

THE BRITISH REPRESENTATION STUDY

SECTION A: YOUR POLITICAL

BACKGROUND

1. What is your party?	Conservative	Labour	Lib-Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	Green

2. Are you currently...	No	Yes	If 'yes' please write in for which constituency
An elected Member of Parliament?			
A prospective Parliamentary candidate?			
Currently actively seeking adoption by a seat?			[leave blank]

3. How many times have you stood for Parliament or been elected?						
	Never before	Once	Twice	Three times	Four times	Five or more
Stood for Parliament before?						
Been elected an MP?						

4. Please tick if you have ever....			
Held local party office		Served on a national public body	
Held regional party office		Held office in a local pressure group	
Held national party office		Held office in a national pressure group	
Been a candidate for local government		Held office in other community group	
Been elected to local government		Held office in a professional group	
Been a candidate for the European parliament		Held office in a trade union	
Been elected to the European Parliament		Held office in a woman's organisation	
Served on a local public body		Been employed full-time by regional or national party office	

5. How much time do you usually devote to party activities in the average month?	hours/month
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6. Why did you <u>first</u> become a parliamentary candidate? Please rank the following reasons in order of importance.			
	Tick 1st reason	Tick 2nd reason	Tick 3rd reason
I wanted to support my party			
I was asked to stand			
I wanted to serve my country			
I wanted to represent this particular constituency			
I wanted to help people			

SECTION B: YOUR EXPERIENCE OF SELECTION

7. Some people receive encouragement from those around them when they decide to stand for public office. Others experience indifference or disapproval. How positive or negative were the following people in encouraging you to become a candidate in the next election?					
	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative
Your spouse or partner					
Other family members					
Personal friends					
Women's groups					
Community groups					
Business associates					
Trade unionists					
Party members					
Party agents					
Your employer					

8. For the coming general election...	
For how many seats did you apply?	
For how many were you interviewed?	
For how many were you on the final short-list?	
9. And in your most recent short-listing?	
How many people were on the final short-list?	
How many were women? [Please indicate if all]	
How many were ethnic minorities?	

10. When originally deciding to apply for a constituency, how important were the following factors influencing your choice of seats?				
	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
I already lived in the constituency				
I choose seats close to my home				
I choose seats in my region				
I chose seats close to Westminster				
I knew party members in the seat				
I was asked to apply				
I thought I could win the seat				
I thought it would be good experience				
[LAB ONLY] I chose or avoided all women shortlists				

FOR LABOUR PARTY RESPONDENTS ONLY:

11. How many of the following bodies nominated you in your most recent short-listing? And how many of each were there in the constituency?		
	Total who nominated you	Total in constituency
Branch sections		
Trade union sections		
Co-operative sections		
Women's sections		
Socialist sections		
Others		

FOR ALL RESPONDENTS:

12. Do you think the influence the following groups have over the selection process is generally too little, too great, or about right?					
	Far too little	Too little	About right	Too great	Far too great
National party leaders					
Regional officers					
Constituency officers					
Local party members					
Party agents					
Trade unions					
Women's organisations					

13. In your view, was the procedure used in your most recent selection application....				
	Very	Quite	Not very	Not at all
Democratic				
Efficient				
Complicated				
Fair				

14. Some people find it easy to get a seat while others experience difficulties. FOR CANDIDATES AND APPLICANTS: Were the following activities easy or difficult for you this time? FOR MPS: Were the following easy or difficult for you in your <u>first</u> candidacy?				
	Very easy	Fairly easy	Fairly difficult	Very difficult
Finding out about the application process				
Getting good advice from the party				
Feeling qualified to put my name forward				
Producing an effective application form				

Selecting seats				
Getting a preliminary interview in a seat				
Getting short-listed				
Presenting myself for interview				
Getting support from party members				
Having enough money for interview expenses				
Having enough time				

FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES AND MPS:

15. In the next general election,	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	Green
Which party do you think will win in your constituency?						
And which come second?						
16. And do you think ...				Close result	Win easily	Don't know
...the result in your seat will be close or will one party win easily?						

FOR ALL:

17. Turning to issues of representation, several factors might influence MPS when they are considering important bills. Who should members listen to most when deciding how to vote?				
	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
Their electorate				
Their core voters				
Public opinion				
Their local party				
Their parliamentary party				
Their party conference				
Their party manifesto				
Their party leader				
Interest groups				
Their own views				
The mass media				
Parliamentary debate				

18. Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about the work of Members of Parliament?				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
MPs casework has increased too much and ought to be reduced				
Solving constituent's problems is one of the most worthwhile parts of the job of MP				

People are more likely to vote for an active constituency MP				
MPs are elected to participate in government, not act as unpaid social workers				
Most people vote for the party, not the individual candidate				

FOR MPS:

19. Roughly how many hours do you usually devote to the following activities in the average week when the house is sitting?	
At Westminster	Hours
Dealing with constituency casework	
Attending Parliamentary debates on the floor of the House	
Working in Parliamentary select committees	
Working in Parliamentary standing committees	
Working in backbench party committees	
Informal meetings with other MPs at Westminster	
Informal meetings with members of the public at Westminster	
Informal meetings with lobbyists at Westminster	
Informal meetings with the media at Westminster	
In your constituency	
Holding constituency surgeries	
Attending party meetings	
Speaking at public meetings	
Attending local community functions	
Travelling time between Westminster and your constituency	
Total hours per week devoted to your work as an MP	

20. Turning to your constituency activity,...	
Roughly how many letters do you receive from constituents in the average week?	
And how many letters do you receive from others in the average week?	
How many surgeries do you hold in the average month?	

FOR ALL:

21. Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about the work of Members of Parliament?				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Most MPs make a lot of money by using public office improperly				
Most MPs have a high personal moral code				
Most MPs will tell lies if they feel the truth will hurt them politically				
Most MPs care more about special interests than the general public				

The moral standards of British politicians has declined in recent years				
The problem of 'sleaze' in British politics has been blown out of all proportion				
Outside employment keeps MPs in touch with real life				
Union sponsorship undermines the independence of MPs				
MPs should be banned from all consultancies				
Compared with many other countries, there is relatively little corruption in British public life				

22. Do you feel that it is right, or not right, for MPs to accept the following....	Right	Not right	Don't know
Free lunch at a restaurant			
Payment for asking questions in parliament			
Bottle of wine and whisky at Christmas			
A free holiday abroad			
Payments for giving advice about parliamentary matters			
Free tickets for Wimbledon and other major sporting events			
Money or gifts in connection with parliamentary duties			
Payment to their spouse for secretarial duties			

23. Do you feel that Parliament should have	Many more women	A few more women	Same as now	Fewer women

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the following proposals for increasing the number of women in parliament?				
	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Party training programmes for women				
All women short-lists				
Positive quotas/affirmative action for women				
Better childcare facilities in parliament				
Changing the hours of parliamentary sittings				
Financial support for women candidates				
Reserved seats for women				

25. Do you feel that Parliament should have	Many more black MPs	A few more black MPs	Same as now	Fewer black MPs

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26. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views about politicians?	Please tick one
Politicians should spend more time listening to the views of ordinary people, or	
Politicians should rely more on their own judgement, instead of on public opinion	

SECTION C: YOUR POLITICAL ATTITUDES

27. What would you say are the three most important problems facing the country at the present time? Please list in order of priority
(i)
(ii)
(iii)

28. And if you were given the opportunity to sponsor a Private Members' Bill in the next session of parliament, would problems would you most want to tackle? Please list in order of priority
(i)
(ii)
(iii)

29. In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Using the following scale, where 1 means left and 7 means right,...							
	Left = 1	2	3	4	5	6	Right = 7
Where would you place yourself							
Your constituency party							
Your parliamentary party							
Your party leader							
Your party's voters							

30. Some people feel that getting people back to work should be the government's top priority. Other people feel that keeping prices down should be the government's top priority. Using the following scale...												
Getting people back to work	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Keeping prices down
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party's voters												

31. Some people feel that government should nationalise many more private companies. Other people feel that government should sell off many more nationalised industries. Using the following scale...												
Nationalise many more private companies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sell off more nationalised industries

Where would you place your view														
Your constituency party														
Your parliamentary party														
Your party leader														
Your party's voters														

32. Some people feel that Britain should do all it can to unite fully with the European Union. Other people feel that Britain should do all it can to protect its independence from the European Union. Using the following scale...

Unite fully with EU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Protect independence from EU
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party' voters												

33. Do you think the government should, or should not, do each of the following things, or doesn't it matter either way?

	Definitely should	Probably should	Doesn't matter	Probably should not	Definitely should not
Provide public funding of political parties					
Establish a written constitution and Bill of Rights					
Replace the House of Lords with an elected Second Chamber					
Introduce proportional representation for British elections					
Hold a referendum on electoral reform					
Encourage the growth of private medicine					
Put more money into the NHS					
Spend less on defence					
Move towards a common European currency					
Introduce stricter measures against crime					

34. Now we want to ask you about some changes that have been happening in Britain over the years. For each one can you say whether it has gone too far, not far enough, or is it about right?

	Gone much too far	Gone too far	About right	Not gone far enough	Not gone nearly far enough	Don't know
Attempts to give equal opportunities to women in Britain						
The availability of abortion on the NHS						
Attempts to give equal opportunities to black people in Britain						

35. Some people feel that government should put up taxes a lot and spend much more on health and social services. Other people feel that

government should cut taxes a lot and spend much less on health and social services.												
Put up taxes/spending	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Cut taxes/spending
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party's voters												

36.Which, if any, of these statements comes closest to your own opinion on British nuclear weapons?	Please tick one
Britain should keep her own nuclear weapons, independent of other countries	
Or Britain should have nuclear weapons only as part of a Western defence system	
Or Britain should have nothing to do with nuclear weapons under any circumstances.	

37.On the whole, do you think the UK's interests are better served by...	Please tick one
Closer links with Western Europe	
or closer links with America	
or - both equally	

38.People hold different views about how they would like to see the European Union develop. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?	Please tick one
A fully integrated Europe with most major decisions taken by a European government	
A Europe more integrated than now but with decisions that mainly affect Britain staying in British hands	
The situation much as now, with Britain retaining a veto over major policy changes it does not like	
Complete British withdrawal from the European Union	

39.Some people feel that women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry and government. Other people feel a woman's place is in the home.												
Women should have equal role	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	A woman's place is in the home
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party's voters												

40.An issue in Scotland is the question of an elected Assembly - a special parliament dealing with Scottish affairs. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?	Please tick one
Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK and the European Union	

Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK but part of the European Union	
Scotland should remain part of the UK but with its own devolved Assembly with some taxation and spending powers	
There should be no change from the present system	

41. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off						
Big business benefits owners at the expense of workers						
Ordinary working people do not get their fair share of the nation's wealth						
There is one law for the rich and one for the poor						
Management will always try to get the better of employees if it gets the chance						

42. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Young people today don't have enough respect for traditional British values						
People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences						
For some crimes the death penalty is the most appropriate sentence						
Schools should teach children to obey authority						
The law should always be obeyed, even if a particular law is wrong						
Censorship of films and magazines is necessary to uphold moral standards						

43. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Government should make sure that women have an equal chance to succeed						
Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women						
All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job						
Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay						
A husband's job is to earn the money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family						

44. There is a lot of talk these days about what the aims of the country should be for the next ten years. If you had to choose between the following items, which seems most important and which next most important to you?

	Most important	Next most important
Maintaining order in the nation		

Giving people more say in important government decisions		
Fighting rising prices		
Protecting freedom of speech		

45. Where would you most like to be ten years from now?			
A member of the British parliament		Head of a private company or public agency	
A member of the British government		In the House of Lords	
A member of the European parliament		Retired from public life	

SECTION D: YOUR PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Finally we would like to ask you some questions about your social background.

46. In what year were you born?	19_____
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47. Are you	Male	Female

48. Are you	Married	Widowed/divorced/separated	Never married

49. Do you have any children in your care aged..	None	One child	Two children	Three children	More than three
Under five years old					
Five to fifteen years old					

50. How old were you when you completed continuous full-time education?	_____ years old
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51. What is your highest educational qualification?	Please tick one
Primary school	
Secondary school	
Other higher education	
University or polytechnic degree	
If a graduate, please tick if your first degree was from Oxford or Cambridge University	

52. What type of school did you last attend full-time?	Please tick one
Grammar	
Independent fee-paying, Direct grant or Grant aided	
Comprehensive	
Secondary Modern or Technical	

53. Are you ..	Yes	No
Currently a member of a trade union or staff association		
A union sponsored candidate		

54. Do you work in the public or private sector? If an MP, which best describes your occupation prior to election?	Please tick one
Public sector	
Private sector	

55. Which of these best describes what you were doing last week? If you are an MP, which best describes your occupation immediately prior to being elected.	Please tick one
In full-time employment (30+ hours per week)	
In part-time employment (10-29 hours per week)	
Registered unemployed	
Wholly retired from work	
In full-time education	
Looking after the home	
Other....(please write in):	

56. If currently employed, please describe your occupation and employer. If an MP, please describe your occupation and employer immediately prior to being elected.			
Occupation: (write in)			
How many people did you directly supervise in that occupation (if any)?	(write in)		
Were you an employee or self-employed?	An employee		Self-employed
If an employee, who was your employer?: (write in)			

57. Please indicate your occupation (for MPs immediately prior to election) from the following list:			
Legal profession		Writers, literary, artists	
Civil service and local authority administration		Architects, surveyors, engineers	
Party official/ political research		Armed services	
Commerce, management and business		Clergy	
Educational professions		Clerical, secretarial	
Journalism, broadcasting, media		Other white collar	
Physicians, dentists		Trade union official	
Agriculture, farmers		Manual worker	

58. Do you ever think of yourself as belonging to any particular social class?

No		
Yes		If 'yes' which class is that? (write in):

59. In your main accommodation do you, or your household,	Please tick one
Own the property outright	
Own the property with a mortgage	
Rent from a private landlord	
Rent from your local authority or housing association	

60. When did you first join your present political party?	19____
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61. Which ethnic group do you belong to?	Please tick one
White	
Non-white	

62. Do you regard yourself as	Please tick one
Protestant	
Catholic	
Other religion	
None	

63. How often do you attend a religious service?	Please tick one
At least once a week	
At least once a month	
At least once a year	
Never	

64. Where were you living	Village, town or city	County
When you were 14		
Where you live now		

65. Is your household's total income...			
Less than 5,000		40,000- 50,000	
5,000 - 10,000		50,000- 60,000	
10,000 - 20,000		60,000- 70,000	

20,000- 30,000		70,000- 80,000	
30,000- 40,000		80,000+	

66. Would you be willing to help the project further with a brief interview?	Yes		No	
If 'yes' could you give a telephone number?	Home: ()		Work: ()	

67. Would you be interested in a summary of the results when available?	Yes		No	
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Many thanks for taking the time and effort to complete the questionnaire. Your help and cooperation with this project is greatly appreciated. A stamped-addressed envelope has been enclosed. Please return to:

The British Representation Study...