

May 2010 public policy poll for the Economist
Topline 27/05/10

- Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,002 adults in Great Britain aged 16+.
- Interviews were conducted by telephone between 13-19 May 2010.
- Data are weighted to match the profile of the Great Britain population.
- Where percentages do not sum to 100, this is due to computer rounding, the exclusion of 'don't know' categories, or multiple answers. Throughout the volume, an asterisk (*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent.
- Unless otherwise stated, results are based on all respondents (1,002).

Gov't role/public services

Q1. **Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement.**
READ OUT. ALTERNATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
In recent years government and public services have tried to do too much, and people should take more responsibility for their own lives	<i>Base: (512 - Split sample)</i>	31	33	13	13	7	3	64	20
I am worried that government and public services will do too little to help people in the years ahead	<i>Base: (490 - Split sample)</i>	19	31	18	19	8	4	50	27

Localism vs centralism

Q2. **Please can you tell me which of these statements comes closest to your own opinion:**

ALTERNATE ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMISE ORDER OF SERVICES
SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH

	The health service	Recycling
	%	%
...should be the same everywhere in Britain	81	70
The people who live in different parts of Britain should be able to decide for themselves how ... is provided in their area	18	29
Don't know	1	1

Q3. Which of these statements comes closest to your own attitude towards how ... work/works in your area?

READ OUT. ALTERNATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH.

	Primary schools	Secondary schools	Primary and Secondary schools combined*	The health service
	%	%	%	%
I'm not interested in knowing how ... work/works in my area, as long as they do their job	43	43	43	26
I would like to know how ... work/works in my area, but I don't want to be involved beyond that	31	30	31	40
I would like to have more of a say in how ... work/works in my area	12	15	14	22
I would like to become actively involved in how ... work/works in my area	4	4	4	6
I am already actively involved in how ... work/works in my area	8	5	6	7
Don't know	3	3	2	1

*For this we have taken aggregate results of the Primary schools and Secondary schools data

Big society/charity

Q4. It has been suggested that a National Citizens' Service programme for young people should be introduced in Britain. Under this scheme it is proposed that school leavers [would have a chance to/would have to] spend six weeks working on a voluntary project such as improving their local environment, helping to create local infrastructure or collaborating on a cultural event.

To what extent do you support or oppose this idea? Do you...

SINGLE CODE ONLY

READ OUT. ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS

	All	Voluntary: 'would have a chance to'	Compulsory: 'would have to'
	%	%	%
<i>Base (Split sample)</i>	<i>(1,002)</i>	<i>(512)</i>	<i>(490)</i>
Strongly support	51	50	53
Tend to support	30	32	27
Neither support or oppose	9	11	8
Tend to oppose	5	4	7
Strongly oppose	4	3	5
Don't know	1	1	1
Support	81	82	80
Oppose	9	7	12

EWS questions

Q5. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the UK economy?**

ROTATE STATEMENTS. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH. READ OUT. ALTERNATE ORDER

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
People who refuse the offer of a job should not be allowed state benefits, regardless of their personal circumstances	34	26	10	18	11	1	60	29
It is easy to come off benefits and return to work	14	16	14	25	22	8	30	47
Migration of workers into the UK is good for the UK economy	14	27	13	15	28	4	41	43

Q6. **How long do you think an unemployed person should be in charge of their own job search before being given a full-time job search programme by the Job Centre (e.g. referred to other organisations who'll help them find work, given training in interviews and CV writing etc)?**

READ OUT. ALTERNATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Immediately	15
1 month	14
3 months	29
6 months	29
One year	7
More than one year	3
None of these	1
Don't know	2

Q7. **To what extent do you support or oppose each of the following ways of reducing the deficit? Do you...**

READ OUT. ROTATE STATEMENTS. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Support	Oppose
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Raising the age at which people receive the state pension	10	19	9	21	39	2	29	60
Getting university students to pay more towards their education	10	16	9	23	39	3	26	62
Increasing the use of private sector organisations to run Government employment and training programmes	18	32	17	13	14	6	50	27
Increasing the use of voluntary sector organisations to run Government employment and training programmes	18	37	14	16	11	5	55	27
Ending tax credits for families earning more than £50,000 a year	45	23	9	9	12	2	68	21

- Q8. **One of the ways the Government could cut the budget deficit is by ending Child Trust Funds, a Government-sponsored savings scheme for all newborn children. Which of the following comes closest to your view about Child Trust Funds?**

READ OUT. RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
The Government should continue to sponsor Child Trust Funds for all children	26
The Government should continue to sponsor Child Trust Funds for children from the poorest families only	42
The Government should end Child Trust Funds	28
Don't know	3

Environment

- Q9. **Would you support or oppose the building of new nuclear power stations in Britain TO REPLACE those that are being phased out over the next few years?**

READ OUT. ALTERNATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Strongly support	31
Tend to support	28
Neither support or oppose	13
Tend to oppose	8
Strongly oppose	15
Don't know	5
Support	59
Oppose	23

E-society

- Q10. **Thinking about public services, which, if any, of the following would you be prepared to do online?**

READ OUT. RANDOMISE ORDER. MULTICODE OK

- Q11. **And which have you actually done online in the last 6 months?**

READ OUT. RANDOMISE ORDER. MULTICODE OK

	Prepared to do %	Have done %
Find details of local doctors and dentists	81	40
Finding out what public services are spending money on	76	14
Get information about local schools	75	25
Register to vote	72	16
Apply for a driving licence or passport	72	22
Pay your local council tax bill or a parking fine	70	24
Make a complaint	67	22
Renew a library book	66	12
Report a crime	51	2
None of these	10	32
Don't know	1	*

Big society

- Q12. During the recent election campaign David Cameron and the Conservative Party talked about their plans to create a “Big Society” in Britain. Do you remember hearing anything about this, or not?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Yes	42
No	57
Don't know	1

- Q13. How much, if anything, do feel you know about their plans for a “Big Society”?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
<i>Base: All who remember hearing about 'Big Society'</i>	<i>(424)</i>
A great deal	4
A fair amount	27
Not very much	36
Heard of, but know nothing	33
Don't know	1

Q14. **And from what you know or have heard, what do you think their plans to create a Big Society involve?**

WRITE IN RESPONSE

	%
<i>Base: All who remember hearing about 'Big Society'</i> (424)	
Greater individual responsibility/encouraging people to help themselves rather than relying on the state	9
Bringing back community spirit/awareness/encouraging people to work together/making a more cohesive society	9
Greater community/social responsibility/getting communities and their leaders to do things for themselves/empowering citizens	7
Bringing decision making to a local level/greater local involvement in local affairs/decentralisation of power and control	5
Promoting equality and fairness in society/inclusive	4
It's stupid/rubbish/nonsense	3
Greater public involvement in setting up/running schools/giving parents more control over schools	3
Sceptical/are the mechanisms in place/people not interested/don't trust politicians	3
Greater individual involvement in the local community/local services/getting everyone involved/people taking the initiative	2
Reducing government involvement/state intervention	2
Working together to improve the country/Doing it together/getting through tough times together/It involves the entire UK	2
Restoring the family unit/encouraging and supporting nuclear families/family values	2
Reducing the burden on public services by encouraging people to do more/greater public and voluntary sector involvement in public services	2
More privatisation/private sector involvement in schools and other services	2
Charities running non-government organisations/charities getting involved in local issues	2
Being tough on/reducing crime/challenging anti-social behaviour /ASBOs/making people feel safe	2
Not much/need more information	2
Encouraging local democracy/setting up local groups	1
Individuals being more in control of their own lives/giving people more power	1
Accountability within the community	1
Making the people do more so that the government can do less/getting other groups to do work the government ought to do	1
Reducing government spending/ending unnecessary government spending	1
Creating jobs/creating more ways of finding jobs	1
Stopping paperwork/bureaucracy/less legislation	1
Want people to participate/be involved in government/in decision making	1
Increasing the gap between rich and poor/for the benefit of the rich/becoming more elitist/persecuting working people	1
Ending gap between rich and poor	1
Looking after the poor/elderly/vulnerable	1
Encouraging marriage/tax breaks for married couples	1
Encouraging people to take greater responsibility for their families/more interest in what their children are doing/allowing communities to discipline children	1
Creating a smaller public sector/reducing public services/cut backs/public sector job cuts	1
Getting people back to work / removing benefits if they refuse/stopping people relying on benefits	1
Benefits/reducing/cutting benefits	1
It's a new version of John Kennedy	1
It's a political gimmick/a way of winning the election/making the Conservatives look good	1

Q14 cont/

	%
<i>Base: All who remember hearing about 'Big Society'</i>	<i>(424)</i>
It's related to Thatcher	1
It's about the deficit/budget	1
Cutting taxes	1
Making youths do volunteer work	1
Getting volunteers to do things/into community projects	1
Setting a cap on immigration/stopping immigration/stopping illegal immigrants	1
More immigration	1
Do not agree with the policy/that this will create a fairer society	1
Do not agree that people should be responsible for wider society/this is gov't responsibility	1
Not realistic/need professional involvement	1
Good idea/be good if it works	1
Local MP being involved at local levels	*
It's about sharing rewards	*
Doing more for communities/making communities better funded and resourced/solving community problems	*
Mutual understanding / improved communication	*
Government explaining what it will do	*
Greater government/local services accountability/transparency	*
Supporting government and government action	*
A less greedy society	*
Honesty	*
Improving living standards	*
Greater respect for authority	*
Anti gay marriage	*
Something to do with marriage	*
Making people stake holders in public services/generating support for public institutions	*
Schools and education/performance in schools/getting help in schools	*
Improving roads/public services/ensuring that they work efficiently	*
Improving facilities/help for young people	*
Education / health	*
More unified approach to local government/joining up local services	*
Refinancing the universities	*
Greater choice	*
Working with the Liberal Democrats/involving members of other parties/amalgamating the parties	*
It's a smokescreen to distract from other issues	*
The economy	*
Refinancing the country	*
Increasing taxes	*
Getting money back from the banks	*
It's about the voluntary sector (general)	*
Making people aware of voluntary organisations	*
Dealing with offenders locally	*
Making people on benefits do voluntary work	*
Other	4
Don't know/Not sure/Can't remember	38
None/No answer	6