

Audit of Political Engagement Trends

- APE (Audit of Political Engagement) 1 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 1,976 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 11-17 December 2003 and in Northern Ireland between 6-15 December 2003.
- APE 2 results are based on interviews conducted face-to-face with 2,065 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain between 2 - 6 December 2004 and in Northern Ireland between 14-21 December 2004.
- APE 3 topline results are based on 1,209 adults aged 18+ in UK. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 1-5 December 2005
- APE 4 topline results are based on 1,490 adults aged 18+ in the UK. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 23 - 28 November 2006
- 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.
- APE 6 topline results are based on 1,051 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 11 - 17 December 2008.
- APE 7 topline results are based on 1,156 adults aged 18+ in Great Britain. Interviewed face-to-face in home between 13 - 19 November 2009.
- 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.
- 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

Propensity to vote

- Q. **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 (Dec 2003) %	APE 2 (Dec 2004) %	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %	APE 5 (Dec 2007) %	APE 6 (Dec 2008) %	APE 7 (Dec 2009) %
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	2	1	1	1	*	*	*
Don't know	0	0	0	0	3	2	2

Activism

Q. 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 (Dec 2003) %	APE 2 (Dec 2004) %	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %	APE 5 (Dec 2007) %	APE 6 (Dec 2008) %	APE 7 (Dec 2009) %
Voted in the last general election	64	61	70	69	62	58	49
Helped on fund raising drives	21	30	22	18	19	20	27
Presented my views to a local councillor or MP*	13	17	15	14	15	17	17
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14	17	17	13	15	12	17
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14	16	14	10	16	12	15
Made a speech before an organised group	11	17	13	11	12	8	14
Been an officer 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	20	24	26	32	30

* 'Presented my views to/Contacted a local councillor, MP, MSP or Welsh Assembly Member' in APE 7

Activism 2

Q. 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 (Dec 2003) %	APE 2 (Dec 2004) %	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %	APE 5 (Dec 2007)* %	APE 6 (Dec 2008)* %	APE 7 (Dec 2009)* %
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	44	44	38	37	37	42
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38	38	39	40	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	18	20	18	20	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	8	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	5	6	5	5	4	3	4
Contacted my local council	26	28	28	33	n/a	n/a	n/a
Taken part in a sponsored event	15	22	19	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Helped organise a charity event	16	21	20	19	n/a	n/a	n/a
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a general election	1	2	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a local election	1	2	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Taken part in a strike	2	2	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Served as a school or hospital governor	2	2	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Served as a local magistrate	1	*	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
None	17	16	17	19	20	20	23
Don't know	0	*	*	1	2	1	*

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

Presented views to MP or councillor

Q. **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 (Dec 2003) (263) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) (203) %	APE 5 (Dec 2007) (171) %	APE 6 (Dec 2008) (165) %	APE 7 (Dec 2009)* (192) %
Local councillor	48	41	48	44	40
MP	27	29	29	28	43
Both	24	29	22	26	19
Don't know	2	1	1	2	2

* APE 7 wording included: 'or MSP/Welsh Assembly Member' (SCOTLAND AND WALES ONLY).

Interest in politics

Q. SHOWCARD How interested would you say you are in ...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/fairly interested	
Q.	Politics							
	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
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	11	39	32	18	0	50
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	%	13	40	28	19	*	53
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	%	13	43	30	14	*	56
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	13	41	27	19	*	54
	APE 5 (Dec 2007)	%	13	38	28	19	1	52
	APE 6 (Dec 2008)	%	12	40	30	17	*	52
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	14	39	29	18	1	53

Interest in local issues

Q. SHOWCARD How interested would you say you are in ...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/fairly interested	
Q.	Local issues							
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	%	32	49	14	5	*	81
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	%	30	51	13	5	*	81
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	28	51	14	7	*	79
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	19	59	17	6	*	78

Interest in national issues

Q. SHOWCARD How interested would you say you are in ...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/fairly interested	
Q.	National issues							
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	%	25	52	17	6	*	77
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	%	23	52	18	7	*	75
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	23	52	15	9	*	76
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	22	53	16	8	*	75

Interest in international issues

Q. SHOWCARD How interested would you say you are in ...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	Very/fairly interested
Q.	International Issues						
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	%	21	44	26	8	*
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	%	18	47	26	9	*
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	19	51	19	11	1

Knowledge about politics

Q. SHOWCARD How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...? STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). 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 (Dec 2003)	%	3	39	45	12	1	42
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	%	4	41	44	10	*	45
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	%	4	35	51	10	*	39
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	6	43	40	11	*	49
	APE 5 (Dec 2007)	%	4	40	43	12	*	44
	APE 6 (Dec 2008)	%	5	43	42	9	1	48
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	6	45	40	9	*	51

Knowledge about the European Union

- Q. SHOWCARD **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?** STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). SINGLE CODE ONLY

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know
The European Union						
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	2	22	55	20	1
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	3	26	52	17	2

Knowledge about your local council

- Q. SHOWCARD **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?** STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). SINGLE CODE ONLY

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know	Great deal/fair amount
Your local council							
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	4	34	49	12	1	38
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	5	42	43	9	1	47
APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	4	36	50	9	*	40

Knowledge about the Westminster Parliament

- Q. SHOWCARD **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?** STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). SINGLE CODE ONLY

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know	Great deal/fair amount
The Westminster Parliament							
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	3	30	50	17	1	33
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	4	34	46	15	1	38
APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	4	33	47	15	1	37

Knowledge about the role of MPs

- Q. SHOWCARD **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?** STATEMENT A) FIRST. RANDOMISE STATEMENTS B) TO E). SINGLE CODE ONLY

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know	Great deal/fair amount
The role of MPs							
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	4	41	42	13	1	45
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	5	42	41	11	1	47
APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	6	44	40	9	1	50

Knowledge of MP's name

- Q. **What is the name of your local Member of Parliament for this constituency since May 2005/since the last by-election?**

	APE 1 (Dec 2003) %	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %	APE 7 (Dec 2009) %
Gave correct answer	42	44	44	44
Gave wrong answer (including former MP's name)	10	9	6	10
Don't know/no answer	49	46	49	46

Political Quiz

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. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

		True	False	Don't know
Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters like you and me (TRUE)				
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	49	32	19
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	50	27	23
The House of Commons has more power than the House of Lords (TRUE)				
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	49	30	22
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	44	32	24
The minimum age for voting at a general election is 16 (FALSE)				
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	14	79	7
APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	13	83	4
Local councils have the power to set the school leaving age in their own area (FALSE)				
APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	8	74	17
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	7	76	17
You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)				
January 2006*	%	36	43	21
APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	21	64	15
APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	25	62	13

* Wording in January 2006 – 'You are automatically put on the electoral register if you pay Council Tax'

Satisfaction with way the Parliament works

Q. SHOWCARD Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither/nor	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Very/fairly satisfied	
Q.	That Parliament works								
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	1	35	27	23	9	5	36
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	2	33	24	24	9	8	36
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	1	32	24	25	13	4	33

Satisfaction with way MPs in general doing their job

Q. SHOWCARD Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither/nor	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Very/fairly satisfied	
Q.	MPs in general are doing their job								
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	%	1	31	26	26	10	5	32
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	%	2	28	27	26	11	6	31
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	%	1	28	24	30	14	3	29

Satisfaction with way your MP doing their job

Q. SHOWCARD Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...? SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither/nor	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Very/fairly satisfied
Q. Your MP is doing his/her job								
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 8	33	26	9	4	21	41
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 11	30	30	9	3	17	41
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	% 8	30	27	9	7	18	38

Attitudes of politics and voting

Q. SHOWCARD To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither/nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
Being active in politics is a waste of time									
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 4	18	20	42	13	3	22	55
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 5	20	22	39	12	3	25	51
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)*	% 6	15	12	41	25	1	21	66
I feel a sense of satisfaction when I vote									
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 12	41	20	16	7	4	53	23
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 15	38	21	16	6	5	53	22
It is my duty to vote									
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 37	37	10	10	5	1	74	15
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 42	36	10	7	3	2	78	10
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)	% 46	30	8	9	6	1	76	15
I want to have a say in how the country is run									
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 31	44	12	9	4	2	75	13
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	% 22	45	15	12	5	1	67	17
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	% 23	45	14	12	5	1	68	17
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 22	47	16	9	3	3	69	12
I have a say in how the country is run at the moment									
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	% 3	24	16	36	19	1	27	55
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	% 2	21	14	33	30	1	23	63
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 4	23	19	36	16	3	27	52
When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the country is run									
	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	% 5	31	20	30	10	4	36	40
	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	% 7	29	20	31	10	2	36	41
	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	% 6	27	20	31	13	3	33	44
	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	% 5	28	24	31	8	4	33	39
	APE 5 (Dec 2007)	% 4	27	23	29	13	3	31	42
	APE 6 (Dec 2008)	% 3	28	22	32	13	2	32	44
	APE 7 (Dec 2009)**	% 5	32	19	30	11	4	37	41

* APE 7 wording 'Politics is a waste of time'

** APE 7 wording: '...the way that the UK is run'

Attitudes to system of governing Britain

Q. 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 (Dec 2003)	APE 2 (Dec 2004)	APE 3 (Dec 2005)	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	APE 5 (Dec 2007)	APE 6 (Dec 2008)	APE 7 (Dec 2009)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
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

* From Crowther-Hunt Commission's report

Things that have most impact on people's lives

Q. 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 (Dec 2003)	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	APE 7 (Dec 2009)
	%	%	%
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	26	19
Prime Minister	25	24	17
Scottish Parliament/ National Assembly for Wales	5	3	6
Cabinet	8	7	5
Don't know	6	6	4

Trust in politicians

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

	APE 1 (Dec 2003)	APE 4 (Dec 2006)	APE 7 (Dec 2009)
	%	%	%
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

Things willing to do and have done

- Q. SHOWCARD Which of these, if any, do you think you might be willing to do in order to express your opinion on an issues that is important to you?¹ MULTICODE OK
- Q. SHOWCARD And which, if any, of these have you ever done for that reason? MULTICODE OK

	Q22		Q23	
	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %	APE 3 (Dec 2005) %	APE 4 (Dec 2006) %
Attend a demonstration	26	28	13	16
Contribute money to an organisation campaigning on your side of the issue	16	20	10	13
Present your case at a public enquiry	15	19	4	4
Sign a petition	72	70	50	55
Stand for election to your local council ²	3	5	1	2
Stand for election to the UK Parliament ³	3	3	1	*
Take part in a court case against your local council or the government ⁴	4	14	0	1
Vote against the party you would normally support	32	31	15	16
Write to a newspaper	31	38	13	16
Contact your MP ⁵	46	46	24	20
Contact your local councillor ⁶	46	43	24	24
Take part in a governmental or parliamentary consultation	13	14	4	4
Other	*	*	*	*
None	12	15	36	32
Don't know	2	3	1	2

Knowledge about the British constitution

- Q. 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

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

* 'The British Constitution'

¹ APE3 wording – 'Which of these, if any, do you think you might be willing to do to influence or protest against a decision by a local or national government body?'

² APE 3 wording – 'Stand for election to Parliament or your local council'

³ APE 3 wording – 'Stand for election to Parliament or your local council'

⁴ APE 3 wording – 'Start a court case against your local council or the government'

⁵ APE 3 wording – 'Contact your local councillor or MP'

⁶ APE 3 wording – 'Contact your local councillor or MP'

Knowledge about the European Union

- Q. 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

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