

YouGov / Social Mobility Commission Survey Results

Sample Size: 4860 UK Adults
Fieldwork: 11th - 18th March 2019

	Vote in 2017			EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region							
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
Weighted Sample	4860	1567	1473	272	1876	1983	2352	2508	539	2041	1157	1123	2770	2090	569	1584	1016	1152	413	126	
Unweighted Sample	4860	1557	1452	269	1989	2019	2153	2707	454	1893	1210	1303	2964	1896	356	1484	1264	1081	577	98	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you think of yourself as?

Working class	46	40	53	29	40	52	45	48	38	49	51	41	38	57	44	40	47	55	48	46
Middle class	37	46	35	54	46	34	37	38	44	34	35	43	48	23	39	44	36	31	32	36
Upper class	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
None of these	11	11	9	13	10	11	12	9	6	10	11	14	9	13	10	12	11	8	14	9
Don't know	5	2	3	4	4	3	6	4	10	6	3	2	4	6	6	4	5	5	5	7

How large or small do you think the gap is between different social classes in Britain today?

A very large gap	32	23	43	31	35	32	34	31	28	34	36	27	31	35	35	30	32	33	37	34
A fairly large gap	45	48	45	50	47	46	43	47	47	44	43	48	46	44	41	47	45	47	41	41
TOTAL LARGE GAP	77	71	88	81	82	78	77	78	75	78	79	75	77	79	76	77	77	80	78	75
A fairly small gap	12	19	7	14	11	14	13	11	13	10	12	17	14	10	13	14	12	10	11	15
A very small gap	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL SMALL GAP	13	21	7	15	12	15	14	12	14	11	13	18	15	11	13	15	13	11	12	16
Not sure	9	8	5	4	6	7	9	9	11	11	7	7	8	11	10	8	11	9	9	9

Which of the following best reflects your view?

In Britain today everyone has a fair chance to go as far as their talent and their hard work will take them	35	55	21	30	29	43	35	36	30	29	36	48	36	33	29	39	36	33	30	33
In Britain today where you end up in society is mainly determined by your background and who your parents were	44	30	60	49	52	38	45	43	47	47	46	34	45	42	47	41	42	46	46	46
Neither	14	12	14	18	15	13	13	14	12	14	14	13	14	14	15	13	13	14	18	14
Don't know	7	3	5	3	4	5	7	7	12	9	4	4	5	11	9	7	9	7	6	7

Generally speaking, do you think it is becoming easier or harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in British society?

Is becoming easier	22	33	14	23	21	24	21	22	32	17	19	26	25	17	22	25	19	20	18	22
Is becoming harder	39	25	52	34	43	35	39	39	31	44	40	31	37	41	35	34	41	44	44	39
Is staying much the same	29	35	26	34	29	32	31	28	21	26	32	35	30	29	29	31	30	27	29	22
Not sure	10	7	7	9	8	8	10	11	15	12	8	8	8	13	14	10	10	9	9	17

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about the opportunities that people from different backgrounds have in life, how do you think the opportunities open to people from poor backgrounds compare to those open to people from better off backgrounds in the following areas?

Being able to access good quality childcare?

People from POOR backgrounds have much less opportunity	39	29	49	48	47	34	41	37	36	40	43	35	39	39	44	36	38	40	44	41
People from POOR backgrounds have a little less opportunity	29	31	28	32	29	29	28	30	36	28	27	30	30	27	26	29	29	29	29	27
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM POOR BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	68	60	77	80	76	63	69	67	72	68	70	65	69	66	70	65	67	69	73	68
People have equal opportunities, regardless of background	17	26	11	11	13	22	15	18	13	14	16	22	17	16	13	18	17	17	13	15
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have a little less opportunity	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have much less opportunity	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	1	2
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM BETTER OFF BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	1	2	3
Don't know	13	11	10	9	10	13	14	13	13	16	12	11	12	16	14	14	13	12	11	14

Leaving school with a good set of educational qualifications?

People from POOR backgrounds have much less opportunity	26	15	39	26	32	22	28	24	24	28	30	20	27	25	30	23	26	27	30	30
People from POOR backgrounds have a little less opportunity	34	34	36	43	39	32	34	34	36	32	36	34	36	31	35	34	34	34	36	26
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM POOR BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	60	49	75	69	71	54	62	58	60	60	66	54	63	56	65	57	60	61	66	56
People have equal opportunities, regardless of background	31	45	20	27	25	38	29	33	28	29	28	39	31	31	27	35	30	29	28	33
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have a little less opportunity	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have much less opportunity	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM BETTER OFF BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	1	2
Don't know	8	5	4	3	4	7	8	7	9	10	5	6	5	11	7	7	9	8	6	8

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Going to university?

People from POOR backgrounds have much less opportunity	32	22	44	32	36	28	32	32	27	35	36	27	33	32	34	30	32	35	34	38
People from POOR backgrounds have a little less opportunity	33	34	35	47	39	32	34	33	33	32	35	34	36	30	34	34	31	33	39	30
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM POOR BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	65	56	79	79	75	60	66	65	60	67	71	61	69	62	68	64	63	68	73	68
People have equal opportunities, regardless of background	25	37	16	18	19	31	25	25	28	21	22	33	25	24	23	28	26	22	20	26
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have a little less opportunity	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	2
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have much less opportunity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM BETTER OFF BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	4	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	1	2
Don't know	8	5	4	3	4	7	8	7	9	10	5	5	5	11	7	7	9	8	6	5

Going to a top university?

People from POOR backgrounds have much less opportunity	53	42	66	60	61	48	56	51	46	55	59	47	54	52	56	49	51	56	62	58
People from POOR backgrounds have a little less opportunity	24	29	21	29	23	27	22	25	29	21	23	28	26	22	23	26	25	22	20	23
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM POOR BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	77	71	87	89	84	75	78	76	75	76	82	75	80	74	79	75	76	78	82	81
People have equal opportunities, regardless of background	13	20	8	8	10	16	12	13	12	12	11	16	13	12	12	15	12	12	10	10
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have a little less opportunity	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
People from BETTER OFF backgrounds have much less opportunity	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
TOTAL PEOPLE FROM BETTER OFF BACKGROUNDS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	2
Don't know	8	6	5	3	4	8	8	9	10	10	5	7	6	12	7	8	10	8	7	7

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

We'd like you to compare your experiences in life compared to your parents experiences when they were at the same stages in their lives.

Do you think you've been better or worse off than your parents were in terms of...

The education you received?

Much better off than my parents	29	30	34	36	35	29	27	32	32	24	31	36	34	24	30	29	27	30	30	43
A little better off than my parents	34	37	36	32	36	35	34	35	26	34	37	36	33	36	34	34	35	35	35	26
TOTAL BETTER OFF	63	67	70	68	71	64	61	67	58	58	68	72	67	60	64	63	62	65	65	69
Similar to my parents	26	26	22	25	23	28	27	24	25	27	25	23	26	25	26	27	25	25	24	26
A little worse off than my parents	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	2	3	5	3	4	5	3	4	2
Much worse off than my parents	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	0
TOTAL WORSE OFF	5	5	4	6	4	5	6	5	5	8	5	2	4	7	4	6	6	4	6	2
Not sure	5	2	3	2	3	3	6	4	12	7	2	2	3	8	5	4	7	5	5	3

Your overall standard of living?

Much better off than my parents	18	26	15	17	16	24	18	18	9	8	19	38	20	15	10	18	17	20	22	23
A little better off than my parents	27	30	28	26	28	29	28	26	23	22	32	32	28	25	22	26	27	29	27	33
TOTAL BETTER OFF	45	56	43	43	44	53	46	44	32	30	51	70	48	40	32	44	44	49	49	56
Similar to my parents	31	29	32	32	32	29	29	32	36	34	30	21	30	31	31	32	32	28	28	27
A little worse off than my parents	13	10	14	16	14	10	13	13	13	18	10	5	13	12	20	11	12	12	12	11
Much worse off than my parents	6	3	7	6	6	6	6	6	4	9	7	2	5	9	9	7	5	5	7	2
TOTAL WORSE OFF	19	13	21	22	20	16	19	19	17	27	17	7	18	21	29	18	17	17	19	13
Not sure	6	2	4	3	3	3	6	5	15	8	2	1	4	8	8	5	7	6	3	5

How much difference, if any, do you think there is in the opportunities available in different parts of Britain today?

Very large differences	30	23	40	37	37	28	33	27	23	30	35	28	32	28	33	24	29	34	37	36
Fairly large differences	46	54	42	48	45	49	42	50	38	43	48	53	48	44	45	50	44	44	42	47
TOTAL VERY / FAIRLY LARGE DIFFERENCES	76	77	82	85	82	77	75	77	61	73	83	81	80	72	78	74	73	78	79	83
Not very much difference	13	16	10	9	10	15	14	12	13	14	10	14	13	13	9	15	14	11	12	6
No difference at all	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
TOTAL NOT MUCH / NO DIFFERENCE	15	17	11	9	11	16	16	13	15	16	11	15	14	15	11	16	16	12	14	7
Don't know	10	6	7	5	7	7	9	11	24	12	6	4	7	13	9	10	11	10	7	11

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Which of the following do you think is best equipped to have an impact on social mobility and ensuring opportunity for all (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds)? Please tick up to three.

Schools	45	50	46	64	51	46	43	47	39	40	49	54	49	39	46	47	45	43	45	46
Employers	34	39	35	40	35	38	34	35	33	30	36	41	36	32	37	34	34	35	31	32
Central government	33	28	44	46	41	30	35	31	33	33	35	30	36	28	37	33	32	33	32	32
Universities and other post-16 providers	30	33	31	43	35	29	28	32	31	27	32	35	35	24	27	31	30	29	34	34
Local government	23	21	27	23	26	23	23	23	25	26	22	20	23	23	22	22	23	25	25	29
Nurseries	6	7	6	9	7	7	5	8	2	5	7	9	7	6	6	6	7	7	6	3
Charities and think-tanks	5	4	5	7	6	5	4	6	5	4	7	4	5	5	6	5	5	5	6	6
None of these	5	6	3	1	2	6	5	4	3	5	6	5	4	6	4	4	5	5	6	7
Don't know	23	19	20	12	18	21	22	24	28	26	19	19	18	29	23	24	23	23	21	15

And which, if any, of the following do you think SHOULD be doing more to impact on social mobility and ensuring opportunity for all (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds)? Please tick all that apply

Central government	50	43	64	66	61	46	53	48	49	49	54	49	54	46	53	49	50	51	53	45
Local government	38	34	45	38	43	35	37	39	39	41	35	35	38	37	37	35	38	40	41	40
Schools	37	41	39	52	42	38	35	39	33	34	40	42	40	33	38	39	35	36	37	26
Employers	34	33	38	43	38	33	33	35	33	31	37	37	35	33	38	32	34	34	38	31
Universities and other post-16 providers	29	28	35	39	36	27	27	31	31	26	30	33	32	26	29	30	27	30	32	23
Charities and think-tanks	7	6	8	9	9	6	6	8	9	7	8	6	8	7	8	7	7	6	9	15
Nurseries	7	6	9	13	9	7	6	9	7	7	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	10	9
None of these	5	9	2	2	3	8	6	4	4	4	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	6	6
Don't know	22	18	18	10	17	20	21	22	26	26	18	17	18	27	22	22	22	21	20	15

Thinking about the period after a young person leaves school, which of these routes do you think offers the best opportunity to progress in their life or career?

Taking an apprenticeship (i.e. training on the job)	32	39	27	26	24	41	31	33	18	29	33	43	27	38	27	33	33	34	27	21
Going into higher education (i.e. university)	26	22	34	33	36	19	27	26	35	27	27	21	31	20	30	25	25	25	31	35
Going into further education (i.e. technical education)	14	15	14	18	14	15	14	15	13	14	13	17	15	14	11	14	17	16	14	15
Going straight into employment	7	8	5	3	4	9	8	6	5	7	8	7	7	7	6	8	7	6	8	6
Something else	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	5	3	3	2	3	2	5	3	2	2	2	2
Don't know	18	13	17	17	19	13	18	18	23	21	17	10	17	19	21	18	16	17	18	22