1	%	3	30	50	17	1
	APE 4	%	4	34	46	15	1
E	The role of MPs						
	APE 1	%	4	41	42	13	1
	APE 4	%	5	42	41	11	1

Q12. **What is the name of your local Member of Parliament for this constituency since May 2005/since the last by-election?**

	APE 1	APE 3	APE 4
	%	%	%
Gave correct answer	42	44	44
Gave name of former MP	n/a	2	1
Gave wrong answer	10	7	5
Don't know/no answer	49	46	49

Q13. 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. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

		True	False	Don't know
A	The Cabinet is usually made up of around 5 government ministers (FALSE)	% 15	51	33
B	Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters like you and me (TRUE)	APE 1 % 49	32	19
	APE 4	% 50	27	23
C	The Prime Minister is not an MP (FALSE)	% 13	75	12
D	The House of Commons has more power than the House of Lords (TRUE)	APE 1 % 49	30	22
	APE 4	% 44	32	24
E	Every problem a constituent takes to an MP will be debated in the House of Commons (FALSE)	% 8	77	15
F	The minimum age for voting at a general election is 16 (FALSE)	% 14	79	7
G	Local councils have the power to set the school leaving age in their own area (FALSE)	APE 1 % 8	74	17
	APE 4	% 7	76	17
H	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax ¹ (FALSE)	January 2006 % 36	43	21
	APE 4	% 21	64	15

¹ Wording in January 2006 – 'You are automatically put on the electoral register if you pay Council Tax'

Q14.- SHOWCARD Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...? SINGLE CODE ONLY
Q16.

			Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither/nor	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Q14.	That Parliament works	APE 1	% 1	35	27	23	9	5
		APE 4	% 2	33	24	24	9	8
Q15.	MPs in general are doing their job	APE 1	% 1	31	26	26	10	5
		APE 4	% 2	28	27	26	11	6
Q16.	Your MP is doing his/her job	APE 1	% 8	33	26	9	4	21
		APE 4	% 11	30	30	9	3	17

Q17. SHOWCARD To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

			Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither/nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
	Being active in politics is a waste of time	APE 1	% 4	18	20	42	13	3	22	55
		APE 4	% 5	20	22	39	12	3	25	51
	I feel a sense of satisfaction when I vote	APE 1	% 12	41	20	16	7	4	53	23
		APE 4	% 15	38	21	16	6	5	53	22
	It is my duty to vote	APE 1	% 37	37	10	10	5	1	74	15
		APE 4	% 41	36	10	7	3	2	77	10
	I want to have a say in how the country is run	APE 1	% 31	44	12	9	4	2	75	13
		APE 2	% 22	45	15	12	5	1	67	17
		APE 3	% 23	45	14	12	5	1	68	17
		APE 4	% 22	47	16	9	3	3	69	12
	I have a say in how the country is run at the moment	APE 2	% 3	24	16	36	19	1	27	55
		APE 3	% 2	21	14	33	30	1	23	63
		APE 4	% 4	23	19	36	16	3	27	52
	When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the country is run	APE 1	% 5	31	20	30	10	4	36	40
		APE 2	% 7	29	20	31	10	2	36	41
		APE 3	% 6	27	20	31	13	3	33	44
		APE 4	% 5	28	24	31	8	4	33	39

Q18. SHOWCARD **Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4
	%	%	%	%
Works extremely well and could not be improved	2	2	1	2
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	34	32	33	31
Could be improved quite a lot	42	45	41	40
Needs a great deal of improvement	18	18	21	21
Don't know	4	3	4	6

Q19. SHOWCARD **From this list, which two or three of the following do you believe have most impact on people's everyday lives? You can select up to three options. MULTICODE UP TO THREE**

	APE 1	APE 4	
	%	%	
Media	52	54	
Local Councils	47	48	
Business	41	37	
Westminster Parliament	30	26	
Prime Minister	25	24	
Civil Service	22	20	
European Union	17	20	
Cabinet	8	7	
National Assembly for Wales <i>Base: All in Wales (85)</i>	2	2	(30% in Wales)
Scottish Parliament <i>Base: All in Scotland (85)</i>	3	1	(15% in Scotland)
Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont) <i>Base: All in Northern Ireland (208)</i>	1	1	(24% in Northern Ireland)
None	*	0	
Don't know	6	5	

Q20. SHOWCARD **How much would you say you trust politicians generally? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	APE 1	APE 4
	%	%
A great deal	1	1
A fair amount	26	26
Not very much	51	47
Not at all	19	24
Don't know	2	3

Q21. SHOWCARD **Which of these, if any, do you think you might be willing to do in order to express your opinion on an issues that is important to you?**² MULTICODE OK

Q22. SHOWCARD **And which, if any, of these have you ever done for that reason?** MULTICODE OK

	Q22		Q23	
	APE 3 %	APE 4 %	APE 3 %	APE 4 %
Attend a demonstration	26	28	13	16
Contribute money to an organisation campaigning on your side of the issue	16	20	10	13
Present your case at a public enquiry	15	19	4	4
Sign a petition	72	70	50	55
Stand for election to your local council ³	3	5	1	2
Stand for election to the UK Parliament ⁴	3	3	1	*
Take part in a court case against your local council or the government ⁵	4	14	0	1
Vote against the party you would normally support	32	31	15	16
Write to a newspaper	31	38	13	16
Contact your MP ⁶	46	46	24	20
Contact your local councillor ⁷	46	43	24	24
Take part in a governmental or parliamentary consultation	13	14	4	4
Other	*	*	*	*
None	12	15	36	32
Don't know	2	3	1	2

² APE3 wording – ‘Which of these, if any, do you think you might be willing to do to influence or protest against a decision by a local or national government body?’

³ APE 3 wording – “Stand for election to Parliament or your local council”

⁴ APE 3 wording – “Stand for election to Parliament or your local council”

⁵ APE 3 wording – “Start a court case against your local council or the government”

⁶ APE 3 wording – “Contact your local councillor or MP”

⁷ APE 3 wording – “Contact your local councillor or MP”

Q23. SHOWCARD Which TWO or THREE, if any, do you feel are the most important ways that MPs should spend their time? MULTICODE UP TO THREE

	%
Representing the views of local people in the House of Commons	43
Debating important issues in the House of Commons	32
Holding the government to account	31
Dealing with the problems of individual constituents	31
Representing the UK's national interests	31
Making good laws	30
Participating in local public meetings and events	20
Representing the views of their political party	10
Promoting their views through the media	7
Campaigning on constituents' doorsteps	5
Other	1
None of these	5
Don't know	5

Q24. SHOWCARD Thinking generally, which two or three of these, if any, are usually most important to you in deciding which political party to vote for? Whether the party... MULTICODE UP TO THREE

	%
Represents the interests of people like me	40
Has policies I fully support	34
Takes on board the views of the public	31
Can be trusted to keep its promises	30
Believes in the same thing as me	21
Is most competent	19
Leads campaigns around local issues	10
Has a leader I prefer	9
Is the least worst option	8
Has a local candidate I prefer	7
Draws party candidates from a cross-section of society	6
Campaigns on the doorstep to meet local voters	6
Promotes the single issue that is most important to me	5
Other	*
None of these	3
I never vote for a political party	5
Don't know	6

Q25. SHOWCARD **Would you call yourself a very strong, fairly strong, not very strong, or not a supporter at all of any political party?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Very strong	6
Fairly strong	30
Not very strong	38
I am not a supporter of any political party	24
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Q26. SHOWCARD **From which, two or three of the sources I am going to read out do you obtain most information and news about politics and current issues?** MULTICODE UP TO THREE

	%
TV including satellite TV	76
National newspapers	56
Radio	34
Local newspapers	33
The internet	14
Friends and family	12
Leaflets through the door	7
Work colleagues	3
Magazines	3
Nowhere/none	3
Other	*
Don't know	1

Q27. **What factors, if any, prevent you from getting more involved in politics? DO NOT PROMPT. PROBE FULLY. ENTER RESPONSE IN FULL.**

	%
Lack of time/too busy/other commitments/priorities	32
Not interested/lack inclination/apathy/laziness/can't be bothered/lack of motivation	22
Disillusioned/cynical/politicians are untrustworthy	6
Wouldn't achieve/change anything/make a difference/waste of time	6
Lack knowledge/understanding/education/ability	6
Age (unspecified)	5
Too old	4
Poor health/disability	3
Wouldn't be heard/listened to	2
Unhappy with party/electoral system	2
Lack confidence	2
Disagree with government/policies/way the country is run	1
Parties are all the same/don't represent my views	1
Lack money/resources	1
Too young	*
Unsafe	*
Political situation in Northern Ireland	*
Other	5
Refused	2
None	4
Don't know	17