

POPULUS – BBC POLL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,012 White-British adults aged 18+ by telephone between 29th February & 2nd March 2008. Interviews were conducted across the country. The results have been weighted to be representative of all White-British adults in Great Britain. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details, go to www.populus.co.uk.

Thinking about the immediate environment of your home, which of the following would you consider it to be?

	Total
Urban (e.g a city centre area)	19%
Sub-urban (e.g. a residential area on the outskirts of a city or in a large town)	45%
Rural (e.g. an area away from large towns and cities)	35%

People sometimes see themselves as belonging to one or more groups based on things they have in common. How important are each of the following groups in defining the way you see yourself personally?

		Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Class	NET: Important	24%	23%	26%	22%	27%	26%	24%	24%
	NET: Unimportant	75%	76%	73%	77%	72%	72%	76%	75%
	NET: Difference	-50%	-53%	-48%	-55%	-45%	-46%	-52%	-50%
Ethnic background	NET: Important	25%	25%	26%	22%	29%	24%	26%	25%
	NET: Unimportant	73%	73%	72%	77%	68%	74%	72%	73%
	NET: Difference	-47%	-48%	-47%	-55%	-39%	-50%	-45%	-49%
Religion	NET: Important	34%	29%	40%	28%	41%	29%	35%	36%
	NET: Unimportant	65%	70%	59%	71%	57%	70%	64%	63%
	NET: Difference	-30%	-41%	-20%	-43%	-15%	-40%	-29%	-26%
Nationality	NET: Important	52%	52%	51%	51%	52%	49%	49%	56%
	NET: Unimportant	48%	47%	48%	48%	47%	50%	50%	44%
	NET: Difference	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	-1%	-1%	13%

Who do you find you generally have more in common with: people who have a similar class background to you whatever their ethnicity or religion, or people with a similar ethnic or religious background regardless of their class?

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
People who have a similar class background to you whatever their ethnicity or religion	49%	51%	47%	50%	48%	53%	51%	44%
People with a similar ethnic or religious background regardless of their class	34%	33%	34%	33%	35%	29%	33%	37%
Neither	13%	11%	15%	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%

Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

		Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Nobody speaks out for people like me in Britain today	NET: Agree	51%	53%	49%	46%	58%	54%	47%	56%
	NET: Disagree	46%	44%	47%	53%	37%	43%	50%	41%
	NET: Difference	6%	9%	2%	-7%	21%	11%	-3%	14%
The government seems more interested in helping those who break the rules rather than rewarding people who work hard and play by the rules	NET: Agree	79%	78%	80%	75%	84%	75%	79%	83%
	NET: Disagree	19%	21%	17%	23%	14%	23%	20%	17%
	NET: Difference	60%	57%	63%	52%	70%	52%	59%	66%
It is easier now for people to get on and improve things for themselves and their family than it was for people in my parent's generation	NET: Agree	68%	66%	69%	67%	69%	71%	68%	65%
	NET: Disagree	31%	33%	28%	33%	29%	27%	30%	33%
	NET: Difference	37%	33%	41%	34%	40%	44%	38%	32%
In the future, people like me will have more opportunities to get on in life than I do today	NET: Agree	62%	63%	62%	60%	65%	63%	63%	61%
	NET: Disagree	34%	35%	33%	37%	31%	33%	35%	35%
	NET: Difference	28%	27%	29%	23%	34%	31%	28%	26%

Generally speaking, do you think people from your background will find it easier, more difficult, or about the same to do the following in the future:

		Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Get a higher status job	Easier	13%	14%	12%	14%	11%	12%	14%	12%
	More difficult	40%	42%	39%	34%	48%	40%	39%	42%
	About the same	45%	43%	47%	51%	39%	46%	46%	44%
Send their children to university	Easier	24%	28%	20%	26%	21%	24%	21%	26%
	More difficult	41%	38%	43%	38%	44%	35%	42%	42%
	About the same	34%	33%	36%	36%	32%	39%	36%	30%
Afford to buy a home of their own	Easier	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%
	More difficult	81%	83%	80%	80%	83%	83%	82%	80%
	About the same	12%	11%	13%	14%	11%	10%	12%	13%
Live in the areas that they want	Easier	6%	8%	4%	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%
	More difficult	70%	69%	70%	69%	70%	64%	68%	75%
	About the same	24%	23%	24%	24%	24%	29%	25%	19%

For each of the following please say how or whether things have changed in this country compared with ten years ago, Are they better, have they stayed the same or have they got worse?

		Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Life in Britain generally	Better	22%	25%	18%	25%	18%	28%	20%	20%
	Stayed the same	22%	21%	22%	23%	20%	16%	25%	21%
	Worse	56%	53%	59%	51%	62%	56%	55%	58%
Your life in Britain personally	Better	34%	38%	31%	42%	26%	38%	33%	34%
	Stayed the same	40%	37%	42%	38%	42%	39%	41%	38%
	Worse	26%	25%	26%	20%	32%	23%	26%	27%
The economy for Britain generally	Better	23%	27%	20%	25%	21%	29%	24%	20%
	Stayed the same	24%	27%	22%	25%	23%	21%	26%	23%
	Worse	50%	45%	55%	48%	53%	48%	48%	54%
The economy as it affects you and your family personally	Better	20%	23%	16%	22%	17%	25%	18%	19%
	Stayed the same	34%	32%	35%	33%	34%	30%	36%	33%
	Worse	46%	45%	46%	43%	48%	43%	45%	47%
Law and order	Better	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
	Stayed the same	23%	23%	23%	25%	21%	22%	25%	20%
	Worse	68%	69%	68%	66%	71%	69%	66%	71%
Education	Better	29%	30%	28%	26%	32%	31%	28%	28%
	Stayed the same	31%	33%	29%	31%	30%	29%	32%	30%
	Worse	37%	35%	39%	39%	35%	35%	38%	37%
The Health Service	Better	25%	28%	23%	26%	25%	29%	25%	24%
	Stayed the same	30%	33%	27%	30%	30%	25%	33%	29%
	Worse	44%	39%	49%	44%	44%	45%	42%	46%
Council housing	Better	9%	11%	8%	9%	9%	8%	13%	5%
	Stayed the same	29%	29%	29%	31%	26%	33%	28%	27%
	Worse	46%	45%	46%	40%	52%	45%	41%	51%

Thinking about the National Health Service in your area please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- The NHS couldn't function properly without the help of foreign born and foreign trained NHS staff

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	78%	82%	74%	82%	73%	76%	79%	77%
NET: Disagree	19%	18%	20%	15%	24%	18%	19%	20%
NET: Difference	59%	64%	54%	67%	49%	58%	60%	57%

- The NHS should only treat those born or brought up in the UK or who have paid in to the system

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	58%	62%	54%	55%	61%	61%	55%	60%
NET: Disagree	41%	37%	44%	43%	38%	38%	44%	39%
NET: Difference	17%	25%	10%	12%	22%	23%	11%	21%

- Too many people are allowed to use the NHS these days

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	53%	55%	52%	49%	59%	50%	52%	56%
NET: Disagree	45%	43%	46%	50%	38%	47%	46%	42%
NET: Difference	8%	11%	6%	-2%	20%	2%	6%	14%

- Not enough public money is being spent on the NHS today

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	63%	54%	73%	58%	70%	62%	63%	64%
NET: Disagree	34%	44%	25%	40%	28%	37%	35%	32%
NET: Difference	29%	10%	47%	18%	42%	26%	28%	32%

- The NHS is treating more people, more quickly than ever before

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	56%	58%	53%	57%	54%	61%	55%	54%
NET: Disagree	39%	36%	42%	37%	41%	33%	40%	41%
NET: Difference	17%	23%	11%	19%	13%	28%	15%	12%

Thinking about the benefits system please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (ROTATE ORDER)

- Too many people claiming benefits today are cheating the system

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	84%	81%	87%	82%	86%	82%	85%	85%
NET: Disagree	13%	16%	9%	15%	10%	16%	12%	12%
NET: Difference	72%	65%	78%	68%	76%	67%	72%	73%

- Benefits should only be paid out to people who have paid something in

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	67%	67%	66%	63%	70%	65%	68%	66%
NET: Disagree	32%	32%	32%	35%	28%	34%	30%	33%
NET: Difference	35%	34%	35%	28%	42%	31%	37%	33%

- Benefits should be restricted to those who have been born or brought up in the UK

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	58%	58%	58%	53%	64%	54%	58%	61%
NET: Disagree	40%	41%	40%	46%	34%	45%	41%	37%
NET: Difference	18%	17%	19%	7%	30%	9%	17%	24%

- Most people who get benefits need them and most people who need benefits get them

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	49%	52%	46%	47%	51%	51%	47%	50%
NET: Disagree	48%	45%	50%	50%	45%	45%	50%	47%
NET: Difference	1%	6%	-4%	-3%	6%	6%	-3%	4%

Thinking about the schools in your area please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (ROTATE ORDER)

- Not enough public money is being spent on schools today

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	64%	63%	65%	65%	63%	63%	68%	58%
NET: Disagree	31%	32%	29%	30%	31%	30%	28%	35%
NET: Difference	33%	30%	36%	34%	31%	34%	40%	23%

- Schools are being asked to teach too many children who don't speak English as their first language

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	56%	56%	56%	52%	59%	50%	59%	55%
NET: Disagree	35%	35%	35%	39%	31%	41%	34%	34%
NET: Difference	20%	20%	20%	14%	28%	9%	25%	21%

- There is a lack of discipline in the classroom and a lack of respect for teachers

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	87%	88%	86%	86%	88%	85%	87%	88%
NET: Disagree	10%	10%	10%	11%	9%	11%	10%	9%
NET: Difference	77%	78%	75%	75%	79%	74%	77%	79%

- Many parents don't seem to encourage their children to work hard at school

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	72%	73%	71%	72%	72%	71%	70%	75%
NET: Disagree	23%	22%	24%	24%	22%	22%	25%	21%
NET: Difference	49%	51%	46%	48%	50%	48%	45%	53%

- Schools do a good job of teaching children the basics they need to get on in life

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	71%	71%	72%	72%	71%	80%	71%	67%
NET: Disagree	26%	27%	24%	25%	26%	17%	26%	30%
NET: Difference	46%	44%	48%	47%	45%	63%	45%	38%

Thinking about housing in your area please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- People like me can no longer afford to buy homes in this area

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	73%	70%	76%	68%	80%	74%	73%	73%
NET: Disagree	24%	28%	21%	31%	17%	23%	24%	25%
NET: Difference	49%	42%	56%	37%	63%	50%	49%	48%

- When it comes to council housing, people who've grown up & have family in the area should take priority over everyone else

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	66%	70%	62%	62%	71%	70%	58%	74%
NET: Disagree	32%	28%	35%	37%	26%	28%	39%	24%
NET: Difference	34%	42%	27%	25%	45%	42%	19%	50%

- Council housing should be given to people who have nowhere else to live, not to people who are already living in the area however long they may have been on the waiting list

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	54%	54%	55%	55%	53%	61%	52%	52%
NET: Disagree	42%	43%	41%	40%	44%	33%	43%	45%
NET: Difference	12%	10%	14%	15%	9%	28%	9%	7%

- There have always been more people wanting council housing than council houses to put them in, under the circumstances the current system is a fair one

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	54%	56%	52%	54%	54%	56%	53%	54%
NET: Disagree	37%	36%	38%	34%	39%	36%	37%	36%
NET: Difference	17%	20%	14%	20%	14%	20%	15%	18%

Thinking about crime and anti-social behaviour please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (ROTATE ORDER)

- There's no respect for authority like the Police, teachers and parents any more

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	91%	91%	90%	89%	92%	92%	89%	93%
NET: Disagree	9%	9%	9%	10%	7%	8%	11%	7%
NET: Difference	82%	83%	81%	79%	85%	83%	78%	86%

- There isn't enough public money going into putting police on the streets today

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	76%	72%	80%	71%	82%	76%	76%	75%
NET: Disagree	23%	27%	18%	28%	16%	20%	23%	24%
NET: Difference	53%	45%	62%	43%	65%	56%	53%	52%

- Too much police time is spent on paperwork and form-filling rather than on patrolling the streets

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	93%	94%	93%	91%	96%	95%	92%	94%
NET: Disagree	5%	4%	5%	6%	3%	4%	6%	4%
NET: Difference	89%	89%	88%	85%	93%	91%	86%	91%

- Fear of crime is higher than actual crime and our streets are in fact quite safe

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	52%	53%	50%	56%	47%	54%	52%	51%
NET: Disagree	46%	45%	47%	42%	50%	44%	46%	47%
NET: Difference	6%	8%	4%	14%	-4%	10%	6%	3%

Taking into account everything about life in Britain today from how well or badly the economy is doing and levels of taxation and public spending, to the quality of public services like health and education and the crime rate how optimistic or pessimistic are you that conditions in this country will improve over the next ten years:

- For yourself and your family

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Optimistic	39%	40%	37%	38%	39%	47%	37%	37%
NET: Pessimistic	43%	42%	44%	42%	45%	36%	43%	47%
NET: Difference	-5%	-2%	-7%	-3%	-6%	11%	-7%	-10%

– For Britain as a whole

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Optimistic	34%	34%	35%	35%	34%	38%	35%	31%
NET: Pessimistic	50%	50%	49%	48%	51%	46%	49%	52%
NET: Difference	-15%	-16%	-14%	-13%	-17%	-8%	-14%	-21%

Which of the following would you say has the most POSITIVE impact on life in Britain today:

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Improved public services (e.g. in health, education etc)	30%	26%	33%	29%	30%	29%	28%	32%
A strong economy	24%	32%	17%	25%	23%	27%	23%	24%
Greater opportunities in education and work	24%	20%	28%	26%	22%	22%	27%	22%
A more diverse society	15%	16%	14%	15%	15%	17%	14%	15%
None of these	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%

Which of the following would you say has the most NEGATIVE impact on life in Britain today:

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Abuse of drink and drugs	31%	26%	36%	28%	35%	29%	31%	32%
A culture of disrespect	31%	34%	29%	38%	23%	27%	32%	33%
Immigration	19%	20%	18%	16%	21%	20%	20%	16%
The gap between rich and poor	18%	20%	15%	18%	17%	23%	16%	17%
None of these	*	-	*	*	*	1%	*	*

Thinking about the overall direction you think that Britain as a country is going in, which of the following words best describe your views:

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Concerned	82%	80%	83%	83%	80%	78%	81%	85%
Resigned	55%	56%	55%	54%	57%	51%	56%	57%
Pessimistic	51%	50%	52%	49%	54%	41%	53%	54%
Fearful	50%	44%	55%	46%	54%	45%	50%	53%
Angry	47%	44%	49%	40%	54%	45%	48%	45%
Optimistic	43%	44%	42%	40%	47%	48%	40%	44%
Contented	38%	41%	36%	41%	35%	46%	38%	35%
Confident	31%	33%	29%	34%	28%	37%	31%	28%
None of these	*	-	*	*	*	-	*	*

Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- You can't criticise the amount of immigration or how individual immigrants conduct themselves these days without being labelled a racist

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	77%	75%	79%	78%	76%	70%	77%	80%
NET: Disagree	22%	25%	19%	22%	22%	29%	22%	18%
NET: Difference	55%	50%	59%	56%	54%	41%	54%	63%

- It is not immigration I object to, but uncontrolled immigration

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	88%	86%	89%	88%	88%	83%	89%	89%
NET: Disagree	11%	12%	10%	11%	11%	15%	10%	10%
NET: Difference	77%	75%	80%	77%	77%	68%	79%	79%

- People who have made a contribution to this society are being ignored or pushed aside by new immigrants who just take what they can and offer nothing in return

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	61%	62%	61%	54%	71%	64%	61%	61%
NET: Disagree	35%	35%	35%	44%	25%	36%	34%	36%
NET: Difference	26%	27%	25%	10%	46%	28%	27%	25%

- In every generation some people make a fuss about immigration when the truth is that each new wave of immigrants has always ended up benefiting Britain

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	57%	56%	58%	63%	50%	59%	58%	54%
NET: Disagree	40%	41%	38%	35%	45%	39%	38%	42%
NET: Difference	17%	14%	20%	28%	4%	20%	20%	12%

Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- These days the British population is expected to fit in with new immigrants rather than the other way round

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	75%	76%	75%	74%	77%	69%	75%	79%
NET: Disagree	23%	22%	24%	26%	20%	28%	24%	19%
NET: Difference	52%	53%	51%	48%	57%	41%	51%	60%

- New immigrants to Britain make less of an effort to fit in than those who first arrived in this country a generation ago

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	67%	70%	65%	62%	74%	63%	68%	69%
NET: Disagree	28%	26%	29%	34%	20%	33%	27%	26%
NET: Difference	40%	43%	36%	27%	54%	30%	41%	43%

- Most immigrants to Britain end up fitting in here if they're given sufficient time to do so

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	74%	75%	73%	76%	71%	79%	73%	73%
NET: Disagree	22%	23%	21%	20%	24%	18%	23%	22%
NET: Difference	52%	52%	52%	57%	47%	61%	49%	51%

- Immigration has changed the character of the area I live in for the better

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	29%	31%	28%	33%	25%	37%	30%	24%
NET: Disagree	61%	62%	60%	58%	64%	57%	61%	63%
NET: Difference	-32%	-31%	-32%	-26%	-39%	-21%	-31%	-39%

Please say which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
On the whole, immigration into Britain is a good thing for the country	53%	56%	50%	62%	42%	62%	54%	47%
On the whole, immigration into Britain is a bad thing for the country	42%	40%	43%	33%	52%	33%	42%	46%

Please say which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
In general the different ethnic groups that make up this country get on well	33%	30%	36%	35%	30%	38%	34%	29%
There is an increasing amount of tension between the different groups living in Britain	62%	67%	58%	62%	64%	59%	61%	66%

Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about new immigrants:

- They have put my job at risk

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	19%	20%	18%	13%	27%	20%	17%	22%
NET: Disagree	71%	72%	70%	82%	58%	70%	75%	67%
NET: Difference	-52%	-52%	-51%	-70%	-31%	-49%	-58%	-45%

- They have made it harder to get a fair wage for the work I do

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	29%	31%	27%	20%	38%	31%	25%	32%
NET: Disagree	61%	61%	61%	74%	47%	60%	65%	57%
NET: Difference	-32%	-30%	-35%	-53%	-8%	-28%	-40%	-25%

- They have made it easier to find trades people or routine workers who do a reliable job at a reasonable price

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	59%	60%	58%	61%	57%	64%	58%	58%
NET: Disagree	33%	33%	33%	33%	34%	28%	35%	34%
NET: Difference	26%	27%	25%	28%	23%	36%	24%	24%

- They have put added pressure on public services like schools, hospitals and public housing at a time when they are overstretched as it is

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	82%	83%	81%	81%	83%	76%	83%	83%
NET: Disagree	16%	16%	17%	17%	15%	21%	15%	15%
NET: Difference	65%	66%	64%	64%	67%	55%	68%	68%

- They have added richness and variety to the culture of Britain and made the country more prosperous

	Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
NET: Agree	54%	56%	51%	62%	44%	57%	54%	52%
NET: Disagree	43%	41%	44%	36%	51%	40%	43%	44%
NET: Difference	11%	15%	7%	26%	-7%	17%	11%	8%

Recently the Archbishop of Canterbury caused controversy when he suggested that incorporating some aspects of Sharia (Islamic) Law into the British legal system was inevitable. Do you agree ...

		Total	Male	Female	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Suburban	Rural
That it is inevitable	Agree	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	21%	25%	22%
	Disagree	73%	74%	72%	73%	72%	78%	70%	73%
That is is a good idea whether it is inevitable or not	Agree	16%	14%	19%	18%	15%	17%	17%	16%
	Disagree	77%	82%	73%	77%	77%	78%	77%	78%