

**Audit of Political Engagement 7
Hansard Society
Final Topline Results – 8th January 2010**

- APE7 topline results are based on 1,156 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 13 - 19 November 2009.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Q1. **What do you understand by “politics”?**
 (answers below 3% not shown)

	%
The way the country is governed/running the country/what the government does	26
Parliament	18
Elections/voting	14
Local government/ councils	11
People with power/people who run things	10
Arguments between parties/politicians	10
Party system/alignment of groups	10
Sleaze/corruption/they are all crooks	9
Talking/people discussing issues/ reaching agreement	7
Choices for society/how the country should be run	6
Way of making decisions	5
Spin/lies	5
Public link with/control over government/ representation	5
Disagreement/ confrontation/argument	5
Boring	4
Not listening/ignoring public opinion	4
Cronyism/jobs for the boys/nepotism	3
Important issue of the day	3
Irrelevant/doesn't involve me/something for other people	3
Other	1
None of these	2
Don't know	8

Q2. **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	APE5	APE6	APE7
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
10 (Absolutely certain to vote)	51	52	55	55	53	53	54
9	6	6	7	6	4	5	6
8	8	8	7	7	7	8	7
7	5	5	7	6	5	6	4
6	3	3	2	3	3	2	3
5	7	7	6	5	8	7	7
4	2	2	1	1	1	2	2
3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	11	11	10	11	10	11	12
Refused	0	0	0	1	*	*	*
Don't know	2	1	1	0	3	2	2

Q3. **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.**

	APE 1	APE 2	APE 3	APE 4	APE5	APE6	APE7
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last general election	64	61	70	70	62	58	49
Voted in the last general election (excluding those aged under 18 in May 2005)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	66	63	54
Helped on fund raising drives	21	30	22	18	19	20	27
Presented my views to/Contacted a local councillor, MP, MSP or Welsh Assembly Member	14	17	15	14	15	17	17
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14	16	14	10	16	12	15
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14	17	17	13	15	12	17
Made a speech before an organised group	11	17	13	11	12	8	14
Been an officer/office holder of an organisation or club	8	13	9	7	9	7	12
Written a letter to an editor	6	7	8	6	7	6	6
Taken an active part in a political campaign	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Stood for public office	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
None of these	25	23	21	23	26	32	30

Q4 You said that you have presented your views to a local councillor or MP or MSP/Welsh Assembly Member (SCOTLAND AND WALES ONLY).

ENGLAND: Was this to a local councillor, an MP or both?

SCOTLAND/WALES: Was this to a local councillor, an MP or MSP/Welsh Assembly Member?

Base: All who have contacted/presented views to councillor, MSP or Welsh Assembly Member

	APE 1 (258) %	APE 4 (180) %	APE5 (171) %	APE6 (165) %	APE7 (192) %
MP	27	29	29	28	43
Local councillor	48	41	48	44	40
Both MP and Local Councillor	24	29	22	26	19
Don't know	2	1	1	2	2

Q5 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 %	APE7 %
Voted in the last local council election	51	50	55	53	50	47	49
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	41	45	45	39	37	37	42
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38	38	39	41	41	40	41
Signed a petition	39	44	45	47	40	37	40
Done voluntary work	23	28	22	27	23	22	29
Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	19	21	18	21	19	18	19
Expressed my political opinions online	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	8	9
Been to any political meeting	5	6	6	9	6	4	8
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	5	6	6	5	4	3	5
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march/ march or strike	5	6	5	5	4	3	4
None	17	16	17	19	20	20	23
Don't know	-	*	*	1	2	1	*

* Please note that the list of activities is different in Audits 1-4, comparisons with Audits 5, 6 and 7 should therefore be seen as indicative only.

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

	%
Joined a political group on Facebook	4
Followed a politician or political group on Twitter	2
Served as a school governor	2
Served as a hospital governor	*
Served as a local magistrate	*
None of these	92

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	Very /fairly
MORI 1973	%	14	46	27	13	*	60
State of the Nation 1991	%	13	47	26	13	*	60
State of the Nation 1995	%	13	40	30	17	*	53
APE1	%	11	39	32	18	*	50
APE2	%	13	40	28	19	*	53
APE3	%	13	43	30	13	*	56
APE4	%	13	41	27	19	*	54
APE5	%	13	38	28	19	1	52
APE6	%	12	40	30	17	*	52
APE7	%	14	39	29	18	1	53

Q8 SHOWCARD **How interested would you say you are in local issues? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/ fairly
APE 2	%	32	49	14	5	*	81
APE 3	%	30	51	13	5	*	81
APE 4	%	28	51	13	7	*	79
APE 7	%	19	59	17	6	*	78

Q9 SHOWCARD **How interested would you say you are in national issues? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/ fairly
APE 2	%	25	52	17	6	*	77
APE 3	%	23	52	18	7	*	75
APE 4	%	24	52	15	9	*	76
APE 7	%	22	53	16	8	*	75

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 %	APE 6 %	APE 7 %
Works extremely well and could not be improved	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	43	29	19	34	32	33	31	30	31	27
Could be improved quite a lot	35	40	41	42	45	41	40	38	40	42
Needs a great deal of improvement	14	23	35	18	18	21	21	24	24	27
Don't know	4	5	3	4	3	4	6	6	3	4
Works well	48	33	22	36	34	34	33	32	33	28

Q11 SHOWCARD How much, if anything, do you feel you know about ... SINGLE CODE ONLY

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know	Great deal/fair amount
Politics							
APE 1	%	3	39	45	12	1	42
APE 2	%	4	41	44	10	*	45
APE 3	%	4	35	51	9	*	39
APE 4	%	6	43	40	11	*	49
APE 5	%	4	40	43	12	*	44
APE 6	%	5	43	42	9	1	48
APE 7	%	6	45	40	9	*	51
Your local council							
APE 1	%	4	34	49	12	1	38
APE 4	%	5	42	43	9	1	47
APE 7	%	4	36	50	9	*	40
The Westminster Parliament							
APE 1	%	3	30	50	17	1	33
APE 4	%	4	34	46	14	1	38
APE 7	%	4	33	47	15	1	37
The role of MPs?							
APE 1	%	4	41	42	13	1	45
APE 4	%	5	42	41	11	1	47
APE 7	%	6	44	40	9	1	50

Q12 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

	%
MPs' expenses	71
The leadership of the main political parties	40
The European Union	37
Local council elections	30
How political parties raise or spend their money	26
Devolution of central government powers to Scotland/Wales	21
The electoral system	19
Reform of the House of Lords	14
Reform of the House of Commons	11
Local government reform/ election of local mayors	10
A written Bill of Rights	7
Written constitution	7
Recall of MPs via a petition of their constituents	5
Open primary selections	4
None of these	18
Don't know	1

Q13 What is the name of your local Member of Parliament?

	APE 1	APE 3	APE 4	APE 7
	%	%	%	%
Gave correct answer	42	44	44	44
Gave wrong answer	10	9	6	10
Don't know/no answer	49	46	50	46

Q14 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. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	True %	False %	Don't know %
Cabinet ministers stop being MPs when they become a minister (FALSE)	12	60	29
British members of the European Parliament are directly elected by British voters every five years (TRUE)	56	19	25
Members of the House of Lords are elected by the British public (FALSE)	12	74	14
MPs can raise problems their constituents are having in the House of Commons (TRUE)	80	8	11
Most of the money that local councils spend is raised locally, through council tax (FALSE)	48	36	16
Government and Parliament are the same thing (FALSE)	28	63	9
Political parties have to declare publically where they receive their money and donations from (TRUE)	73	16	12
You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)			
APE 4	21	64	15
APE 7	25	62	13
The minimum age for voting at a general election is 16 (FALSE)			
APE 4	14	79	8
APE 7	13	83	4

RANDOMISE ORDER OF Q15 TO Q17

Q15.- SHOWCARD Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...? SINGLE CODE ONLY Q17.

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither/nor	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Very/fairly
Q15.	That Parliament works							
	APE 1	% 1	35	27	23	9	5	36
	APE 4	% 2	34	24	24	9	7	36
	APE 7	% 1	32	24	25	13	4	33
Q16.	MPs in general are doing their job							
	APE 1	% 1	31	26	26	10	5	32
	APE 4	% 2	29	27	26	10	6	31
	APE 7	% 1	28	24	30	14	3	29
Q17.	Your MP is doing his/her job							
	APE 1	% 8	33	26	9	4	21	41
	APE 4	% 11	30	30	9	3	17	41
	APE 7	% 8	30	27	9	7	18	38

Q18 SHOWCARD To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Strongly /Tend to
Politics is a waste of time	6	15	12	41	25	1	21
Voting in a General Election gives me a say in how the country is run	15	43	11	20	8	2	58
It is my duty to vote							
APE 1	37	37	10	10	5	1	74
APE 4	42	36	10	7	3	2	78
APE 7	46	30	8	9	6	1	76
When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the UK is run							
APE 1	6	31	20	30	10	4	37
APE 2	7	30	20	31	10	2	37
APE 3	6	27	20	31	13	3	33
APE 4	5	28	24	31	8	4	33
APE 5	4	27	23	29	13	3	31
APE 6	3	28	22	32	13	2	31
APE 7	5	32	19	30	11	4	37

Q19 SHOWCARD To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Strongly /Tend to
The Westminster Parliament... holds government to account	4	36	20	22	5	14	40
is welcoming to the public	2	25	28	23	7	15	27
is working for you and me	3	35	22	25	9	5	38
is worthwhile	11	49	20	9	5	6	60

Q20 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 %	APE 7 %
Media	52	54	63
Local Councils	47	49	50
Business	41	37	44
Civil Service	22	20	23
European Union	17	20	20
Westminster Parliament	30	27	19
Prime Minister	25	24	17
Cabinet	8	7	5
Scottish Parliament/Welsh Assembly (asked in Scotland/Wales only)	n/a	n/a	6
Don't know	*	-	4

Q21 SHOWCARD How much would you say you trust politicians generally?
SINGLE CODE ONLY

	APE 1 %	APE 4 %	APE 7 %
A great deal	1	1	1
A fair amount	26	26	25
Not very much	51	47	48
Not at all	19	23	25
Don't know	2	3	1
Great deal/fair amount	27	27	26

Q22 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	46
Representing the UK's national interests	41
Debating important issues in the House of Commons	37
Holding the government to account	31
Dealing with the problems of individual constituents	26
Participating in local public meetings and events	20
Communicating with constituents on the doorstep or by telephone	14
Making laws	14
Representing the views of their political party	11
Presenting their views through the media	9
Furthering personal and career interests	3
Other	*
None of these	1
Don't know	6

Q23 SHOWCARD **Which TWO or THREE, if any, do you feel that MPs spend most their time doing?** MULTICODE UP TO THREE

	%
Furthering personal and career interests	50
Representing the views of their political party	37
Presenting their views through the media	32
Debating important issues in the House of Commons	22
Making laws	14
Dealing with the problems of individual constituents	13
Participating in local public meetings and events	11
Representing the views of local people in the House of Commons	10
Representing the UK's national interests	9
Holding the government to account	8
Communicating with constituents on the doorstep or by telephone	3
Other	*
None of these	2
Don't know	9

Q24 SHOWCARD **Here is a list of different professions. Please indicate which, if any, you would be proud for a child or family member of yours to do.** MULTICODE OK

	%
Family doctor	75
School head teacher	64
Solicitor	53
Businessman/woman	50
Judge	46
Senior police officer	44
NHS manager	33
Senior civil servant	30
Broadsheet journalist	24
National politician (Member of Parliament)	22
Local politician (Councillor)	21
Council manager	21
Estate agent	16
Tabloid journalist	13
None of these	3

Q25. SHOWCARD In general, what do you think motivates most people who try to become MPs? Which of the following is the...

	%
Most important	
For their own personal gain	31
To help people in their local area	31
To help the country as a whole	17
To help their political party	16
None of these	5
First or second most important	
To help people in their local area	56
To help their political party	48
For their own personal gain	45
To help the country as a whole	38
None of these	5
First, second or third most important	
To help people in their local area	78
To help their political party	75
To help the country as a whole	65
For their own personal gain	60
None of these	5

Q26. SHOWCARD In general, what do you think motivates most people who get involved in politics? Which of the following is the...

	%
Most important	
To help people in their local area	33
For their own personal gain	30
To help the country as a whole	16
To help their political party	15
No answer	7
First or second most important	
To help people in their local area	61
To help their political party	46
For their own personal gain	41
To help the country as a whole	35
No answer	7
First, second or third most important	
To help people in their local area	76
To help their political party	71
To help the country as a whole	58
For their own personal gain	53
No answer	7

Q27 SHOWCARD How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the media reports politics in the UK? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Very satisfied	4
Fairly satisfied	34
Neither/nor	21
Fairly dissatisfied	24
Very dissatisfied	14
Don't know	3