

Times Focus Group – Full Transcript

Background

- YouGov conducted an online focus group with 8 participants on 03/10/13
- All were recruited from marginal Conservative seats
- All were swing voters, without strong commitment to a particular party
- Mix of parties voted in 2010
- The moderator is Jane Carn, YouGov Qualitative Director

Name	Gender	Age	Social Grade	Constituency	Vote in 2010 election	Party identified with	depth
Valerie	Female	67	B	Vale of Glamorgan	Conservative Party	No don't think of myself as any of these	
Tracey	Female	34	E	South Swindon	Liberal Democrats	No don't think of myself as any of these	
Bethany	Female	54	C1	Worcester	Labour Party	No don't think of myself as any of these	
Catherine	Female	35	A	Winchester	Conservative Party	Yes - Conservative	Not very strong
Martin	Male	61	C1	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	Labour Party	Yes - Labour	Not very strong
Richard	Male	79	A	Torrige and West Devon	Conservative Party	No don't think of myself as any of these	
Angela	Female	34	D	Rossendale and Darwen	Liberal Democrats	No don't think of myself as any of these	
Richard (S)	Male	51	E	Pendle	Labour Party	No don't think of myself as any of these	

0:00:25.59] Bethany: Hello

[0:00:49.36] Jane Carn: Hi everyone, my name is Jane and I'm moderating the session tonight.

[0:00:54.92] Jane Carn: To start off, can everyone please introduce themselves to the group? Please tell me your age, what you do (if you're working), who's in your household, which part of the country you live in and also a bit about what your main sources of news are?

[0:02:02.26] Valerie : my name is valerie age 67 retired and i live in wales and get the news mostly from the television

[0:02:17.37] Angela: hi, i'm 34 unemployed from lancashire and i watch a lot of tv news

[0:02:23.47] Tracey: Hi, i'm Tracey, 34 years old, stay at home mum (live with husband and 2 children), live in the South West and main news sources are internet and news on TV

[0:02:29.12] Richard 1: hello I'm Richard 1 and live in the North West of England, 52 years old currently not working with a wife and two children living at home and my main source of news is from the TV

[0:02:34.39] Bethany: My name's Beth, I'm a 20 year old student. I get most of my news from apps on my Kindle, as well as from Facebook and a small amount from the TV. I also hear a lot from family members.

[0:02:48.89] Martin: I am 61 , a professional photographer and live my wife and eldest daughter in West Wales....news from tv, radio , BBC website and daily and local papers

[0:03:14.67] Catherine: Hi there, I'm Cath, and I'm 35 and a doctor. I live with my husband. My main sources of the news are Twitter and the BBC app on my phone. I tend to only read the newspapers at weekends although sometimes will pick up the i during the week.

[0:03:36.76] Jane Carn: thanks everyone.

[0:03:59.64] Richard: Hi I am Richard retired in Devon age 79 I get ews from all sources

[0:04:05.33] Jane Carn: We are going to be discussing the news and some of the stories you may have seen about the political parties today.

[0:04:30.43] Jane Carn: To start with, I'd like to start with a couple of questions about voting.

[0:04:53.72] Jane Carn: Did you vote in the last general election? when did you make up your mind who to vote for?

[0:05:19.92] Martin: yes I did made my mind up early

[0:05:25.97] Catherine: Yes, I did vote and I decided quite late as I was in a 'safe seat' anyway

[0:05:33.27] Tracey: I did vote in the last election, made my mind up quite late and mostly from watching the tv debates..

[0:05:38.86] Richard 1: Yes I vted in the last general election and left it until pretty late before I made up my mind

[0:05:39.46] Angela: yes i voted but i waited until the day before to make my mind up

[0:05:50.22] Richard: I did vote and knew who I was going to vote for a year in advance

[0:05:56.64] Valerie : yes i voted made my mind up early on

[0:06:25.35] Bethany: Yes, I always knew that I would vote labour even before I turned 18 since I grew up on a council estate

[0:06:34.32] Jane Carn: and how about now? if there was an election tomorrow do you know how you wld vote?

[0:06:50.10] Richard: Yes

[0:07:00.41] Tracey: no, at the moment I am unsure who I would vote for...

[0:07:00.85] Catherine: yes. no contest

[0:07:10.06] Angela: yes

[0:07:13.64] Bethany: yes

[0:07:17.36] Richard 1: No not really I don't think that there's much to choose between any of the parties, no one really stands out for me

[0:07:30.28] Martin: not sure maybe a protest vote , but not one of the main parties

[0:07:31.09] Bethany: Agree with Richard 1 to be honest

[0:07:52.01] Valerie : yes i would vote but still thinking about which party

[0:08:22.13] Jane Carn: And what party do you think would win if the election was held tomorrow? why?

[0:08:52.76] Richard: Not quite sure yet.

[0:09:02.28] Angela: i think labour would win more votes as a protest to the coalition

[0:09:15.87] Catherine: Conservative - I'm not sure voters have bought into Ed yet and will not want another coalition so will abandon Lib Dems

[0:09:34.77] Richard 1: I think it would be another hung parliament as I don't think either labour or conservative have enough support for an overall majority

[0:09:37.62] Richard: Too close to call. A hung Parliament I guess

[0:09:37.97] Tracey: I think Labour would win, mainly because the general consensus is that people are not happy with Conservative, Liberal is perhaps a wasted vote and I think people always think the grass will be greener...

[0:09:47.89] Valerie : conservatives will win again but by small margin

[0:10:01.88] Martin: probably the Tories as the Liberals will lose any support they had and labour lack a credible leader

[0:10:25.51] Bethany: Maybe Conservative because DC doesn't seem as unpopular as I thought he would be. But maybe Labour because whoever is not in power seems more appealing than the one who is.

[0:10:34.32] Jane Carn: Would your vote change from 2010? How and why?

[0:11:46.97] Richard: Quite possibly am not sure we are getting clear promises

[0:11:47.03] Martin: yes I cannot support any of the main 3 parties

[0:11:48.80] Richard 1: I still need convincing by ANY party that they have my interests at heart so I think I would still wait until late to make up my mind

[0:11:52.27] Angela: i would because the party i voted for reneged on their policies as soon as they joined the coalition

[0:11:58.11] Tracey: hmm i think yes I maybe would change my vote but at this stage do not feel informed enough of everyone's policies to decide

[0:12:20.08] Jane Carn: @Martin, so who are you thinking of voting for?

[0:12:21.20] Bethany: If I were to vote I would probably vote Labour again as my life is marginally easier under Labour. However, I've been considering not voting and hoping that this will be looked into (why so many people don't vote), and perhaps that could cause parties to re-think how they can actually appeal to the majority of people

[0:12:34.48] Catherine: Probably not - although it will also make very little difference to a national outcome as although I have moved house since then I am now in a safe seat for another party again.

[0:12:55.30] Valerie : would vote the same as no party has changed my mind yet

[0:12:56.96] Jane Carn: @Angela, would you be able to tell us which party you are referring to?

[0:13:00.81] Richard: UKIP If they get their act together

[0:13:05.96] Angela: lib dems

[0:13:13.99] Martin: always been a Labour supporter but i may vote for Plaid Cymru

[0:13:32.74] Jane Carn: OK, thanks everyone.

[0:13:54.33] Jane Carn: And how about the news recently. What have you seen about politicians in the news lately?

[0:14:44.19] Richard 1: Mainly conference based on the 10 o'clock news recently

[0:14:59.39] Richard: The usual pre election rehetoric. Not impressed so far.

[0:15:03.56] Valerie : reports on ed millibands father in daily mail

[0:15:17.47] Angela: all i've seen recently is each of the partys having a dig at each other and their policies during the conference season

[0:15:21.57] Catherine: Conferences! And of course Ed Miliband's Dad and all that palava

[0:15:24.38] Tracey: Ed Milliband and the comments about his father, News from conferences on the benefit systems

[0:15:40.70] Martin: terrible personal attack on Milliband's father, at least Clegg has condemned it..... and vote winning policies for the 2015 election

[0:16:04.69] Jane Carn: What are your thoughts on The Mail/Miliband story?

[0:16:20.64] Bethany: DC wanting to cut welfare for young people (good! the ones I know are bloody lazy!) , something about banning burquas, UKIP and sexism

[0:16:47.18] Tracey: Far too personal attack and the actions of parent should not have any affect on his ability to do a job

[0:17:04.99] Martin: It's the Daily Mail...you can't expect balanced journalism

[0:17:22.72] Valerie : maybe personal but politics a dirty business

[0:17:32.67] Richard 1: I have VERY little time for newspapers and their journalists they all seem to be a pretty low level bunch of individuals

[0:17:36.21] Angela: i think that the mail should have given the milliband's some respect and not shown up at a family memorial

[0:17:45.36] Bethany: Yes too personal - it should be the policies not the politicians. Save gossip for Kim Kardashian.

[0:17:48.86] Catherine: Unsure - opinion pieces will always attract criticism but the Mail has handled it in a very heavy handed way and to turn up at the memorial thing was just poor judgement. Interesting silence from David M

[0:17:49.37] Richard: Sadly it makes the Mail looklike a ret top as they say. Milliband could have handled his response better, or in fact kept quiet.

[0:18:16.78] Jane Carn: @Richard - what does everyone think about Millibands response?

[0:18:38.26] Martin: interesting point about David Milliband

[0:18:51.18] Richard: Rather weak but sincere.

[0:19:00.38] Tracey: We are not America, we should be choosing based on the party not solely on how we like the leader

[0:19:30.60] Martin: Quite rightly annoyed, I have worked in newspapers and there are lines you do not cross

[0:19:31.52] Catherine: Tracey - agree, but really, these days, very little difference since abolition of Clause 4 etc etc

[0:19:48.48] Angela: he was to outspoken should have made a small statemnt but not the sort of attack he did

[0:20:04.16] Jane Carn: Anyone else, how has Ed Milliband come across after this encounter?

[0:20:07.86] Valerie : he was obviously very unhappy his father was made out to hate the uk

[0:20:25.22] Bethany: I haven't really followed this piece of news but I feel he should have been able to defend himself against the Mail

[0:20:25.81] Tracey: I can understand him wanting to speak out

[0:20:28.25] Richard 1: Like any son he was right to defend his Dad I agree with Catherine and Martin though no word from David???

[0:20:28.45] Catherine: Re Ed's response - I think he'd have done better letting it slide

[0:20:40.60] Richard: By speaking out so w

[0:20:43.83] Jane Carn: @Catherine and Angela why is that?

[0:21:20.27] Valerie : should let it go now made it worse with all the fuss

[0:21:35.86] Angela: the rest of the media are now attacking him as a person and taking the subject away from politics

[0:21:36.59] Richard: By speaking out so soon he gave oxygen to this news if you can call it news.

[0:21:49.24] Tracey: Good point Richard

[0:21:53.01] Martin: no he was right to condemn the Mail in public

[0:21:53.61] Catherine: Because I think engaging with silly opinion just gives it some credibility and of course publicity for the Mail (all publicity being good publicity etc)

[0:22:01.42] Jane Carn: Would it be better to have a new regulator with powers to force newspapers to print apologies?

[0:22:10.19] Tracey: Yes!

[0:22:14.38] Angela: yes

[0:22:18.76] Jane Carn: @Tracey why?

[0:22:41.98] Richard: Absolutely not.

[0:22:47.37] Richard 1: Why not just force all the papers to shut down unless they report the news

[0:22:56.27] Valerie : no i dont think they should

[0:22:57.94] Catherine: No - they will inevitably be politicised and that would be the thin end of the wedge for free press. Difficult to maintain balance though

[0:22:59.49] Jane Carn: @Richard, why?

[0:23:08.21] Martin: there must be regulation, but independent not by politicians

[0:23:23.02] Bethany: I think the Mail should just stop presenting itself as a newspaper and accept it is nothing more than a gossip column

[0:24:10.92] Tracey: because without regulation things can get out of hand and while I agree you need to allow enough room for freedom of speech these comments have no bearing on Ed Millibands ability to do a job.

[0:24:20.20] Jane Carn: So let's think a little bit more about Milliband.

[0:24:20.62] Richard: Mkes Papers print corrections on page two but they do not have to apologize

[0:24:23.48] Tracey: In fact it takes his focus away from doing his job

[0:24:46.44] Jane Carn: Has The Mail story changed your opinion of him either positively or negatively? how?

[0:25:01.95] Richard: Not at all

[0:25:06.68] Tracey: Not changed my opinion

[0:25:11.28] Angela: not really

[0:25:18.45] Richard 1: Not changed my opinion about him

[0:25:29.88] Bethany: No change - only brought him more to the front of my mind when he is usually quite bland and forgettable

[0:25:30.97] Martin: no change I still think that he lacks statemanship like all of our current party leaders

[0:25:33.83] Catherine: Ooh, I might disagree with Tracey there - he has repeatedly said he has been heavily influenced by his father who was, famously, Marxist and so actually might be of interest to undecided voters

[0:25:40.71] Valerie : no i dont like him, if he can stab his brother in the back how could you ever trust him

[0:26:00.75] Catherine: Sorry, bit slow - comment from above! Mail story has not changed my opinion of Ed

[0:26:02.15] Jane Carn: How would you describe him?

[0:26:20.36] Catherine: Adenoidal

[0:26:24.31] Martin: ineffectual

[0:26:42.61] Angela: two faced

[0:26:43.33] Tracey: Surely we should judge them though Catherine by their policies rather than upbringing

[0:26:44.48] Valerie : agree with both above comments

[0:26:48.32] Bethany: average, bland, not memorable

[0:26:49.56] Richard: Certainly not a man I would want at the helm in a war situation!!

[0:26:58.30] Tracey: bland

[0:27:01.46] Catherine: Except if their unbringing influences their policies?

[0:27:10.84] Richard 1: I think he lacks something to be an effective leader

[0:27:16.29] Tracey: well yes, but then that is judging the policies :-)

[0:27:34.12] Jane Carn: Do you believe he has leadership attributes? which ones?

[0:27:45.09] Martin: no

[0:27:55.73] Valerie : no certainly not

[0:28:01.05] Bethany: Not really, he seems to quiet and I am never really sure where he stands on issues.

[0:28:12.55] Jane Carn: @Martin, have your views towards the Labour party changed in recent years? why?

[0:28:34.27] Tracey: I agree with Bethany, this business over his father is the most I heard about him

[0:28:39.77] Catherine: Not that are obvious - although interestingly heard Eddie Izzard saying the other day that he has them he just hasn't learnt to show them yet! Surely you would learn to do so BEFORE you took helm of Opposition party!

[0:28:40.27] Richard 1: I don't think so, but maybe labour MPs haven't got a second choice

[0:28:45.04] Richard: I see no positive Leadership qualities in him but he pretty good at delivering speeches

[0:28:45.08] Angela: no he gives a good speech but not totally convinced that he is a good leader

[0:28:53.89] Jane Carn: @Tracey so it has raised his profile for you.

[0:29:09.01] Jane Carn: and trustworthy? how trustworthy do you think he seems?

[0:29:20.11] Martin: yes....they have lost touch wih their core vote....drifted to the bland centre of politics and seem afraid to believe in anything

[0:29:27.85] Tracey: yes, I suppose it has...

[0:29:38.13] Richard 1: Not sure that you can trust politicians of any colour

[0:29:43.58] Richard: Can anyone trust any Politician?

[0:29:50.74] Valerie : not at all did the dirty on his brother who would have been a better leader

[0:29:53.97] Catherine: No less than any of them

[0:30:08.31] Angela: he can't be that trustworthy if he can stab his own brother in the back during the leadership contest after the last election

[0:30:09.19] Tracey: as trustworthy as the rest..

[0:30:11.76] Jane Carn: OK, let's move on and talk about Nick Clegg for a minute.

[0:30:15.08] Martin: no more or less than any othr politician

[0:30:22.97] Jane Carn: What words would you use to describe Clegg?

[0:30:44.09] Catherine: Out of his depth

[0:30:52.88] Martin: clegg....after screwing the students not to be trusted just interested in power

[0:30:53.99] Tracey: weak... as I don't feel he has been able to stand up to Cameron

[0:31:06.46] Bethany: I would previously have said down to earth, approachable but since the coalition weak and fickle

[0:31:12.37] Valerie : good speaker but weak

[0:31:14.87] Angela: out of his depth trying to be someone he's not

[0:31:16.37] Richard 1: The leader of a third-rate party with little influence over his own members

[0:31:23.39] Jane Carn: Tracey, have your views changed about Clegg in recent years? why?

[0:31:27.76] Richard: A nice guy who is lvery lucky to be in Government

[0:31:42.90] Jane Carn: @all, does he have any leadership attributes? which ones?

[0:31:57.50] Richard 1: No

[0:32:00.33] Valerie : not really

[0:32:04.00] Jane Carn: @Angela, have your views changed since 2010?

[0:32:18.96] Richard: Not that I can detedt

[0:32:22.74] Martin: none...has lost the trust of his own party

[0:32:26.48] Bethany: Yes in that he seems to have some charisma (I used to find him somewhat likeable). But since the coalition we view him as too weak to be a good leader

[0:32:32.20] Angela: the only leading he can do his leading them to destruction

[0:32:46.09] Tracey: I feel he talked a good game and seemed to stand for the general amount of us, but have not seen any amount of this since the coalition

[0:32:47.58] Jane Carn: Trustworthy?

[0:32:52.88] Angela: yes my views have changed

[0:32:56.06] Catherine: I agree with Valerie, he is a good speaker but doesn't seem to be able to lead party effectively - although it must be very hard balancing the ethos of the party with being in coalition with a party that really is quite different in ideals

[0:33:16.11] Richard: Not al all

[0:33:28.38] Tracey: No

[0:33:31.41] Angela: no

[0:33:35.82] Richard 1: As trustworthy as any political leader

[0:33:39.16] Valerie : no

[0:33:39.31] Jane Carn: And how about Cameron? your words to describe him please?

[0:34:02.20] Angela: trying to be another thatcher

[0:34:14.71] Jane Carn: @Angela is that good or not?

[0:34:15.46] Valerie : think he believes in what he says

[0:34:19.91] Catherine: Better than I had expected

[0:34:26.57] Martin: slimy.....a toff trying to pretend to be ordinary

[0:34:29.28] Richard: A coward in th face of Europe.

[0:34:30.59] Bethany: a bit out-of-touch

[0:34:33.23] Richard 1: He seems focussed but maybe out of touch with a majority of the voting public

[0:34:38.63] Jane Carn: @Bethany, why?

[0:34:41.58] Angela: not good trying to sell off everything thatcher didn't

[0:34:45.84] Tracey: I may not agree with everything he has done but he does it with confidence in his beliefs

[0:35:08.91] Tracey: agree with Richard 1

[0:35:20.44] Jane Carn: and what about his leadership attributes? have your perceptions of his leadership skills changed since the election?

[0:36:04.24] Catherine: Yes, I thought he would be no good, but actually he has surprised me a bit.

[0:36:08.58] Valerie : he comes across as very committed

[0:36:13.70] Angela: he is a very convincing leader he may be the only one who survives after the next election

[0:36:14.36] Martin: no...he tries to be all things to all men, not a sign of good leadership

[0:36:19.08] Richard: Seems to avoid making Cabinet changes when needed.

[0:36:20.88] Jane Carn: Out of touch - in what way?

[0:36:23.18] Bethany: I don't think he could relate to or empathise with most social groups

[0:36:34.82] Richard 1: He talks a good talk and can deliver a speech, but that's what he was trained to do from an early age wasn't it?

[0:36:49.86] Jane Carn: trustworthy?

[0:36:58.48] Martin: one of a breed that think they are born to lead

[0:37:10.65] Angela: no politician is trustworthy

[0:37:11.67] Bethany: I don't think anyone here would describe any politician as trustworthy.

[0:37:13.23] Valerie : as much as any politician is

[0:37:16.47] Richard 1: Still don't think you can trust any politician

[0:37:16.60] Richard: Not at all

[0:37:18.98] Jane Carn: OK, so another gallery of politicians to discuss!

[0:37:33.33] Jane Carn: Let's focus on Farage for a moment (on the left of the screen)

[0:37:43.89] Jane Carn: what do you think of UKIP?

[0:38:04.82] Catherine: I think they are an important voice in British Politics but boy, are they going about it the wrong way

[0:38:08.67] Valerie : like some of their ideas

[0:38:18.60] Jane Carn: @Catherine, what do you mean by that?

[0:38:24.87] Angela: a bit confused by them some ideas contradict themselves

[0:38:28.09] Jane Carn: @Valerie, which ones?

[0:38:34.63] Martin: a joke.... taking us of europe is economic suicide....old fashioned Tories in disguise

[0:38:43.43] Richard 1: A one-trick pony that will receive a few protest votes but lacking in any real substance to back up whatever popularity they have built up

[0:38:54.50] Valerie : keep us out of Europe

[0:39:03.70] Bethany: Worried about issues of sexism in UKIP

[0:39:09.92] Catherine: I think they are letting in folk who are really little more than racist thugs who simply don't know how to behave nicely!

[0:39:10.61] Jane Carn: Do you consider them to be a serious contender in British politics?

[0:39:37.38] Richard: If it's only objective is to allow an IN/Out vote on Europe and then close down Fine, But I cannot see them as a credible Government. Cameron must listen to what he is promising the British public.

[0:39:47.07] Richard 1: Not really, I think you'll be able to put them on par with the Lib Dems after the next election

[0:39:53.24] Tracey: I don't think people take them seriously enough for them to be a serious contender

[0:39:56.87] Martin: no just nipping at the heel of the Tories, but will gain protest votes

[0:39:59.74] Catherine: Not in British politics but suspect they will do well in European elections

[0:40:04.04] Valerie : it looks as though they might be

[0:40:12.50] Angela: they could be if they can be as convincing about their policies a bit more and enough people want to protest vote

[0:40:13.38] Jane Carn: have you ever voted ukip and do you think there's any chance you might in 2015?

[0:40:22.23] Catherine: No and no!

[0:40:32.59] Martin: not a hope in hell

[0:40:33.15] Bethany: I haven't voted UKIP but my mother is strongly considering it

[0:40:42.62] Valerie : not yet still unsure on this one

[0:40:45.43] Tracey: No and I am not sure I know enough about them to consider it at this stage

[0:40:57.74] Richard 1: not at all on both questions

[0:41:01.50] Angela: never voted ukip but i won't vote for them not sure of them

[0:41:05.82] Bethany: Agree with Tracey, I would want to research them for myself first

[0:41:16.59] Richard: A good chance if ,as I say they get there act together.

[0:41:37.39] Jane Carn: Does Nigel Farage have leadership qualities? why/why not?

[0:41:49.23] Jane Carn: @Richard - what do you think?

[0:42:05.05] Catherine: Actually, I think he does, I just don't agree with all that he has to say

[0:42:28.07] Bethany: No - he is not likeable, not direct (sidestepped question about sexist views), annoying

[0:42:39.68] Richard 1: Like the others i think he talks the talk but without putting him in position we won't really find out

[0:42:40.15] Martin: there's something about him that I don't trust

[0:42:43.94] Richard: Leadership of his Party I would say yes. Leadership of the U K no

[0:42:45.89] Valerie : yes i think he is quite likeable

[0:42:47.82] Tracey: He comes across confidently but not entirely likeable

[0:42:52.23] Angela: no he's too out spoken but doesn't take control when their is a problem within the party

[0:42:55.61] Jane Carn: And any thoughts on Boris Johnson and Vince Cable?

[0:43:02.77] Tracey: I like Boris

[0:43:21.08] Angela: boris johnson is one of the funniest politicians

[0:43:26.39] Jane Carn: @Tracey - does he have leadership qualities?

[0:43:39.75] Valerie : Boris is fun but do not want him as a leader

[0:43:41.83] Richard: Boris? You are joking. Cable.? Heaven help us!

[0:43:43.05] Jane Carn: Is he on your side?

[0:43:44.77] Richard 1: Boris is like that annoying distant relative that every seems to nod at and put up with

[0:43:56.22] Catherine: Boris seems very likeable but I am not sure what his motivation is - improving British politics or self promotion. Like Vince Cable, he seems quiet and determined

[0:44:05.29] Angela: vince cable is as useful as a chocolate fireguard

[0:44:16.02] Tracey: I'm not sure strong enough to lead the country but he certainly gets peoples interest so may get more people involved in knowing what is going on in their country

[0:44:16.29] Jane Carn: @Richard

[0:44:18.51] Valerie : vince cable is ok

[0:44:30.32] Bethany: Not sure of Boris as a politician, seems like more of a comedian

[0:44:33.98] Martin: boris has obvious talent but he must stop acting the buffon, or is it an act!Cable again has talent but he must stand up for his beliefs and his party

[0:44:52.84] Jane Carn: Could any of these two be party leaders?

[0:44:54.60] Richard 1: Vince Cable seemed to have some decent ideas when in opposition but has been sidelined by George Osborne and has disappeared as a major influence

[0:45:18.01] Jane Carn: OK, we must move on now to discuss the recent party conferences.

[0:45:19.25] Bethany: Boris could be, he has charisma

[0:45:22.22] Valerie : think vince cable could

[0:45:25.06] Jane Carn: Have you watched the Miliband's, Cameron and Clegg's speeches at their party conferences over the last 2 weeks?

[0:45:36.96] Angela: don't think they could but who thought cameron would be

[0:45:43.25] Martin: cable could be but he must fill the moral vaccum that clegg has left

[0:45:43.72] Catherine: Some of Cameron and Miliband's

[0:45:47.39] Valerie : some of them

[0:45:50.04] Tracey: bits and pieces

[0:45:53.20] Richard 1: Only the highlights on the 10 o'clock news

[0:45:53.90] Angela: some of them

[0:45:54.70] Bethany: only read summaries

[0:46:00.69] Richard: Boris a Tory Leader. He could and it would be fun to watch but I would not wish it

[0:46:03.87] Jane Carn: Has anything stood out to you?

[0:46:10.72] Martin: only news sound bites

[0:46:15.28] Jane Carn: any topics caught your attention?

[0:46:44.35] Angela: none have stood out

[0:46:48.13] Valerie : no not really usual promises

[0:47:01.98] Martin: only electioneering

[0:47:16.18] Richard 1: only the fact that we were guaranteed vote-winning policies and ideas

[0:47:20.24] Catherine: Not really - its just all soundbites

[0:47:20.38] Richard: Conferences seemed very bland comapred to prvious years

[0:47:29.81] Jane Carn: I will now show you some short clips from each of the leader's speeches. I will then ask you some questions. Please do not comment while the clips are being played. Each clip is around 4 minutes long.

[0:47:39.60] Tracey: getting all under 25's into some kind of work training to help get rid of the benefits cultures

[0:47:46.86] Jane Carn: It's not a test by the way.

[0:47:55.63] Bethany: cutting benefits for under 25s who arent "earning or learning"

[0:47:59.21] Jane Carn: so it's just your impressions I'm interested in

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYelhgmH3wg&feature=youtu.be>

[0:53:45.68] Jane Carn: So everyone - first thoughts and reactions

[0:53:56.20] Jane Carn: What are your first reactions, associations and emotions from watching the clip? Was this what you expected from the party? Why/ why not?

[0:54:26.55] Catherine: Good speech, well delivered. Very interesting that he sets out his stall pro coalition regardless of which party it would be with

[0:54:39.95] Bethany: When he said about needed the lib dems to continue the good work they were doing - what good have they done? I haven't heard of anything and can't name anything they did

[0:54:53.49] Tracey: Hmm, he does come across as likeable... gives a good speech, delivers it well

[0:54:58.36] Martin: a man who climb into bed with anyone just to stay in power....

- [0:55:08.44] Jane Carn: How would you describe the tone of the speech e.g serious, negative/positive, humorous, light hearted? Did this engage you? Why/ why not?
- [0:55:11.76] Richard 1: He comes across as very genuine and cares about the libdems role within government, obviously knows that this could be their one and only chance of being in government for a while
- [0:55:17.37] Richard: As far as I can recall not one word on the EU, Defence or investment in Industry or Scientific research
- [0:55:25.05] Tracey: but he doesn't seem to mind which party he is in coalition with..
- [0:55:29.10] Angela: sounds convincing at times but not fully like the free school meals for all primary children but he is convinced they will automatically go into another coalition
- [0:55:32.74] Valerie : he gave as usual a very good speech but didn't really give anything
- [0:55:35.20] Jane Carn: @all, this is just a few minutes from a longer speech
- [0:56:06.96] Jane Carn: @Angela mentioned the free school meals policy. what do you all think of that?
- [0:56:08.94] Martin: slightly pathetic like a sibling seeking approval from an elder brother - cameron!
- [0:56:11.02] Valerie : speech was interesting and passionate
- [0:56:24.97] Richard: Delivery is fine. But little reference to the big issues of the day
- [0:56:28.82] Richard 1: Did a fair job of listing his achievements in coalition
- [0:56:29.22] Jane Carn: @Tracey he doesn't seem to mind which party he is in coalition with.. does this matter?
- [0:56:29.84] Bethany: free school meals is okay, but it doesn't seem like the most important thing
- [0:56:30.48] Angela: he makes you go through a range of emotions
- [0:56:39.25] Tracey: free school meals would certainly help out a lot of families
- [0:56:54.42] Martin: free school meals but only for nursery
- [0:56:58.31] Valerie : this is a good idea as lots of children don't get balanced meals
- [0:57:04.55] Richard 1: i think it's a good idea if it works out
- [0:57:12.29] Catherine: Admirable - does correlate with improved performance at school
- [0:57:41.71] Richard: Like to know where the money is coming from
- [0:57:42.91] Bethany: they should also ensure that the school meals are actually nutritious. It's all well and good to say they are giving free school meals, but they should ensure they aren't just feeding kids the cheapest crap possible
- [0:57:51.15] Jane Carn: Is it a strong idea, will it sway your vote?
- [0:57:56.63] Bethany: No and no
- [0:58:07.29] Tracey: My children would be at the right age for it and whilst I wouldn't take them up on it as I like to know exactly what mine are eating I know a lot of families that this would actually be more nutritious for their kids
- [0:58:08.35] Richard: No
- [0:58:09.59] Catherine: It's a sweet idea and no, it won't sway my vote
- [0:58:16.09] Valerie : good idea but won't sway my vote
- [0:58:18.04] Angela: no
- [0:58:21.33] Martin: no hardly the most important problem facing the country
- [0:58:22.07] Tracey: it wouldn't sway my vote
- [0:58:33.65] Jane Carn: Do you remember the free school meal policy when it was announced at the time or did it pass you by?
- [0:58:34.25] Richard 1: It wouldn't alter my vote
- [0:58:36.59] Bethany: I think there are better ways to improve education eg actually teaching children and having well qualified teachers who can spell and don't struggle with basic maths

- [0:58:44.40] Jane Carn: What do you think were his strongest points/ messages?
- [0:58:52.10] Martin: yes did hear it
- [0:58:52.27] Tracey: I remember it being announced
- [0:59:03.23] Angela: i heard about it when it was first announced
- [0:59:03.62] Bethany: I don't remember it as I don't have children
- [0:59:06.59] Richard 1: It's been three weeks since that speech so it's been superceded by the others
- [0:59:10.52] Richard: Care for the family
- [0:59:16.95] Catherine: I remember being announced
- [0:59:20.06] Angela: families
- [0:59:25.03] Valerie : at first only free meals for reception years
- [0:59:53.36] Bethany: strongest messages were that electing labour or conservative would set Britian back and that it was important to save familes money
- [0:59:58.07] Valerie : hewants more flexable working hours
- [1:00:02.92] Richard 1: He seems convinced of his role and that of his party
- [1:00:13.67] Tracey: families
- [1:00:21.17] Martin: nothing memorable
- [1:00:21.39] Jane Carn: @Richard, how does his role come across?
- [1:00:29.03] Jane Carn: Do you think he is a strong or weak leader of his party? Does his speech impact on your view in any way?
- [1:01:04.02] Richard 1: As someone who can maybe 'keep a lid' on whichever party was in charge if they were in coalition with the libdems
- [1:01:16.17] Valerie : i think he started of as a strong leader but has lost his impact nowadays
- [1:01:24.19] Richard: One cannot be sure what the Lib Dems think about anythins
- [1:01:26.62] Catherine: I am not sure he is a good leader but he is a good speaker. I think the Lib Dems have such a broad base that trying to lead the party must be a bit like herding cats. Easy to criticise!
- [1:01:29.61] Martin: weak he has sacrificed the principles of his party in a naked search for power
- [1:01:30.14] Angela: i think at the moment he is starting to come across as a strong leader but only time will tell
- [1:01:34.46] Richard 1: I agree with Valerie
- [1:01:48.77] Jane Carn: @Valerie did this speech change this impression?
- [1:02:09.44] Tracey: he came across well in his speech as a good leader but no more so than when he gave speeches last election time
- [1:02:20.67] Catherine: I think he is warming to the task and will become stronger as time goes on - hard to be in coalition I imagine
- [1:02:20.97] Valerie : no as i dont think he can be trusted not to change his mind
- [1:02:24.54] Richard: Not for me
- [1:02:33.46] Jane Carn: At the moment would you say Clegg does or does not look like a future Prime Minister based on this speech?
- [1:02:47.28] Bethany: He delivered the speech well but I don't really find that impressive
- [1:02:57.53] Valerie : no he has no chance
- [1:02:58.81] Catherine: Based on the speech yes, maybe but he never will be!
- [1:03:02.29] Richard 1: Not for me
- [1:03:04.26] Richard: Absolutley not
- [1:03:08.17] Martin: no
- [1:03:12.71] Tracey: Not
- [1:03:16.91] Angela: possibly depends on what the news shows

[1:03:33.11] Bethany: it is impossible to say just based on this speech because public opinion of him has been coloured by the promises he didn't keep when he formed the coalition

[1:03:47.47] Bethany: It will be very hard to come back from that and will take more than a good speech

[1:03:55.03] Tracey: Agree with Bethany

[1:04:16.57] Jane Carn: Do you believe when he talks about putting the break on any far right Tory ideas being implemented? would he put a break on any labour left wing ideas too?

[1:04:18.48] Martin: good points bethany

[1:04:55.90] Angela: don't know

[1:05:10.08] Valerie : no i think he might try just to impress

[1:05:11.43] Richard 1: Yes I think he/they could

[1:05:17.09] Martin: he has failed to do so thus far, and I believe that the theories will ditch him asap

[1:05:36.06] Tracey: don't know, would like to think if he was in coalition with them he would

[1:05:39.24] Richard: My feeling is that now that he has a taste of power he will agree to anything that will help him to have influence at the centre of government

[1:05:45.72] Catherine: Yes - any 2nd party would balance a 1st party whether that were Conservative or Labour. I think a second term in coalition would really see them come into their own actually although I don't think they'll get the chance

[1:05:56.93] Jane Carn: So imagine that Nick Clegg was to walk through the door at Number 10 - what would his 'theme music' be?

[1:06:15.25] Angela: unbelievable

[1:06:40.76] Richard: Lucky Lucky me I am a lucky son a gun

[1:06:44.00] Jane Carn: any others?

[1:06:51.13] Bethany: hmmm

[1:06:51.13] Tracey: I Got The Power

[1:06:58.08] Valerie : damiens tune

[1:06:59.49] Bethany: haha Tracey

[1:06:59.82] Richard 1: The cuckoo waltz (from Laurel & Hardy)

[1:07:01.06] Catherine: Something Spanish - isn't his wife from there?

[1:07:14.24] Martin: o god our help in ages past

[1:07:33.53] Jane Carn: OK, here is the next extract from a speech. This is Ed Milliband. Again, it is a few minutes long so please don't comment until the end.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzK1bhQ6U_g&feature=youtu.be

[1:12:45.71] Jane Carn: What are your first reactions, associations and emotions from watching the clip? Was this what you expected from the party? Why/ why not?

[1:13:23.28] Bethany: - Positives - I noticed he spoke without notes the whole time - good job

[1:13:34.28] Tracey: I thought he came across as quite rehearsed rather than natural in the way he delivered his speech..

[1:13:51.84] Catherine: Very impressive he did the speech without notes - bit soundbitye though.

[1:13:52.93] Bethany: Negatives - there is something about him that seems a bit awkward. Personally I find it endearing though.

[1:13:56.59] Valerie : did nt really inspire me , just the usual attack on present government

- [1:13:58.27] Tracey: like the idea of freezing energy prices though :-)
- [1:14:14.86] Martin: A bit of a cheek to compare himself with the 1945 labour government which brought us so much.....not the crusading speech the labour party needs
- [1:14:21.11] Angela: he wasn't totally convincing interesting that he wants to freeze energy prices but constantly repeating Britain can do better than this was not inspiring
- [1:14:37.34] Richard 1: Is it me or do they all speak the same, good PR men in charge of a political party. You always expect to be 'given' something in the run up to an election, like the Britain can do better than this tag line
- [1:14:37.50] Richard: Where oh where is the money coming from My guess it will be from cancelling Trident, second aircraft carriers, higher taxation and possibly the High Speed Rail link
- [1:14:55.32] Bethany: I also find it a bit annoying when politicians go on about WW2 like it was some kind of Golden Age just to play on our emotions and national spirit. I'm bored with it and it feels a bit manipulative
- [1:14:59.35] Catherine: I agree with Angela - the Britain Can Do Better doesn't do it for me at all
- [1:15:09.98] Jane Carn: The energy price freeze has been mentioned a couple of times. Do you think he could deliver on this?
- [1:15:24.05] Martin: why not re nationalise the utilities and lower prices and re invest the money going to shareholders £6billion
- [1:15:24.79] Catherine: Only at the expense of something else
- [1:15:40.50] Valerie : no as Centrica has already threatened to pull out of the UK if they do
- [1:15:47.59] Angela: it needs all energy companies agreeing to it can't see it working
- [1:15:49.93] Richard 1: I agree with Catherine
- [1:15:59.42] Tracey: I think this is a good hook for them to reel in votes
- [1:16:06.43] Richard: When the lights go out he will change his mind
- [1:16:30.79] Jane Carn: Do you agree that "Britain can do better than this"? in what ways?
- [1:16:35.79] Tracey: after all it is a saving for individuals and families alike that makes a direct difference to their pockets in a way they can see
- [1:16:55.99] Valerie : they can do better than him surely
- [1:17:13.30] Catherine: It doesn't mean anything - its like they are somehow blaming the country / people in it for the problems and remonstrating with us for it!!
- [1:17:21.83] Angela: i think the politicians could if they listened to people on the street
- [1:17:27.58] Martin: we must aim for a fairer society... but can he deliver
- [1:17:32.10] Catherine: Its a good phrase for a school report
- [1:17:32.82] Richard 1: Why put all the political parties together, brainstorm and then pick the best ideas for the whole of the country and move forward instead of boring 'points scoring' all the time.
- [1:17:51.08] Richard: What a stupid thing to say. Of course we can if we were free from red tape and too much government and need I as Brussels
- [1:17:52.11] Bethany: Britain can do better. British people seem very unmotivated to succeed compared to people in other countries.
- [1:18:00.01] Jane Carn: How would you describe the tone of the speech e.g serious, negative/positive, humorous, light hearted? Did this engage you? Why/ why not?
- [1:18:17.36] Bethany: serious, trying to be optimistic but not quite managing it
- [1:18:47.61] Martin: serious but bland
- [1:18:51.51] Richard 1: Didn't grab my attention that well I have to say
- [1:18:55.38] Angela: not to start off with but tried to be optimistic but not convinced by any of it to bland

- [1:18:57.81] Tracey: did not feel particularly engaged during his speech, tag lines such as Britain Can Do Better fill time but do not add substance
- [1:19:04.46] Valerie : he tried to sound serious but can across as light hearted and cant take him seriously
- [1:19:06.66] Catherine: Quite serious - draws you in at first and then rapidly lose interest
- [1:19:13.52] Jane Carn: What do you think of his main points/ policies? Do you agree/ disagree with them and why?
- [1:19:16.39] Richard: Not inspiring
- [1:19:41.17] Bethany: Yes Catherine, I was finding it really hard not to zone out. If it was on TV I'd have lost concentration. I only watched it so I could comment here.
- [1:19:56.65] Angela: ok policies but he won't pull it off
- [1:20:05.15] Catherine: Bethany - me too, I'd have changed channel too if it was on TV!
- [1:20:10.03] Martin: a limited price freeze is not a permanent solution
- [1:20:20.26] Tracey: it was hard not to zone out Bethany
- [1:20:30.24] Richard: They simply sound like words aimed at getting votes and not words to solve our problems
- [1:20:45.96] Richard 1: Difficult to concentrate on it without losing interest, so britain can do better than this but tell us and show us how
- [1:20:46.14] Jane Carn: @Angela - so when it comes to policies like the energy freeze do you feel he could actually do it?
- [1:20:52.05] Catherine: I agree with the 'we all need to work towards the fix' thing but to be honest, I am not sure any of his ideas can be delivered
- [1:20:57.73] Jane Carn: Is it a serious policy?
- [1:21:21.50] Martin: no it is not a long term solution
- [1:21:29.51] Angela: no the energy companies will pull out and leave us in the dark ages
- [1:21:31.96] Catherine: No, I would eat my gas bill if the prices were frozen ;)
- [1:21:48.46] Richard 1: It sounds good now but if he got into power I'm not sure he could deliver it
- [1:21:51.38] Tracey: not confident in him
- [1:22:01.26] Valerie : cut spending and freeze energy prices think he is serious about doing it but doubt it would happen
- [1:22:02.25] Richard: It is wishful thinking .
- [1:22:11.80] Jane Carn: Can you imagine Cameron or Clegg taking this stance on energy bills?
- [1:22:15.81] Bethany: agree with all the above
- [1:22:29.11] Jane Carn: Should they stand up for you on this issue?
- [1:22:32.18] Catherine: No - it is something that would seriously come back to haunt you
- [1:22:33.95] Valerie : no thinkthey are more realistic
- [1:22:43.63] Martin: not a hope.... they have the chance now
- [1:22:45.07] Richard: If they thought it would get them in to No 10 Yes!!!
- [1:22:46.75] Richard 1: Cameron No definitely. Clegg not sure.
- [1:23:01.71] Angela: no because they know exactly how much tax they earn off both the companies and consumers
- [1:23:03.95] Tracey: I can imagine Clegg saying it
- [1:23:20.59] Tracey: not sure he would mean it though!
- [1:23:30.98] Jane Carn: How about his perspective on the economy?
- [1:23:35.79] Bethany: haha yes Tracey
- [1:24:09.02] Valerie : agree with tracey
- [1:24:41.08] Angela: what perspective on the economy never heard him say anything on it

[1:24:47.22] Richard: I cannot take a Socialist's perspective on the econmy very seriously after the reign of Gordon Brown

[1:24:58.09] Jane Carn: Based on this speech does he come across like a future Prime Minister?

[1:25:02.96] Martin: has he got one ? no-one seems sure of labour policies

[1:25:07.52] Richard: NO

[1:25:11.33] Valerie : what perspective

[1:25:11.42] Angela: no way

[1:25:19.80] Valerie : no way

[1:25:21.53] Martin: no

[1:25:24.28] Tracey: Nooo

[1:25:30.34] Jane Carn: Lastly, lets hear from David Cameron

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkEaUrajWHA&feature=youtu.be>

[1:25:30.73] Richard 1: Don't think so

[1:25:34.61] Catherine: Hard to say, good speech delivery but empty of meaning but then again, that seems to be the style of political speeches these days.

[1:33:06.56] Jane Carn: OK, let's get your first impressions now.

[1:33:14.50] Richard: nice pic no sound

[1:33:16.14] Jane Carn: What are your first reactions, associations and emotions from watching the clip? Was this what you expected from the party? Why/ why not?

[1:33:18.46] Richard 1: it's stopped but i was getting bored of him anyway

[1:33:30.46] Tracey: He does come across well, especially after watching the other 2

[1:33:49.86] Bethany: Yeah, I'm not a big fan of DC but his speech was really easy to follow

[1:33:51.62] Jane Carn: How would you describe the tone and style?

[1:33:53.31] Valerie : comes across as a strong leader much better than the other 2

[1:33:56.02] Catherine: Actually, I thought he was the most engaging of them all - I liked the way he made his points and the way he delivered them

[1:34:03.94] Martin: more positive in his style

[1:34:04.64] Richard 1: Made me feel like I was being told off

[1:34:10.94] Jane Carn: has this changed your view of DC?

[1:34:23.09] Martin: no !

[1:34:33.09] Angela: he does come across very confident but arrogant

[1:34:37.09] Valerie : his tone was impressive

[1:34:41.71] Richard 1: No not really

[1:34:50.73] Valerie : impressed by him

[1:34:51.52] Tracey: no, I remember from the tv debates him coming across confidently

[1:35:07.29] Catherine: No - stayed positive

[1:35:09.99] Bethany: I think he has some good leadership skills which I didn't really know about before, but I am not sure I have a fully positive impresson of him

[1:35:16.78] Jane Carn: what about some of the topics he touched on? what were his policies/messages?

[1:35:36.15] Richard: Boring and not word on the EU, Defence or Investment in British industry. Stop blaming Labour for ev erything. Banker started it Labour were not prepared and neve will be.

[1:35:41.05] Tracey: love that he wants to get rid of option for just going on benefits

[1:35:59.90] Bethany: I liked what he said about equality (but he has been patronising towards women in the past and I can't say I'm familiar with any black tory politicians)

[1:36:23.77] Bethany: I also liked what he said about getting young people off the dole

[1:36:25.67] Richard 1: Again a good PR man slightly more believable than the others. Still blaming Labour for the deficit, time to get over that now and move forward. Wanting to get under 25s into work or training is not a bad idea if it can be delivered

[1:36:27.66] Catherine: The main point for me was that it is going to be really hard work to get out of the mess and that there are going to be no easy solutions - bit 'we're all in this together' but powerful none the less. Liked the bit about how easy it is to get trapped in benefits cycle with no way out

[1:36:30.77] Martin: surplus when our borrowing continues to rise....jobs for our youth when there are no jobs

[1:36:32.09] Valerie : housing help for people, getting under 25 people back to work or made to work for their benefits

[1:36:36.26] Richard: Still not sure of Tory Policies as such

[1:36:45.54] Jane Carn: @Tracey - what does everyone else think about the policy of ending benefits for the under 25s?

[1:36:54.85] Angela: the economy does need to improve but if there is no jobs then how is he going to improve the economy he needs to stop blaming everyone else and take responsibility for now

[1:36:54.95] Jane Carn: was he convincing on this?

[1:37:01.82] Jane Carn: did you see it as a positive message?

[1:37:02.38] Valerie : good idea

[1:37:31.35] Valerie : yes he seemed to have a positive idea about it

[1:37:41.66] Angela: not sure about this he's always attacking the benefits

[1:37:46.83] Bethany: I agree with it - I am 20 myself and I see way too many of my peers unwilling to get a job because they can get benefits.

[1:37:48.69] Richard: Just another sound bite to appeal to Conservative Party

[1:37:50.72] Martin: generally a good idea, but what if you cannot get a job and at 25 want to form your own life

[1:38:05.34] Tracey: we have such a 'benefits' culture I am not surprised it is being attacked

[1:38:08.81] Richard 1: unless there are school, college, apprenticeships and jobs out there for ALL the under 25s then how would that work out?

[1:38:19.10] Catherine: I am not so sure it is a good idea. The number of people who are professional loafers is really, really small and I hate the thought that young folk could get caught in some awful spiral of no work prospects, no benefit entitlement so what will the other options be? Crime?

[1:38:29.82] Bethany: Good point Richard, obviously that needs to be considered

[1:38:30.63] Catherine: I mean crime! And homelessness etc

[1:38:51.01] Tracey: I worked in a recruitment agency for 10 years, there are jobs out there but a lot of under 25 unwilling to do them!

[1:38:55.10] Angela: most people leave uni when their under 25 and can't find work so what do they do

[1:38:57.14] Tracey: years

[1:38:58.15] Jane Carn: Does he seem in touch with ordinary voters?

[1:39:14.31] Bethany: I am under 25 and never found it hard to get a job. Not sure what all the fuss is about.

[1:39:25.42] Angela: no he's only in touch with posh ones

[1:39:47.59] Tracey: I don't think he is in touch with the issues that people on the poverty line face

[1:39:47.63] Valerie : i think he is getting better at being in touch with ordinary voters

[1:39:48.19] Richard: He is trying Just as Ted Heath tried to speak in French

[1:39:48.80] Bethany: I'd normally agree with Angela, but in this extract I would say he is a bit more in touch

[1:39:52.41] Jane Carn: And has anyone heard any messages from Cameron about a tax break for some married couples? what do you think of this policy?

[1:39:53.56] Richard 1: I think he tries to come across that way but that's easy to say when you're not troubled by the everyday things that we all face.

[1:39:56.28] Martin: no.....I don't think he's ever had to struggle to make ends meet

[1:40:43.85] Valerie : Think it should be extended to all married couples

[1:40:46.85] Martin: just a policy to please the right wing....£200 a year ...really

[1:40:56.00] Richard: A good Idea. Probably have to wait years for it though.

[1:41:10.86] Tracey: as I married person I like this but wish it would apply to all us married folk and if it encourages good old fashioned family unit

[1:41:12.33] Angela: i heard about this policy but not the full details to which married couples are entitled

[1:41:31.35] Richard 1: Again not sure if it would really work £200 in one hand taken away with the other

[1:41:32.11] Catherine: Silly - and grossly unfair on those who choose not to get married.

[1:41:34.48] Jane Carn: So after seeing Cameron on this clip, do you feel he could go it alone without Clegg in the future? would you trust him?

[1:41:45.33] Catherine: Yes and yes

[1:41:55.35] Tracey: yes and i'm not sure

[1:41:57.08] Valerie : yes he doesnt need clegg

[1:42:07.55] Angela: i think he could go it alone but don't trust him

[1:42:12.84] Jane Carn: Are you more convinced after seeing this speech?

[1:42:17.78] Richard 1: Most definitely not.

[1:42:23.97] Valerie : a little

[1:42:24.10] Angela: no

[1:42:24.81] Bethany: He doesn't need Clegg at all, but I wouldnt exactly trust him

[1:42:31.39] Martin: he will dump clegg if he can...don't trust him

[1:42:42.52] Tracey: think he would love to dump Clegg

[1:42:47.03] Catherine: Not more convinced and to be honest, its all relative - none of them are overly trustworthy really!

[1:42:57.74] Richard: No Untill he gives us a firmdate for an EU referendum I will not trust him to keep his word.

[1:43:15.84] Jane Carn: OK, let's think about the three leaders we have discussed today.

[1:43:43.50] Jane Carn: Who do you think is the strongest leader now? Did their speeches have any impact on your opinion?

[1:44:03.80] Bethany: DC was the strongest

[1:44:04.43] Richard: Cameron

[1:44:05.52] Tracey: Cameron came across as the strongest Leader

[1:44:07.25] Catherine: DC although watching the speeches did improve my opinion of NC

[1:44:09.01] Valerie : DC is the strongest leader

[1:44:12.09] Angela: david cameron is the strongest leader

[1:44:22.43] Richard 1: The most convincing was DC but the best of a bad bunch

[1:44:38.87] Jane Carn: and who is the bravest in what they are saying and standing for?

[1:44:47.02] Martin: none came a cross as statesmen but cameron is marginally better

[1:44:49.85] Richard: I agree wth Richard 1

[1:44:57.64] Bethany: one were brave because they were all mainstream views

[1:45:01.19] Bethany: none*

[1:45:18.06] Angela: unsure

[1:45:25.84] Valerie : none i would class as brave

[1:45:27.33] Catherine: Oh, none - like someone said earlier on, all the conferences this year were too bland. Nobody had anything really 'out there' to say

[1:45:37.52] Jane Carn: Which policies or mssages have stood out most to you? why?

[1:45:38.63] Martin: bravery does'nt comeinto it, they are just pleasing the party faithful

[1:45:38.73] Richard: They all brave for promising things they know they cannot deliver

[1:46:00.58] Catherine: Haha, good point Richard!

[1:46:05.70] Richard 1: It was all very generic to me "give us your vote and we'll do this for you" Move the country forward and stop scoring points off each other

[1:46:28.24] Martin: more of the same old thing

[1:46:28.40] Tracey: seems like they all want to please families (not much focus on individuals)

[1:46:34.46] Jane Carn: which of them is most likely to be on YOUR side?

[1:46:50.10] Angela: none really stood out they said points that will get a reaction out of people

[1:46:56.21] Valerie : housing help

[1:46:57.03] Bethany: I already forgot what Miliband said

[1:47:01.74] Richard: Sorry Nothing came over that excites me. It al seems llike a repeat performance of BBC 1 programme

[1:47:08.71] Bethany: I liked DC's speech the best

[1:47:17.47] Richard: None of them

[1:47:19.19] Valerie : doubt if any on my side

[1:47:22.25] Martin: god help us but i suppose it is milliband

[1:47:22.77] Angela: none of them

[1:47:34.41] Richard 1: It's difficult not to say that ALL politicians are only in it for themselves so I don't think anyone of them is on my side at all

[1:47:36.98] Tracey: still none the wiser

[1:47:37.04] Jane Carn: I'm going to do a quick poll now, it will appear on your screen

[1:48:04.94] Catherine: I'm not sure if I feel any of them are on my side per se but I find that a bit of a funny question

[1:48:10.74] Richard 1: Can we not have a 'none of them button'?

[1:48:21.36] Jane Carn: anyone not votes - please vote now

[1:48:38.12] Martin: not

[1:48:50.95] Richard: Sorry I cannot in truth give you an answer

[1:49:05.33] Jane Carn: so Cameron slightly in the lead in terms of trustworthy

[1:49:10.84] Richard 1: I can't answer that question either

[1:49:48.84] Jane Carn: and another poll for you

[1:50:28.72] Jane Carn: please do try and vote - if you don't have a strong favourite pick the closest

[1:50:32.92] Bethany: This is a tough one

[1:50:41.45] Bethany: Are we voting for the leader or the party they represent?

[1:50:46.17] Richard: None of them but if I have to DC hoping he keeps his word.

[1:51:07.06] Catherine: Oh, that's a good question - I went on the person rather than the party?

[1:51:36.94] Jane Carn: Ok, so the scores are in

[1:52:21.56] Richard: why cannot we vote for our National leader Why must Parties decide

[1:52:28.22] Richard 1: I still don't think any of them could do a job on their own

[1:52:43.90] Angela: i agree with Richard 1

[1:52:44.41] Jane Carn: Have your views shifted in any way this evening on the basis of the discussion? have the speeches made an impact do you think?

[1:52:46.54] Martin: do you mean a president ?

[1:53:13.49] Martin: can you close the vote box

[1:53:23.72] Bethany: DC's speech made me warm to him a little but I think the effect is probably temporary

[1:53:25.51] Catherine: Yes, I am slightly more pro-Lib/Con coalition than I ever thought I would be based on Clegg's speech and delivery

[1:53:27.17] Tracey: Its made me want to watch more and be more informed!

[1:53:27.66] Richard: No President But our voice shoul be heard

[1:53:42.58] Richard 1: The speeches were all the same delivered in pretty much the same way. I've not been swayed one way or the other.

[1:53:52.02] Catherine: Agree, Jane, can you shut the polling screen

[1:53:57.43] Valerie : i found his speech made him seem more human somehow

[1:54:02.16] Martin: no change

[1:54:25.44] Richard: My views stay the same. Politicians are only interested in power

[1:54:38.83] Angela: no the speeches just give them all a different view point none agreeing where to take britain forward

[1:55:36.66] Catherine: I thought DC offered more of a concrete plan than the others

[1:55:49.43] Jane Carn: OK, i think that is all we have time for everyone. Really interesting to get your views tonight.

[1:56:03.61] Catherine: Thank you for having me!

[1:56:15.41] Tracey: Enjoyed it! that time sped by!

[1:56:20.74] Martin: ok interesting experience

[1:56:23.02] Valerie : thank you enjoyed it

[1:56:23.18] Angela: thank you it was very interesting

[1:56:27.22] Richard 1: Enjoyed it very much, good luck everyone!

[1:56:33.45] Bethany: It was interesting to see what others thought

[1:56:39.07] Bethany: Goodnight all!

[1:56:57.47] Richard: stimulating, fun informative Must improve my typing skills

[1:57:29.27] Valerie : so agree Richard as i had the same problem

[1:57:56.42] Jane Carn: As we mentioned in the invitation, we may use some of the quotes in a National paper this weekend. The Times - so thanks for contributing to this.

[1:58:03.97] Bethany: Wow

[1:58:43.01] Jane Carn: Saturday edition.

[1:58:48.64] Richard: That will increase Times circulation for sure

[1:58:54.31] Martin: saturday or sunday?

[1:58:56.95] Valerie : must get a copy

[1:59:07.01] Bethany: Will definitely have a look!

[1:59:14.10] Angela: might buy a copy myself

[1:59:25.42] Jane Carn: Thanks everyone, and enjoy the paper on Saturday.