

YouGov / Fabian Society Survey Results

Sample Size: 3125

Fieldwork: 3rd - 8th August 2007

For detailed results [click here](#)

a) Do you think Britain is a fair country where every child has an equal chance in life?	(a) Equal chance for all kids %	(b) GB has become fairer %
b) Looking at the last ten years, since Labour got into power, do you think Britain has become a fairer country?		
Yes, to a significant degree	6	4
Yes, to some extent	40	30
Yes total	46	34
No, not generally	38	40
No, not at all	14	19
No total	52	59
Not sure	3	7

a) Do you regard it as a good idea or a bad idea for Britain to aim for each of the following objectives?	(a) % saying it is a very important objective	(b) % saying at least a little progress has been made
b) Regardless of whether you support or oppose each objective, how much progress do you think has been made towards achieving it over the past ten years, since Labour came to power?		
Everyone is able to be out and about in their neighbourhood free from the fear of being robbed or attacked	91	30
No pensioner lives in poverty	82	49
No child grows up in poverty	80	61
Everyone has access to high quality healthcare without delay	79	51
Every child has access to a good state school locally	78	55
Every full-time worker is entitled by law to a basic living wage	75	77
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their class	73	58
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their gender	73	67
Nobody suffers discrimination because they have a disability	68	77
Children growing up in low-income families have the same chance as children growing up in high-income families	68	50
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their age	68	68
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their race or ethnicity	67	68
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their sexual orientation	66	69
Nobody suffers discrimination because of their religion	63	64
Government and taxes are as small as possible to encourage individual effort	57	24
The gap between the rich and poor is much smaller	46	39
Employers have the right to give jobs to whoever they want without government interfering	41	34

Thinking now about your own life, would you say you have personally suffered from any discrimination in Britain in any of the following areas:

% saying yes to some extent / to a significant degree

The conditions in which you grew up (housing, parents' income etc)	26
Your access to employment or at work	26
Your access to education	22
Your treatment in social situations	21
Your housing as an adult	19
Your dealings with the police	11

a) How good would you say the general level of education is these days in local state schools in your area, based on your own knowledge of those schools?

b) And how good would you say the general level of education is these days in state schools in Britain as a whole?

(a) Local % (b) National %

Very good	10	4
Fairly good	49	43
Total good	59	47
Fairly poor	23	34
Very poor	7	9
Total poor	30	43
Don't know	13	10

Which, if any, of these statements comes closest to your view?

%

'It is an important right that parents who can afford to should be able to send their children to fee-paying schools if they think that is the best thing for their children'

29

'Parents should have the right to send their children to private schools if they can afford it, but government should ensure that their children do not gain an unfair advantage from doing so'

25

'The schools system should not depend on the ability to pay as this will mean different children will have unfair advantages in education in later life'

38

None of these

3

Don't know

5

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Agree % Disagree %

'Private schools should have to share their facilities with state schools'

46

44

'The charitable status of private schools should be removed'

53

29

'VAT should be added to school fees and the money raised should be used to improve state schools in disadvantaged areas'

49

41

Some people argue that for the Government to improve schools, they might have to spend more money. In each case, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Agree % Disagree %

'The Government should add a penny to the national insurance rate to spend on schools' (this would cost an average worker around £4 a week)

34

56

'The Government should reduce spending in other areas of government, such as health, welfare or defence'

24

67

'The Government should stick to its current plans for education spending, and neither raise taxes nor cut spending elsewhere'

49

33

Moving onto healthcare...

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

	Agree %	Disagree %
'It should be government policy to ensure that life expectancy rates are broadly the same in all parts of the country'	77	14

And which of these statements comes closest to your view?

'The Government should increase taxes to spend more money, targeted in poorer areas, in order to ensure that life expectancy rates in different parts of the country are more equal'	9
'The Government should reduce spending in affluent areas and spend that money in poorer areas'	23
'The Government should freeze spending in affluent areas and increase spending in poorer areas over time'	17
'It is not possible to improve life expectancy rates by targeting government spending in poorer areas'	35
Don't know	16

Do you think it is possible to have a society in which all patients have equal access to prompt, high-quality treatment on the NHS, AND patients have the right to pay for private health care?

Yes, both things are possible at the same time	69
No, it is not possible to achieve both aims at the same time	21
Don't know	10

Which of these statements comes closest to your view:

'Patients throughout Britain should have the same access to treatments and other NHS services irrespective of where they live. The rules should be decided nationally, not locally, so that there is no 'postcode lottery''	80
'The NHS would work better if local priorities were decided locally, even if this meant that patients in different parts of the country did not have exactly the same level of access to treatments and other NHS services'	11
Not sure	9

The Government wants to get a million more people into work. Many of these are people who are on Incapacity Benefit and want to work, but can't find jobs. Which one of these has the greatest responsibility to ensure that this group finds work?

People on Incapacity Benefit themselves	40
The Government	28
Employers	21
Don't know	12

a) What would you say is the annual income (before any taxes are deducted) of an average full-time MALE worker in Britain these days?

b) And what would you say is the annual income (before any taxes are deducted) of an average full-time FEMALE worker in Britain these days?

	(a) Male	(b) Female
Median	£22,000	£18,500
How much do you think a non-working teenage single mother gets per week on income support?	£73	
How much do you think the average domestic cleaner gets paid?	£5	
How much do you think the average person spends each week on essentials (including food, housing, travel-to-work)?	£112	
And how much do you think is reasonable to spend, per person, on a night out with friends in a bar, club or restaurant?	£24	
What proportion of people living in Britain are from ethnic minorities?	18%	
What percentage of young people leave school with no qualifications?	18%	
What proportion of young people between the ages of 16 and 18 are not in employment, education, or training?	18%	
What proportion of people don't have a car?	15%	
What proportion of people in work earn over £100,000 a year?	9%	

What do you think is a reasonable annual income for each of the following:

A Prime Minister who is doing a reasonably good job	£135,000
The managing director of one of Britain's top companies	£120,000
An author of best-selling books	£80,000
A typical family doctor	£70,000
A leading footballer in a Premiership club	£62,000
The head teacher of a typical state secondary school	£52,000
An experienced hospital nurse	£33,000
A local police officer 'on the beat'	£29,500
A good local plumber	£28,500
A bus driver	£22,500
Someone working at a supermarket checkout	£15,000
Someone serving at a 'fast food' restaurant	£14,000

Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your view?	%
'The financial gap between rich and poor is too wide – the task is to tackle both poverty and excessive wealth'	46
'The gap is too wide – the task is to tackle poverty, but not to curb the wealth or income of the richest'	32
'The gap is too wide – the main task is to tackle excessive wealth rather than poverty'	7
'The gap is not too wide'	5
Don't know	9

And which of these statements comes closest to your view?	
'It is possible for the Government to reduce the gap between rich and poor significantly without damaging the economy'	46
'The forces that produce the gap between the rich and poor are too powerful for the Government to do much about – it can make only a small difference, for if it tried to do anything more, the economy would suffer'	33
Don't know	20

For the Government to help reduce inequality, it would need to increase benefits such as child benefit and state pensions, and continue to invest in schools, hospitals and other services. This might mean raising taxes. In each case, please indicate whether you support or oppose the following:	Support %	Oppose %
Increase the taxes that big companies pay on their profits	79	14
Increase income tax from 40% to 50% for people earning more than £100,000 a year	67	25
Increase income tax more generally	24	68
Increase the rate of inheritance tax	22	68