

# YouGov Survey Results

## Current Political Issues

*Prepared for Sunday Times*

Sample Size = 2036

6th - 7th March 2003

	%
<b>Thinking now about higher education... There have been reports that some universities are giving preference to state school students with slightly lower grades than independent school pupils. Do you think that this is true or not true?</b>	
True	44
Not true	22
Don't know	34

<b>Whether or not it is true do you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea that certain universities give preference to state school students with slightly lower grades?</b>	
Good idea	31
Bad idea	55
Don't know	14

### Which of these statements do you most agree with?

'In order for Britain to have enough highly qualified people for the future, it is important to increase the numbers of people going into higher education.'	40
'It is good that more people now go into higher education than they used to, but it would be a mistake, and lower standards, if numbers increased much further.'	33
'Too many people go into higher education, and standards have suffered. In future fewer people should go into higher education than they do today.'	22
Don't know	5

### Which of these statements do you most agree with?

'The Government should set targets for universities to increase the share of working class students from state schools.'	12
'The Government should encourage universities to increase the share of working class students from state schools, but NOT set targets.'	43
'The Government should keep out of this altogether, and leave it entirely up to universities to decide which students they admit.'	41
Don't know	5

**Turning to another subject, it has been announced that council taxes will rise, on average, by around 12% in April. This is the highest increase since the tax was introduced a decade ago. Who do you blame most for the size of increase this year?**

The Government	37
Local councils	19
Both equally	40
Don't know	4

**Next month, employee National Insurance rates will rise by 1%, to pay for extra spending on the National Health Service. This will cost an average worker around £4 a week. In principle, do you support or oppose raising National Insurance to help pay for the NHS?**

Support	61
Oppose	35
Don't know	4

**In practice, do you think the money will mostly be used to improve the NHS, or will it mostly be wasted, with little or no improvement in the NHS?**

Will improve NHS	<b>22</b>
Will be wasted	<b>70</b>
Don't know	<b>8</b>

**The Government wants all NHS hospitals in time to become "foundation hospitals", with more freedom to run themselves, free from central control. Critics say it would be better for key decisions about each hospital to be taken at national and area level. Which do you think would be better?**

Give each hospital more freedom	<b>53</b>
Continue to take key decisions at area and national level	<b>35</b>
Don't know	<b>12</b>

**Thinking about taxation and public services in general, which of these statements do you most agree with?**

'Taxes will continue to have to rise in years to come if Britain is to have high-quality public services.'	<b>29</b>
'Taxes don't need to go up any more. Enough money is being spent to ensure high-quality public services - provided that the money is spent more wisely.'	<b>66</b>
Don't know	<b>5</b>