

THE BRITISH REPRESENTATION STUDY

3/9/2004 2:40 PM

SECTION A: YOUR POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. What is your party? [Please ✓ one...]	Conservative	Labour	Lib-Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	Green

2. Are you currently... [Please ✓ one...]	No	Yes	If 'yes' please write in the constituency
An elected Member of Parliament?			
A prospective Parliamentary candidate?			

3. How many times have you stood for Parliament or been elected?						
	Never before	Once	Twice	Three times	Four times	Five or more
Stood for Parliament before?						
Been elected an MP?						

4. Please tick if you have ever.... [✓]			
Held local party office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Been elected to the Scottish Parliament or Welsh Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Held regional party office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Served on a national public body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Held national party office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in a local pressure group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been a candidate for local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in a national pressure group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been elected to local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in other community group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been a candidate for the European parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in a professional group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been elected to the European Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in a trade union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Served on a local public body	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held office in a woman's organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been a candidate for the Scottish Parliament or Welsh Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Been employed full-time by regional or national party office	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Why did you <u>first</u> become a parliamentary candidate? Please rank the following reasons in order of importance.			
	[✓] 1st reason	[✓] 2nd reason	[✓] 3rd reason
I wanted to support my party			
I was asked to stand			
I wanted to serve my country			
I wanted to represent this particular constituency			
I wanted to help people			

6. How much time do you usually devote to party activities in the average month?	Hours /month

SECTION B: YOUR EXPERIENCE OF SELECTION

7. Some people receive encouragement from those around them when they decide to stand for public office. Others experience indifference or disapproval. How positive or negative were the following people in encouraging you to become a candidate in the next election?

	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative
Your spouse or partner					
Other family members					
Personal friends					
Women's groups					
Community groups					
Business associates					
Trade unionists					
Party members					
Party agents					
Your employer					

8a. For the coming general election...

For how many seats did you apply? (Please write in the approximate number)	
For how many were you interviewed?	
For how many were you on the final short-list?	

8b. And in your most recent short-listing?

About how many people applied for the seat?	
About how many people were nominated?	
About how many people were on the final short-list?	
About how many on the shortlist were women?	
About how many were men?	
About how many were ethnic minorities?	
About how many party members attended the meeting?	
About how many party members are there in total in the constituency?	
About how many members voted at the meeting?	
About how many postal ballots were cast (if any)?	

9. In your view, was the procedure used in your most recent selection application....

	Very	Quite	Not very	Not at all
Democratic				
Efficient				
Complicated				

Fair				
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10. Do you think the influence the following groups have over the selection process is generally too little, too great, or about right?

	Far too little	Too little	About right	Too great	Far too great
National party leaders					
Regional officers					
Constituency officers					
Local party members					
Trade unions					
Women's groups or organizations					
Ethnic minority groups or organizations					

11. Since entering politics, how much attention has the press given to stories about your personal or family life?

A great deal	
Some attention	
Little attention	
No attention	

FOR MPS ONLY:

13. Roughly how many hours do you usually devote to the following activities in the average week when the house is sitting?

At Westminster	Hours
Dealing with constituency casework at Westminster	
Attending Parliamentary debates on the floor of the House	
Working in Parliamentary select committees	
Working in Parliamentary standing committees	
Working in backbench party committees	
Informal meetings with other MPs at Westminster	
Informal meetings with members of the public at Westminster	
Informal meetings with lobbyists at Westminster	
Informal meetings with the media at Westminster	
In your constituency	
Holding regular constituency surgeries	
Attending local party meetings	
Attending other constituency functions	
Other activities in your constituency	

Travelling time between Westminster and your constituency	
Total hours per week devoted to your work as an MP	

14. Turning to your constituency activities:

Roughly how many letters do you receive from constituents in the average week?	
Roughly how many emails do you receive from constituents in the average week?	
And how many letters do you receive from others in the average week?	
How many surgeries do you hold in the average month, if any?	

FOR ALL:

15. There has been much debate about the modernization of Parliament. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
When first elected, all new MPs should be offered more training in parliamentary procedures.				
MPs should work similar hours to other professional occupations				
All-night sittings should be discontinued				
Parliament should have a shorter working week by adopting shorter recesses				
MPs should have better computing facilities and training				
MPs should have better research resources				
MPs should have better pay				
MPs should have better training in handling the news media				
Parliamentary committees should have more opportunities to initiate legislation				
No more than 55% of MPs of either sex should be elected to Parliament				

16. Some people feel that the news media covers politics fairly while others believe that coverage is unfair. How about you? Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
National newspapers provide informed commentary on parliamentary proceedings				
The news media are invasive in reporting the personal lives of MPs in matters that should remain private				
The news media trivializes the work of parliament				
MPs should do more to communicate with constituents via personal websites				
MPs should do more to communicate with constituents via email				
Meeting constituents face-to-face is a far more important way of communicating with them than using the press				
National newspapers provide fair and balanced coverage of politics				
Local newspapers provide fair and balanced coverage of politics				
National TV news provides fair and balanced coverage of politics				

17. Do you feel that Parliament should have	Many more	A few more	Same as now	Fewer women
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	women	women		

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the following proposals for increasing the number of women in parliament?

	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Party training programmes for women				
All women short-lists				
Positive quotas/affirmative action for women				
Better childcare facilities in parliament				
Changing the hours of parliamentary sittings				
Financial support for women candidates				
Reserved seats for women				

19. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views about the legal use of minimum quotas regulating the number of women parliamentary candidates?

Please tick one

The law should <i>prevent</i> parties from setting quotas	
The law should <i>allow</i> parties to set quotas	
The law should <i>require</i> parties to set quotas	
The law should <i>set</i> quotas	

20. Do you feel that Parliament should have

Many more
black MPs

A few more
black MPs

Same as now

Fewer black
MPs

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21. Where would you most like to be ten years from now?

A member of the British parliament		Head of a private company or public agency	
A member of the British government		In the House of Lords	
A member of the European parliament		Retired from public life	
A member of the Scottish parliament or Welsh Assembly		Other (please write in)	

SECTION C: YOUR POLITICAL ATTITUDES

26. In your opinion, what do you think are the most important issues in this election? Please list in order of priority

(i)
(ii)
(iii)

27. And if you were given the opportunity to sponsor a Private Members' Bill in the next session of parliament, would problems would you most want to tackle? Please list in order of priority

(i)

(ii)
(iii)

28. In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Using the following scale, where 0 means left and 10 means right,...

	Left	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Right
Where would you place your view													
Your constituency party													
Your parliamentary party													
Your party leader													
Your party's voters													

29. Some people feel that getting people back to work should be the government's top priority. Other people feel that keeping prices down should be the government's top priority. Using the following scale...

	Getting people back to work	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Keeping prices down
Where would you place your view													
Your constituency party													
Your parliamentary party													
Your party leader													
Your party's voters													

30. Some people feel that government should nationalize many more private companies. Other people feel that government should sell off many more nationalized industries. Using the following scale...

	Nationalize many more private companies	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Sell off more nationalized industries
Where would you place your view													
Your constituency party													
Your parliamentary party													
Your party leader													
Your party's voters													

31. Some people feel that government should cut taxes a lot and spend much less on health and social services. Other people feel that government should put up taxes a lot and spend much more on health and social services. On a scale from 0 to 10,

	Cut taxes/spending	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Put up taxes/spending
Where would you place your view													
Your constituency party													
Your parliamentary party													
Your party leader													
Your party's voters													

32. Some people feel that Britain should do all it can to unite fully with the European Union. Other people feel that Britain should do all it can to protect its independence from the European Union. Using the following scale...

Unite fully with EU	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Protect independence from EU
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party's voters												

33. Some people feel that women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry and government. Other people feel a woman's place is in the home.

Women should have equal role	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A woman's place is in the home
Where would you place your view												
Your constituency party												
Your parliamentary party												
Your party leader												
Your party's voters												

34. Do you think the government should, or should not, do each of the following things, or doesn't it matter either way?

	Definitely should	Probably should	Doesn't matter	Probably should not	Definitely should not
Provide public funding of political parties					
Establish a written constitution and Bill of Rights					
Replace the House of Lords with an elected Second Chamber					
Introduce proportional representation for British elections					
Hold a referendum on electoral reform					
Encourage the growth of private medicine					
Put more money into the NHS					
Move towards a common European currency					
Introduce stricter measures against crime					
Introduce English regional assemblies					

35. Now we want to ask you about some changes that have been happening in Britain over the years. For each one can you say whether it has gone too far, not far enough, or is it about right?

	Gone much too far	Gone too far	About right	Not gone far enough	Not gone nearly far enough	Don't know
Attempts to give equal opportunities to women in Britain						
The availability of abortion on the NHS						

Attempts to give equal opportunities to black people in Britain						
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36. Overall how do you feel about Britain's membership in the European Union? Do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove?	Please tick one
Strongly approve	
Approve	
Disapprove	
Strongly disapprove	

37. Thinking of the Single European Currency, which of the following would come closest to your own view? Do you think Britain should definitely join, should wait and see how it develops, or should definitely stay out?	Please tick one
Definitely join	
Wait and see how it develops	
Definitely stay out	

38. People hold different views about how they would like to see the European Union develop. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?	Please tick one
A fully integrated Europe with most major decisions taken by a European government	
A Europe more integrated than now but with decisions that mainly affect Britain staying in British hands	
The situation much as now, with Britain retaining a veto over major policy changes it does not like	
Complete British withdrawal from the European Union	

39. An issue in Scotland is the question of an elected parliament – a special parliament for Scotland dealing with Scottish affairs. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?	Please tick one
Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK and the European Union	
Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK but part of the European Union	
Scotland should remain part of the UK, with its own devolved Assembly which has some taxation powers	
Scotland should be part of the UK without an elected parliament	

40. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:						
	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off						
Big business benefits owners at the expense of workers						
Ordinary working people do not get their fair share of the nation's wealth						
There is one law for the rich and one for the poor						
Management will always try to get the better of employees if it gets the chance						

41. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Young people today don't have enough respect for traditional British values						
People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences						
For some crimes the death penalty is the most appropriate sentence						
Schools should teach children to obey authority						
The law should always be obeyed, even if a particular law is wrong						
Censorship of films and magazines is necessary to uphold moral standards						

42. Can you tell me whether you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't know
Government should make sure that women have an equal chance to succeed						
Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women						
All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job						
Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay						
A husband's job is to earn the money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family						

43. There is a lot of talk these days about what the aims of the country should be for the next ten years. If you had to choose between the following items, which seems most important and which next most important to you?

	Most important	Next most important
Maintaining order in the nation		
Giving people more say in important government decisions		
Fighting rising prices		
Protecting freedom of speech		

SECTION D: YOUR PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Finally we would like to ask you some questions about your social background.

44. In what year were you born?

19_____

45. Are you

Male

Female

46. Are you

Married

Widowed/divorced/separated

Never married

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47.Do you have any children in your care aged..	None	One child	Two children	Three children	More than three
Under five years old					
Five to fifteen years old					

48.How old were you when you completed continuous full-time education?	____ Years old
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49.What is your highest educational qualification?	Please tick one
Primary school	
Secondary school	
Other higher education	
University or polytechnic degree	
If a graduate, please tick if your first degree was from Oxford or Cambridge University	

50.What type of school did you last attend full-time?	Please tick one
Grammar	
Independent fee-paying, Direct grant or Grant aided	
Comprehensive	
Secondary Modern or Technical	

51. Are you:	Yes	No
Currently a member of a trade union or staff association		
A union sponsored candidate		

52.Do you work in the public or private sector? If an MP, which best describes your occupation prior to election?	Please tick one
Public sector	
Private sector	

53.Which of these best describes what you were doing last week? If you are an MP, which best describes your occupation immediately prior to being elected.	Please tick one
In full-time employment (30+ hours per week)	
In part-time employment (10-29 hours per week)	
Registered unemployed	
Wholly retired from work	
In full-time education	
Looking after the home	
Other (please write in):	

54.If currently employed, please describe your occupation and employer. If an MP, please describe your occupation and employer immediately prior to being elected.

Occupation: (write in)

How many people did you directly supervise in that occupation (if any)?

(write in)

Were you an employee or self-employed?

An employee

Self-employed

If an employee, who was your employer?: (write in)

55. Please indicate your occupation (for MPs immediately prior to election) from the following list:

Legal profession

Writers, literary, artists

Civil service and local authority administration

Architects, surveyors, engineers

Party official/ political research

Armed services

Commerce, management and business

Clergy

Educational professions

Clerical, secretarial

Journalism, broadcasting, media

Other white collar

Physicians, dentists

Trade union official

Agriculture, farmers

Manual worker

56.Do you ever think of yourself as belonging to any particular social class?

No

Yes

If 'yes' which class is that? (write in):

57.In your main accommodation do you, or your household,

Please tick one

Own the property outright

Own the property with a mortgage

Rent from a private landlord

Rent from your local authority or housing association

58.When did you first join your present political party?

19____

59. Which ethnic group do you belong to?

Please tick one

White

Non-white

60.Do you regard yourself as

Please tick one

Protestant

Catholic

Other religion

None		
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61.How often do you attend a religious service?	Please tick one
At least once a week	
At least once a month	
At least once a year	
Never	

62.Where were you living	Village, town or city	County
When you were 14		
Where you live now		

63.Is your household's total income...			
Less than 5,000		40,000- 50,000	
5,000 - 10,000		50,000- 60,000	
10,000 - 20,000		60,000- 70,000	
20,000- 30,000		70,000- 80,000	
30,000- 40,000		80,000+	

64.How often do you use email?	Please tick one
At least once a day	
At least once a week	
Less often than once a week	
Never	

65.How often do you go online for news and information from the Internet or World Wide Web?	Please tick one
At least once a day	
At least once a week	
Less often than once a week	
Never	

66.Do you have your own website?	Yes		No	
If 'yes' could you give the address?	http://			

Many thanks for taking the time and effort to complete the questionnaire. Your help and cooperation with this project is greatly appreciated. A stamped-addressed envelope has been enclosed. An executive report summarizing the results will be posted three months after the election at www.pippanorris.com. Please return to:

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