

YouGov Survey Results

Politicians

Prepared for Mail On Sunday

Sample Size: 1779

Fieldwork: 5-6 December 2003

%

Who do you think would make the best Prime Minister?

Tony Blair	33
Michael Howard	30
Charles Kennedy	15
Don't know	23

Who do you think has performed best as party leader since Howard's arrival?

Tony Blair	32
Michael Howard	30
Charles Kennedy	8
Don't know	31

Which of these apply to Tony Blair? [Please tick all that apply]

Intelligent	42
Strong	37
Principled	34
Statesmanlike	32
Charismatic	31
Honest	12
None of these	27
Don't know	4

Which of these apply to Michael Howard? [Please tick all that apply]

Intelligent	44
Strong	35
Statesmanlike	32
Principled	24
Honest	13
Charismatic	12
None of these	15
Don't know	26

Which of these apply to Charles Kennedy? [Please tick all that apply]

Intelligent	38
Honest	34
Principled	34
Charismatic	13
Strong	11
Statesmanlike	5
None of these	15
Don't know	26

Which of these do you think will be Prime Minister after the next election?

Tony Blair	36
Gordon Brown	16
Michael Howard	23
Don't know	25

When do you think Tony Blair will stop being leader of the Labour party?

Within two months	2
Within a year	13
Before the next general election	13
Soon after the next election	28
Not until well after the election	31
Don't know	13

Do you think Blair should stand aside for Gordon Brown within the next few months?

Should	26
Should not	45
Don't know	29

How do you view the record of Tony Blair's government on each of the following?

War with Iraq

Good	23
Neither good nor bad	30
Bad	44
Don't know	3

Delivery of election promises

Good	13
Neither good nor bad	34
Bad	49
Don't know	4

Schools

Good	18
Neither good nor bad	35
Bad	42
Don't know	4

Hospitals

Good	17
Neither good nor bad	28
Bad	51
Don't know	4

Public transport

Good	8
Neither good nor bad	34
Bad	55
Don't know	4

Minimum wage

Good	44
Neither good nor bad	32
Bad	18
Don't know	6

Inflation

Good	46
Neither good nor bad	37
Bad	11
Don't know	6

Employment

	Good	38
	Neither good nor bad	44
	Bad	13
	Don't know	6
Fox hunting		
	Good	12
	Neither good nor bad	27
	Bad	46
	Don't know	15
Lords reform.		
	Good	13
	Neither good nor bad	26
	Bad	39
	Don't know	23
Europe		
	Good	16
	Neither good nor bad	37
	Bad	35
	Don't know	12
Law and order		
	Good	14
	Neither good nor bad	40
	Bad	42
	Don't know	5
Tax		
	Good	12
	Neither good nor bad	27
	Bad	53
	Don't know	7
Pensions		
	Good	6
	Neither good nor bad	22
	Bad	61
	Don't know	10
Welfare reform.		
	Good	8
	Neither good nor bad	32
	Bad	42
	Don't know	19
How do you think Tony Blair will be judged by historians?		
	A great Prime Minister	4
	A good Prime Minister	30
	An average Prime Minister	38
	A poor Prime Minister	12
	A very poor Prime Minister	10
	Don't know	5
From what you have read of Tony Blair's health, do you think he should...		
	Continue to do the same amount of work as now	29
	Remain Prime Minister but reduce his workload	28
	Retire	30
	Don't know	13

Please consider each of the following pairs and say whether there should be laws to ensure they are treated equally, for example when they apply for jobs:

Men and women

There should be laws to ensure they are treated equally	55
They should be treated equally, but there is no need for laws to enforce it	37
They should not necessarily be treated equally	7
Don't know	1

Whites and ethnic minorities

There should be laws to ensure they are treated equally	49
They should be treated equally, but there is no need for laws to enforce it	41
They should not necessarily be treated equally	8
Don't know	2

Homosexuals and heterosexuals

There should be laws to ensure they are treated equally	43
They should be treated equally, but there is no need for laws to enforce it	33
They should not necessarily be treated equally	22
Don't know	2

Disabled and non-disabled people

There should be laws to ensure they are treated equally	62
They should be treated equally, but there is no need for laws to enforce it	27
They should not necessarily be treated equally	10
Don't know	1

Do you think MPs should or should not resign their seat in the House of Commons if they are found to have done each of the following? [Please tick all that you think should be resigning issues]

Taking money to ask questions in the House of Commons	86
Telling a lie in a communication to constituents	85
Being absent from the House of Commons for more than 75 of the votes	82
Telling a lie in the House of Commons	78
Deliberately failing to disclose money earned outside of one's job as an MP	77
Shoplifting an item worth about £10	75
An unmarried man or woman sending sexually explicit messages to someone contacted through a gay dating agency	23
An unmarried man or woman sending sexually explicit messages to someone contacted through a heterosexual dating agency	19
Going to a lap-dancing club and paying for a striptease	15
Being unfaithful to his or her spouse	8
None of these	1
Don't know	2

Last weekend a newspaper reported that Labour MP Chris Bryant, who is openly gay and unmarried, had sent an e-mail photograph of himself semi-naked in Y-fronts and sexually explicit messages to a man he contacted via a gay dating agency on the Internet.

Do you think the public has a right to know if an MP behaves in this way, or does an MP in this situation have a right to privacy?

Public has a right to know	25
MP has a right to privacy	69
Don't know	6

Which of the following comes closest to your view?

Chris Bryant should resign as an MP	17
I disapprove of his behaviour but it is not a resigning issue	51
I do not disapprove of his behaviour	29
Don't know	4

I would have wanted him to resign	9
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I would have disapproved but not thought it a resigning issue	55
I would not have disapproved	31
Don't know	4

The government has abolished the so called 'cottaging' laws which prevented gay men from openly seeking sexual partners in public toilets and parks. Do you agree or disagree with this reform?

Agree with the reform	40
Disagree – the old 'cottaging' laws should have stayed	50
Don't know	11

Mr Bryant was a leading supporter of the reform and a member of the Commons committee that helped to design the new law. Do you think he was a fit person to serve on the committee?

He was a fit member to serve on the committee	45
He was not a fit member to serve on the committee	35
Don't know	20

Tony Blair wants to allow universities to charge students 'top up fees' of up to £3,000 a year. He says this is needed to fund higher education properly. Critics say this will lead to young people leaving college with very large debts. Do you support or oppose this policy?

Support	31
Oppose	58
Don't know	11

The Government says the money is needed to achieve its target of 50 per cent of school leavers going into higher education. At the moment, that figure is about 40 per cent. The government says that we need the higher targets so that the country has the skills it needs to compete in the modern world. Critics say the 50 target will just lead to a higher drop-out rate. Do you agree or disagree with the 50 target?

Agree	27
Disagree	53
Don't know	20

If there IS to be an expansion of university places, should some of it be paid for by university students themselves, once they are working, or should all of it be paid via higher taxes by the general population?

By university students themselves, once they are working	56
By the general population	28
Don't know	16

Do you think the amount of money the universities receive at the moment for each of the students they teach, is too little, too much, or about right?

Too little	32
Too much	6
About right	21
Don't know	41

The government says that the present university admission system is biased towards middle-class children who have been to 'good' schools. It proposes to set up an 'access regulator' who will ensure that students from poor backgrounds will get places at top universities even if their exam results are not quite as good. Do you agree or disagree with this measure?

Agree	44
Disagree	43
Don't know	13

Please look at the following list of courses and tick all those which you think are valuable and should be offered by universities.

Medicine	96
Engineering	94
Maths	92
Science	90
English	82
Modern languages	79
Psychology	74
Geography	70
History	70
Marketing	63
Sociology	61
Public Relations	48
Media Studies	42
Classics	40
Women's Studies	26
Film Studies	25
Don't know	2

The Government says it is fair to expect students to pay towards a university degree because it increases their earning potential. Do you think a university education increases a person's likely annual income by the time they are 35 (on average)? By how much per year?

Nil	4
Nil to £5,000 a year more than non-graduates	13
£5,001 to £10,000 a year	23
£10,001 to £20,000 a year	23
£20,001 to £50,000	12
More than £50,000 more than non-graduates	4
Don't know	20

Who is more likely to become a millionaire?

Someone who has been to university	19
Someone who has not	10
Both equal	64

Don't know	7
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Which sector do you think a university graduate is most likely to choose to work in?

The state sector	5
The private sector	43
Both equally	41
Don't know	12

What do you think is the MAIN reason people choose to go to university?

To learn	20
To get a better job	58
To have a good time	20
Don't know	2

(Men)What type of underwear do you usually wear?

Boxer shorts	44
Briefs	22
Y-fronts	22
Jockey shorts	6
Thongs	1
Other	2
Rather not say	4

(Women) Which type of underwear do you prefer a man to wear?

Boxer shorts	47
Briefs	27
Jockey shorts	7
Thongs	4
Y-fronts	3
Other	2
Don't know	7
Rather not say	4