

8th September
2009

Party conferences public spending questions for the RSA/ 2020 Trust Final Topline Results

- This document shows topline results and is based on 1,041 responses to an online survey across Great Britain.
- Fieldwork was conducted between 4th and 7th September 2009
- Data are weighted to the national representative offline profile of those aged 16-64 in Great Britain
- An asterisk (*) denotes a finding of less than 0.5% but greater than zero
- Where figures do not add up to 100% this is due to computer rounding, the exclusion of don't know or refused categories or multiple responses
- Data are based on all respondents unless stated otherwise

Q1. The next few questions relate to public services. By public services, we mean the range of services provided by central or local government - for example, the NHS, hospitals, schools and colleges, social services and refuse collection.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about public services in Britain?

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither/nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Agree	Dis-agree	Net agree	Don't know/no opinion
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	±	%
A	Making public services more efficient can save enough money to help cut government spending, without damaging services the public receive	25	50	14	6	3	75	9	+66	3
B	Too much public money is spent on public services	6	15	28	30	18	21	48	-27	3
C	Public services in my area are well run	3	33	32	22	7	36	29	+7	4
D	We demand a great deal from public services but are not prepared to pay enough taxes to fund them	8	28	25	24	11	36	35	+1	3
E	There is a real need to cut spending on public services in order to pay off the very high national debt we now have	8	16	23	31	19	24	50	-26	3

Q2. Government borrowing is now at record levels, and will need to be reduced in future. Which one of these statements comes closest to your own view?

	%
Government borrowing should be reduced, even if it means spending on key public services is cut	36
Spending on public services should be maintained, even if it means increasing the tax I pay	38
Don't know	27

In order to bring the nation's debts under control, many experts think it is highly likely that the level of taxation will increase in future.

Q3. If taxes were to rise, which of these, if any, would you be most in favour of being increased?

Q4. And which tax would you be least in favour of being increased?

	Q3 %	Q4 %
Taxes on businesses	25	3
Inheritance tax	24	6
Income tax	12	25
VAT	8	10
Fuel duty	5	21
Council tax	2	26
Other	5	*
None of these	11	3
Don't know	7	5

Q5. If the NHS was to face lower levels of spending, which of these, if any, would you be most willing to accept?

Q6. And which, if any, would you be least willing to accept?

	Q5 %	Q6 %
Requiring patients to change their lifestyle before they are allowed to get treatment (e.g. give up smoking, change their diet)	53	7
Longer waiting lists	7	12
Charges for visiting your GP	6	35
Some types of treatment not being available in your area, depending on where you live	5	16
Fees for hospital stays	3	19
Other	3	*
None of these	17	7
Don't know	6	3

Q7. If education services were to face lower levels of spending, which of these, if any, would you be most willing to accept?

Q8. And which, if any, would you be least willing to accept?

	Q7 %	Q8 %
Higher university fees	25	21
Fewer free pre-school places	25	15
Larger class sizes in primary schools	11	21
Larger class sizes in secondary schools	9	24
Other	1	*
None of these	19	9
Don't know	9	9

Q9. If the Criminal Justice System was to face lower levels of spending, which of these, if any, would you be most willing to accept?

Q10. And which, if any, would you be least willing to accept?

	Q9 %	Q10 %
Fewer education programmes in prisons	38	4
More fines (e.g. speeding tickets, parking fines)	18	15
Fewer rehabilitation programmes for drugs and alcohol users	13	6
Fewer prison sentences and more community sentences	13	16
Less monitoring of people on probation	2	7
Fewer police	1	45
Other	2	0
None of these	6	3
Don't know	6	5