

## Audit of Political Engagement 6 Topline 2009

- APE6 topline results are based on 1,051 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 11 - 17 December 2008.
- Where applicable trend data from the Audit of Political Engagement 1, 2, 3 and 4 are included, as well as from our State of the Nation research for the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.
- APE 1 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 1,913 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 11 - 17 December 2003.
- APE 2 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 2,003 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 2 - 6 December 2004.
- APE 3 results are based on 1,142 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 1 - 5 December 2005.
- APE4 topline results are based on 1,282 adults aged 18+ in the Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 23 - 28 November 2006.
- APE5 topline results are based on 1,073 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 29 November - 7 December 2007.
- For State of the Nation MORI interviewed 1,758 adults across Great Britain face-to-face between 21 April - 8 May 1995, and 1,547 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 7-25 March 1991.
- 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

### PLEASE NOTE THIS QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED

Q1/2 SHOWCARD **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**  
SINGLE CODE ONLY

IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED

**Which party are you most inclined to support?**

*Base: All GB adults 18+ certain to vote (535)*

	%
Conservative	39
Labour	35
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	15
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	5
Green Party	2
UK Independence Party	1
Other	3
Labour lead over Conservative	-4
Would not vote	2
Undecided	7
Refused	2

- 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**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4	APE 5	APE 6
	%	%	%	%	%	%
10 (Absolutely certain to vote)	51	52	55	55	53	53
9	6	6	7	6	4	5
8	8	8	7	7	7	8
7	5	5	7	6	5	6
6	3	3	2	3	3	2
5	7	7	6	5	8	7
4	2	2	1	1	1	2
3	2	3	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	1	2	2	1
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	11	11	10	11	10	11
Refused	0	0	0	1	*	*
Don't know	2	1	1	0	3	2

- Q4. **SHOWCARD Which, if any, of the things on this list have you done in the last two or three years? MULTICODE OK**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4	APE 5	APE 6
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last general election	64	61	70	70	62	58
Helped on fund raising drives	21	30	22	18	19	20
Presented my views to a local councillor or MP	14	17	15	14	15	17
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14	16	14	10	16	12
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14	17	17	13	15	12
Made a speech before an organised group	11	17	13	11	12	8
Been an officer of an organisation or club	8	13	9	7	9	7
Written a letter to an editor	6	7	8	6	7	6
Taken an active part in a political campaign	3	3	3	3	3	3
Stood for public office	1	1	1	1	1	1
None of these	25	23	21	23	26	32

Q5. **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 (258)	APE 4 (180)	APE5 (171)	APE6 (165)
	%	%	%	%
Local councillor	48	41	48	<b>44</b>
MP	27	29	29	<b>28</b>
Both	24	29	22	<b>26</b>
Don't know	2	1	1	<b>2</b>

Q6. **SHOWCARD And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? MULTICODE OK**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4	APE5 *	APE6
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last local council election	51	50	55	53	50	<b>47</b>
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38	38	39	41	41	<b>40</b>
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	41	45	45	39	37	<b>37</b>
Signed a petition	39	44	45	47	40	<b>37</b>
Done voluntary work	23	28	22	27	23	<b>22</b>
Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	19	21	18	21	19	<b>18</b>
Expressed my political opinions online	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	<b>8</b>
Been to any political meeting	5	6	6	9	6	<b>4</b>
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	5	6	6	5	4	<b>3</b>
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march	5	6	5	5	4	<b>3</b>
None	17	16	17	19	20	<b>20</b>
Don't know	0	*	*	1	2	<b>1</b>

\* Please note that the list of activities is different in Audits 1-4, comparisons with Audits 5 and 6 should therefore be seen as indicative only.

Q7. **SHOWCARD 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
MORI 1973	%	14	46	27	13	*
State of the Nation 1991	%	13	47	26	13	*
State of the Nation 1995	%	13	40	30	17	*
APE1	%	11	39	32	18	*
APE2	%	13	40	28	19	*
APE3	%	13	43	30	13	*
APE4	%	13	41	27	19	*
APE5	%	13	38	28	19	1
<b>APE6</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*</b>

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

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know
APE 1	%	3	39	45	12	1
APE 2	%	4	41	44	10	*
APE 3	%	4	35	51	9	*
APE 4	%	6	43	40	11	*
APE 5	%	4	40	43	12	*
<b>APE 6</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

Q9. SHOWCARD **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 country is run?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither /nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
APE 1	%	6	31	20	30	10	4	37	40
APE 2	%	7	30	20	31	10	2	37	41
APE 3	%	6	27	20	31	13	3	33	44
APE 4	%	5	28	24	31	8	4	33	39
APE 5	%	4	27	23	29	13	3	31	42
<b>APE 6</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>44</b>

Q10. SHOWCARD **Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

	1973*	State of the Nation 1991	State of the Nation 1995	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4	APE 5	<b>APE 6</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Works extremely well and could not be improved	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	<b>2</b>
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	43	29	19	34	32	33	31	30	<b>31</b>
Could be improved quite a lot	35	40	41	42	45	41	40	38	<b>40</b>
Needs a great deal of improvement	14	23	35	18	18	21	21	24	<b>24</b>
Don't know	4	5	3	4	3	4	6	6	<b>3</b>

\* From Crowther-Hunt Commission's report

Q11- SHOWCARD **How much influence, if any, do you feel you have over decision making in your local area/the country as a whole?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

	A great deal of influence	Some influence	Not very much influence	No influence at all	Don't know
	%	%	%	%	%
Local area	1	24	41	32	2
Country as a whole	*	14	44	41	1

- Q13. **You said that you feel you have not very much/no (as appropriate) influence over decision making. Why do you feel that you do not have very much/ have no (as appropriate) influence over decision making?**

INTERVIEWER TO CODE FROM LIST BELOW, OR WRITE IN AS NECESSARY.

MULTICODE OK

*Base: All who say they do not have very much influence (938)*

	%
Nobody listens to what I have to say	29
Decisions are made without talking to the people	20
The system doesn't allow for me to have an influence	19
Politicians are just out for themselves	17
My opinion isn't important	14
I'm not given the opportunity to have an influence	14
Politicians don't care about people like me	12
I'm not interested in influencing decision making	8
I don't have the time to influence decision making	5
The electoral system means that my vote does not matter	5
None of these	2
Other	7
Don't know	3

- Q14- SHOWCARD **To what extent, if at all, would you like to be involved in decision making in your local area/the country as a whole?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Very involved %	Fairly involved %	Not very involved %	Not at all involved %	Don't know %
Local area	5	43	32	18	2
Country as a whole	5	38	33	22	2

**Q16. What factors, if any, prevent you from getting more involved in the decision making process?**

INTERVIEWER TO CODE FROM LIST BELOW, OR WRITE IN AS NECESSARY.  
MULTICODE OK

*Base: All who say they don't have influence and would like to be involved in decision making (459)*

	%
I don't have enough time	40
I am disillusioned / cynical / feel politicians are untrustworthy	12
I'm not given the opportunity to get involved	11
There is no point, my opinion won't be listened to anyway	10
I don't know how to get involved	9
My opinion doesn't count	7
I wouldn't be able to make a difference / it is a waste of time	6
I'm not interested in getting involved	6
I don't feel like I am qualified enough to get involved	6
I don't understand the system	5
I don't have enough confidence in my ability	5
Logistical reasons/I am not physically able to get involved	3
I've had a bad past experience with the process/system	3
I don't know enough about the issues to make an informed decision	3
It is not my place to get involved	3
The electoral system means that my vote does not matter	3
Other	6
None of these	3
Don't know	4

**Q17- Q20 SHOWCARD How effective, if at all, do you think each of the following activities is in having an impact on how the country is run? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

		Very effective	Fairly effective	Not very effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%
Q17	<b>Voting in an election</b>	27	45	19	6	3
Q18	<b>Contacting a local councillor, MP, MEP (if applicable AM, MSP)</b>	7	46	28	9	9
Q19	<b>Taking an active part in a campaign</b>	4	43	34	10	8
Q20	<b>Signing a petition</b>	6	41	37	12	5

Q21- SHOWCARD I am now going to ask you about the behaviour of good citizens. Please  
 Q27 tell me how important, if at all, you think each of the following are in order to be a good citizen. SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Essen tial	Very import ant	Fairly import ant	Fairly unimp ort -ant	Not import ant at all	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Q21	<b>Voting in an elections</b>	24	40	23	7	5	1
Q22	<b>Taking part in government consultations</b>	3	23	36	19	10	8
Q23	<b>Expressing my opinion publicly e.g. radio phone in, letter to the editor, online forums, public meetings/events</b>	3	20	40	24	11	3
Q24	<b>Keeping myself informed about current affairs and events</b>	9	40	39	6	3	3
Q25	<b>Contacting a politician or official about an issue of concern e.g. by visit, letter, telephone, petition</b>	5	29	41	15	6	4
Q26	<b>Giving money to a charity or campaigning organisation</b>	4	30	41	16	6	2
Q27	<b>Joining a political party</b>	*	10	24	38	25	3

Q28. **And finally, when, if at all, have you ever visited the Houses of Parliament?**  
 SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
2008	2
1-5 years ago	9
6-10 years ago	4
11-20 years ago	5
Over 20 years ago	12
Never	68
Don't know	1