

YouGov / Policy Network Survey Results

Sample Size: 1063 British, 1086 US, 1010 Swedish and 1184 German Adults
Fieldwork: 18th - 22nd March 2011

	Country			
	Britain	United States	Sweden	Germany
Weighted Sample	1063	1086	1010	1184
Unweighted Sample	1063	1086	1010	1184
	%	%	%	%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Who you know is usually more important for getting on in life than hard work and playing by the rules.

Agree strongly	15	13	18	16
Tend to agree	47	33	38	38
TOTAL AGREE	62	46	56	54
Neither agree nor disagree	22	21	27	18
Tend to disagree	10	17	9	17
Disagree strongly	2	12	5	10
TOTAL DISAGREE	12	29	14	27
Don't know	4	4	3	1

When in government, [Country Specific] governments tax too much with too little public benefit.

Agree strongly	16	27	20	22
Tend to agree	23	19	14	26
TOTAL AGREE	39	46	34	48
Neither agree nor disagree	21	17	24	26
Tend to disagree	23	15	15	13
Disagree strongly	10	17	18	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	33	32	33	19
Don't know	7	6	8	6

In general, big companies in [Country] these days care only about profits - not about the wider community or the environment

Agree strongly	43	40	30	50
Tend to agree	42	29	30	33
TOTAL AGREE	85	69	60	83
Neither agree nor disagree	10	16	26	11
Tend to disagree	4	9	8	4
Disagree strongly	0	4	3	1
TOTAL DISAGREE	4	13	11	5
Don't know	2	2	4	1

University degrees are less useful than they used to be. Today, a university education often raises career expectations that cannot be fulfilled.

Agree strongly	30	19	9	24
Tend to agree	49	38	19	42
TOTAL AGREE	79	57	28	66
Neither agree nor disagree	11	19	27	17
Tend to disagree	6	12	24	10
Disagree strongly	2	8	13	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	8	20	37	15
Don't know	2	4	7	3

Which one or two, if any, of the following are the major ADVANTAGES of the Government taking action to change society for the better (please select up to two)?

There are no such advantages	29	39	8	27
The Government can ensure fairness	23	19	27	30
The Government reflects the democratic will of the people	17	14	37	33
The Government can stand up to vested interests	16	15	27	21
The Government can deliver many services more efficiently than private companies	21	18	12	15
Don't know	21	19	24	11

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And which one or two, if any, of the following are the major **DISADVANTAGES** of the Government taking action to change society for the better (please select up to two)?

There are no such disadvantages	3	5	10	7
The state is bureaucratic and inefficient	40	45	44	41
The state is often hijacked by vested interests	38	47	17	48
The state is run by useless politicians	32	36	20	32
The state is powerless in the face of global markets	22	8	18	13
Don't know	15	15	19	9

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

'However critical we are of particular government decisions, it remains the case that governments have the power to transform our society for the better'

Agree strongly	11	14	14	14
Tend to agree	42	30	30	41
TOTAL AGREE	53	44	44	55
Neither agree nor disagree	20	20	37	16
Tend to disagree	15	16	7	17
Disagree strongly	6	14	3	8
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	30	10	25
Don't know	6	6	8	4

Thinking about the 'market economy' that is, an economy where most goods and services are provided by private companies in a competitive system, which **TWO** of the following, if any, do you think are **ADVANTAGES** of this system these days (please select up to two)?

Competition keeps prices down	50	45	52	45
It provides consumers with a wide choice of goods and services to buy	44	44	44	53
It is the main way wealth is generated in a modern economy	26	21	13	16
It is the best way of providing jobs and opportunities to individuals	21	35	24	15
None of these	9	8	9	9
Don't know	10	12	11	9

And which **TWO** of the following, if any, do you think are **GREATEST DISADVANTAGES** of a market economy these days (please select up to two)?

The market economy is dominated by large corporations which squeeze out small firms	64	53	46	67
The market economy is too harsh on vulnerable individuals	29	20	41	29
The market economy creates inequalities	28	24	24	28
The market economy raises the cost of living	24	19	13	14
None of the above	3	17	9	4
Don't know	13	13	15	7

Taking everything into account, do you agree or disagree with this statement:

'The market economy, that is, an economy where most goods and services are provided by private companies in a competitive system, is the best way of delivering wealth and prosperity for society.'

Agree strongly	4	22	9	12
Tend to agree	34	30	25	40
TOTAL AGREE	38	52	34	52
Neither agree or disagree	30	24	34	26
Tend to disagree	14	11	11	11
Disagree strongly	7	4	8	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	21	15	19	16
Don't know	10	9	12	7

Would you personally be prepared to pay higher taxes if there were a guarantee that the extra money would be used to improve healthcare, increase benefits for retired people and provide more money for schools?

Would be prepared	42	40	54	43
Would not be prepared	42	46	35	45
Don't know	16	14	11	12

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Suppose the government should need to transfer funding away from one major spending priority in order to spend more on nurseries, early-years schooling and financial support for families with young children. Which of the following spending priorities would you find more acceptable to cut? Please tick one only.

Pensions for retired people	6	9	8	5
Healthcare	9	16	10	7
Unemployment benefits	51	27	30	28
None of the above	34	49	52	60

Suppose you could have TWO of the following – but in return you would have to accept LESS JOB SECURITY (that is, a higher probability that you could lose your job), which, if any, would you choose (please select up to two)?

[Only those currently working]

None - job security matters more to me than any of these benefits	39	35	27	39
Higher basic pay	34	31	29	27
A better work-life balance	21	14	21	12
Financial bonus / share in profits if my organization does well	18	22	20	23
Improved training and career development opportunities	13	14	16	15
A stronger social security safety net - e.g. higher cash benefits if I am unemployed	10	14	25	9
A greater voice in my employer's decision-making	4	8	6	9
Don't know	5	9	9	6