

YouGov / Prospect Survey Results

Sample Size: 1620 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 30th June - 1st July 2013

	Voting intention				2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social grade		Region					
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	UKIP	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	
Weighted Sample	1620	415	476	104	151	507	404	329	787	833	196	413	554	457	923	697	207	527	347	399	141
Unweighted Sample	1620	396	468	95	181	512	418	340	735	885	88	432	615	485	1081	539	297	532	299	373	119
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

On average, pupils at private schools obtain higher A-level grades than pupils at state schools. From what you know, how do you assess each of these factors?

Pupils at private schools are generally brighter than pupils at state schools

True and an extremely important factor	7	11	5	6	12	9	7	4	8	6	13	6	8	5	7	8	7	7	6	9	4
True, and a fairly important factor	14	19	12	20	21	17	12	13	17	11	16	17	10	15	16	12	18	14	16	11	12
True, but only a minor factor	14	12	18	14	17	13	18	12	15	13	11	11	15	16	14	14	21	13	16	11	10
Not true	50	47	53	51	40	50	50	60	43	56	48	47	54	49	54	44	42	51	47	52	57
Don't know	15	10	13	9	10	11	13	11	16	14	12	19	13	15	9	23	12	15	15	17	18

Pupils at private schools tend to have better-educated parents than pupils at state schools

True and an extremely important factor	20	25	19	16	36	23	21	16	23	16	22	21	19	18	21	18	24	18	19	21	15
True, and a fairly important factor	27	28	27	32	32	27	27	32	28	26	19	28	27	30	30	23	29	25	31	25	23
True, but only a minor factor	23	26	23	30	15	26	21	25	22	24	33	19	21	26	25	21	19	27	23	19	31
Not true	16	13	20	14	11	16	20	15	13	19	9	14	20	16	14	18	15	15	15	18	18
Don't know	14	9	12	8	6	10	10	13	14	14	18	19	13	10	10	19	13	14	11	17	12

Private schools tend to have smaller classes and better facilities than state schools

True and an extremely important factor	44	47	46	42	52	47	47	49	41	46	52	38	43	46	46	40	42	47	40	45	35
True, and a fairly important factor	33	31	31	38	35	32	30	34	34	32	28	34	33	33	33	32	36	31	34	31	36
True, but only a minor factor	9	11	10	8	7	12	11	4	8	10	9	8	9	10	9	9	9	7	11	10	10
Not true	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	5
Don't know	13	7	11	11	5	8	11	11	14	12	8	18	13	9	9	18	12	13	12	13	14

Private schools have more freedom over what how and what to teach than state schools

True and an extremely important factor	21	24	19	10	38	24	24	19	21	21	21	15	21	27	20	23	19	23	22	21	14
True, and a fairly important factor	29	33	30	33	34	36	26	29	31	28	25	25	31	34	32	26	33	32	27	25	36
True, but only a minor factor	18	22	20	25	10	16	17	22	19	17	24	17	18	16	21	14	19	18	20	17	17
Not true	6	5	9	6	5	4	9	6	7	5	7	9	5	5	6	6	6	3	7	8	10
Don't know	25	17	23	26	12	20	25	24	22	29	23	34	25	19	21	31	23	24	24	30	23

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

In general, private schools make their pupils work harder than state schools

True and an extremely important factor	22	34	15	13	41	33	18	18	22	23	19	17	24	28	23	22	23	25	21	21	19
True, and a fairly important factor	34	39	33	39	38	39	30	34	33	34	31	32	32	39	37	29	34	34	34	32	34
True, but only a minor factor	12	9	15	15	6	9	15	13	12	11	14	13	13	7	12	11	16	11	13	10	12
Not true	13	9	18	13	7	8	17	15	13	13	14	14	13	12	13	13	11	12	16	15	7
Don't know	19	9	19	19	8	11	20	20	19	19	21	24	18	15	15	25	16	18	17	21	27

Bright pupils in state schools are often held back by pupils who are less bright than they are

True and an extremely important factor	28	37	19	26	46	40	20	29	28	28	22	28	29	30	28	28	23	28	33	29	21
True, and a fairly important factor	29	32	29	24	31	29	28	26	29	29	31	30	27	30	31	26	33	31	28	26	25
True, but only a minor factor	21	20	25	27	15	18	25	23	20	21	26	18	22	19	22	19	26	19	20	20	24
Not true	10	5	17	14	3	5	17	12	10	11	12	8	10	12	11	10	7	9	11	13	13
Don't know	12	6	10	10	6	8	11	10	14	11	9	16	12	10	9	17	10	13	9	12	18

Pupils at state schools are more likely to have bad teachers

True and an extremely important factor	11	17	7	8	21	17	10	7	13	10	11	9	12	13	11	12	15	12	10	11	9
True, and a fairly important factor	20	19	19	20	28	20	16	21	23	17	28	18	17	22	19	21	23	20	21	19	15
True, but only a minor factor	15	17	19	21	13	15	17	15	18	13	20	12	16	15	17	13	14	15	19	12	18
Not true	38	37	42	42	27	36	43	43	31	45	29	41	40	38	41	34	35	39	37	41	40
Don't know	15	10	13	9	10	12	13	13	16	15	12	20	15	13	11	21	14	15	12	18	19

Classes in state schools are more often disrupted by bad behaviour than classes in private schools

True and an extremely important factor	31	40	25	26	51	42	26	29	31	32	21	28	32	38	30	33	34	33	32	32	21
True, and a fairly important factor	30	34	28	36	33	31	26	35	32	27	40	29	27	29	34	24	27	31	31	28	30
True, but only a minor factor	17	14	22	20	8	13	24	15	16	17	13	18	19	14	16	17	19	16	15	17	21
Not true	5	4	8	6	1	3	8	5	6	5	11	3	5	5	6	5	5	4	7	6	5
Don't know	17	8	16	12	8	10	17	15	16	18	15	21	17	14	13	22	16	17	15	17	23

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

A-level exams are inherently biased in favour of the education provided by private schools – a fairer test of pupils’ potential might reduce the gap in exam grades between private and state schools

True and an extremely important factor	12	9	19	12	8	7	19	13	13	11	19	10	12	10	11	13	10	11	12	14	11
True, and a fairly important factor	17	10	21	13	29	12	20	19	17	18	17	14	18	20	17	18	18	17	19	17	18
True, but only a minor factor	12	14	13	23	12	14	13	11	12	12	13	11	11	14	14	10	14	12	10	14	11
Not true	26	43	16	23	30	41	15	25	30	22	21	27	27	27	30	20	28	29	28	21	20
Don't know	33	24	31	30	22	26	32	32	28	37	31	38	32	29	28	39	30	32	30	34	41

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

On balance, private schools benefit Britain: they provide many pupils with a good education, and are often beacons of excellence that help to raise standards in state schools	42	72	22	41	62	66	21	35	46	37	36	38	38	51	47	34	45	52	44	30	26
On balance, private schools harm Britain: they reinforce privilege and social divisions, give children from better-off families an unfair advantage and undermine the state school system	41	16	65	39	31	20	65	46	39	43	45	37	45	39	39	44	37	31	43	52	50
Don't know	17	13	13	20	7	14	13	19	14	20	19	25	17	10	14	22	18	17	14	18	24

A significantly higher proportion of pupils from private schools than state schools gain admission to Britain's top universities. In general, do you think this is...

Reasonable – top universities should insist on maintaining their standards and choose the applicants with the best A-level results	36	60	18	36	56	57	19	32	43	29	31	37	33	40	42	28	37	43	36	28	25
Unreasonable – top universities should do far more to offset the biases in the school system, and find talented pupils in state schools	54	33	72	58	42	36	72	60	50	58	56	46	59	52	49	60	53	46	57	58	64
Not sure	11	7	10	6	2	7	9	8	7	14	13	17	7	8	10	12	10	11	7	13	12

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Suppose Britain's top universities did alter their admissions rules to admit fewer pupils from private schools and more pupils from state schools (for example by requiring slightly lower A-level grades from state school pupils), do think standards of education, and the eventual quality of graduates, at those universities would rise, fall or stay about the same?

Standards would rise	12	9	17	15	10	7	17	16	12	12	9	12	14	10	13	11	16	9	11	13	13
Standards would fall	31	52	20	23	45	49	21	26	35	28	26	27	29	40	36	24	31	37	34	23	30
Standards would stay about the same	41	31	47	53	36	34	47	43	41	41	46	38	43	39	38	45	37	40	43	42	41
Don't know	16	8	16	9	9	10	16	15	12	19	19	22	14	11	12	20	16	14	11	22	16

Altogether, around 400,000 students at British colleges and universities, or one in six of all students, come from abroad. Do you think that having this number of overseas student in Britain is, on balance...

Good for Britain	32	36	33	45	16	30	31	42	38	25	36	34	30	29	39	21	32	32	33	31	30
Bad for Britain	28	28	27	25	49	29	28	24	28	27	24	24	29	31	24	32	24	29	28	31	17
Neither good nor bad	32	31	33	23	30	35	30	28	27	36	35	28	31	34	30	34	34	33	29	29	39
Don't know	9	5	7	6	5	6	11	7	7	11	6	14	9	6	7	12	10	6	10	10	13

Suppose you were leaving school this summer and had the money and exam grades to have the choice, would you, either immediately or after a gap year...

Go to a top British university	61	72	61	63	61	67	65	59	60	62	57	50	63	69	61	60	59	62	65	56	64
Go to a top American university	11	7	10	18	19	10	8	14	12	10	19	13	10	7	12	9	15	11	7	12	11
Not go to university at all	9	9	7	9	7	10	7	7	9	8	10	9	8	9	8	10	9	8	7	12	4
Go to a top university elsewhere in Europe	4	3	6	5	3	3	3	5	5	4	4	5	5	3	5	2	5	4	4	5	1
Go to a top university somewhere else in the world	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	4	2	1	2	2	3	2	4	1	2
Not sure	14	8	13	5	9	10	15	11	13	15	8	19	13	12	11	17	10	13	13	15	19