

Audit of Political Engagement 5 Topline 11/12/07

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

Q2. 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	APE5
	%	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last general election	64	61	70	70	62
Helped on fund raising drives	21	30	22	18	19
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14	16	14	10	16
Presented my views to a local councillor or MP	14	17	15	14	15
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14	17	17	13	15
Made a speech before an organised group	11	17	13	11	12
Been an officer of an organisation or club	8	13	9	7	9
Written a letter to an editor	6	7	8	6	7
Taken an active part in a political campaign	3	3	3	3	3
Stood for public office	1	1	1	1	1
None of these	25	23	21	23	26

Q3. 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)
	%	%	%
Local councillor	48	41	48
MP	27	29	29
Both	24	29	22
Don't know	2	1	1

Q4. 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	APE5 *
	%	%	%	%	%
Voted in the last local council election	51	50	55	53	50
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38	38	39	41	41
Signed a petition	39	44	45	47	40
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	41	45	45	39	37
Done voluntary work	23	28	22	27	23
Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	19	21	18	21	19
Expressed my political opinions online	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
Been to any political meeting	5	6	6	9	6
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	5	6	6	5	4
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march	5	6	5	5	4
None	17	16	17	19	20
Don't know	0	*	*	1	2

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

Q5. 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

Q6. 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	*

Q7. 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

Q8. 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Works extremely well and could not be improved	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	43	29	19	34	32	33	31	30
Could be improved quite a lot	35	40	41	42	45	41	40	38
Needs a great deal of improvement	14	23	35	18	18	21	21	24
Don't know	4	5	3	4	3	4	6	6

* From Crowther-Hunt Commission's report

Q9. SHOWCARD I'm going to read out a list and I would like you to tell me, from this card, how much, if anything, do you feel you know about each one? The constitutional arrangements governing Britain. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	APE5	State of the Nation 1995*	State of the Nation 1991*
	%	%	%
A great deal	2	3	3
A fair amount	18	18	21
Just a little	29	30	35
Hardly anything at all	35	39	32
Never heard of	13		
Don't know	2	9	9

* 'The British Constitution'

Q10. SHOWCARD I'm going to read out a list and I would like you to tell me, from this card, how much, if anything, do you feel you know about each one? The European Union SINGLE CODE ONLY

	APE5	State of the Nation 1995	State of the Nation 1991
	%	%	%
A great deal	4	2	2
A fair amount	24	17	17
Just a little	41	35	45
Hardly anything at all	28	39	34
Never heard of	3		
Don't know	1	7	3

Q11.-Q19. SHOWCARD **And how well, if at all, do you feel you understand each of the following issues?** RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very well	Fairly well	Not very well	Not at all	Never heard of	Don't know	Very/fairly well	Not very well/at all/never heard of
Q11.	How votes cast in a General Election translate into seats in the House of Commons	% 15	34	19	22	7	2	49	48
Q12.	Whether Britain needs a new Bill of Rights	% 5	23	30	23	15	5	28	68
Q13.	Proposed reforms of the membership of the House of Lords	% 4	22	29	29	13	2	26	71
Q14.	Whether only English MPs should vote on English issues in the House of Commons	% 14	34	22	17	10	4	48	49
Q15.	How the Human Rights Act works in practice	% 5	29	33	24	6	3	34	63
Q16.	The powers that government can currently exercise without Parliament's approval	% 3	19	33	31	11	3	22	75
Q17.	Lowering the age at which people are eligible to vote in a UK General Election from 18 to 16	% 12	36	19	15	15	3	48	49
Q18.	How political parties are funded	% 7	32	30	23	5	3	39	58
Q19.	How the date of a general election is chosen	% 9	29	24	28	8	3	38	60

Q20.- SHOWCARD Thinking generally, to what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied
 Q30. with each of the following in Britain at the moment? RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE
 CODE ONLY

		Very satis- fied	Fairly satis- fied	Neither/ nor	Fairly dissat- -isfied	Very dissat- isfied	Don't know	Satis- fied	Dissat- isfied
Q20.	Britain's unwritten constitution	% 4	15	40	12	6	25	19	18
Q21.	How votes cast in a General Election translate into seats in the House of Commons	% 5	30	31	14	7	14	35	21
Q22.	Britain not having a new Bill of Rights	% 2	10	42	18	7	21	12	25
Q23.	The way members of the House of Lords are chosen	% 2	16	33	25	11	13	18	36
Q24.	Scottish MPs being able to vote on English issues in the House of Commons	% 3	17	23	23	23	10	20	46
Q25.	How the Human Rights Act works in practice	% 2	22	32	21	10	13	24	31
Q26.	The powers that government can currently exercise without Parliament's approval	% 1	18	32	19	13	16	19	32
Q27.	Having a minimum voting age of 18 in a General Election	% 26	41	14	8	4	7	67	12
Q28.	The effect of Britain's membership of the European Union	% 3	26	27	19	14	10	29	33
Q29.	How political parties are funded	% 1	17	32	23	14	13	18	37
Q30.	Letting the government decide the date for a General Election	% 6	33	30	16	7	8	39	23

- Q31. SHOWCARD **And looking through this list of constitutional issues which two or three, if any, of these would you say are the most urgently in need of change? Please read out the letters that apply. MULTICODE UP TO THREE**

	%
How the Human Rights Act works in practice	26
How political parties are funded	24
The powers that the government can exercise without the approval of Parliament	23
Britain's membership of the European Union	23
Scottish MPs being allowed to vote on English issues in the House of Commons	22
The way members of the House of Lords are chosen	16
How votes cast in a General Election translate into seats in the House of Commons	14
Not having a new Bill of Rights	14
Not having a fixed date for general elections	12
People aged between 16 and 18 not being able to vote at General Elections	9
Britain's unwritten constitution	9
None of these	4
Don't know	16

- Q32-37. SHOWCARD **From this card, could you please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY**

		Stron- gly agree	Tend to agree	Neither/ nor	Tend to dis- agree	Stron- gly dis- agree	No opinion	Agree	Dis- agree
Q32.	A strong Parliament is good for democracy	36	39	14	4	1	5	75	5
Q33.	Governments are elected on a mandate and should have the powers to act on it	18	42	23	6	1	9	60	7
Q34.	MPs need sufficient resource to properly represent and inform their constituents	17	49	20	6	1	7	66	7
Q35.	MPs spend too much money on expenses	44	30	14	3	1	7	74	4
Q36.	MPs are essential in representing the views of their constituents	28	44	14	8	2	5	72	10
Q37.	Government does not spend enough time listening to the views of individual members of the public	39	35	14	6	1	5	74	7