

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Less than one in four teachers are in favour of ‘Gove levels’

Less than a quarter of teachers in England (22%) support the Government’s plans to scrap GCSEs in favour of the new English Baccalaureate (EBacc) qualification, and half (50%) oppose the change, according to a YouGov survey.

The results come from YouGov’s Teacher Track survey, which tracks the opinions of teachers from a representative sample of UK schools. It comes on the heels of a recent YouGov public opinion poll which found that a plurality (39%) of UK adults support the new exam system, and 32% are opposed to the EBacc.

Looking at specific measures included in the exams reform, however, YouGov’s Teacher Track found that teachers and the public are quite close in their views of the reforms.

With the current GCSE system, students’ marks are based on a final exam as well as on controlled assessment (coursework done during the year under exam conditions), but under the EBacc system marks will be based only on final exams.

Teacher Track revealed that 74% of teachers in England are against this change, and believe that marks should be based on a combination of a final exam and coursework, while only 23% are in favour of the reform. Meanwhile, the YouGov public opinion poll found that 64% of the public prefer the old system of combining final exams and coursework, and only 28% support the change to basing marks solely on a final exam.

There was strong support amongst both teachers (77%) and the public (82%) for the Government’s plans to abolish the practice of allowing schools to choose from multiple exam boards, in favour of a single exam board under the new system.

Commenting on the Teacher Track findings, YouGov Associate Director Ian Neale said:

“The results of this survey clearly show that at the moment Michael Gove has a steep hill to climb in terms of getting teachers onside with his vision of the exam system. While it would appear the public are basically on the fence about ‘Gove levels’, teachers are on the frontline of education in England, so their fairly decisive opposition to the reforms could be problematic for the Government in pushing through real change. There is some convincing to be done,” said Neale.

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Notes to Editors:

Total sample size was 832 teaching professionals in the UK. The sample size for teachers in England was 698 teachers. The sample covers both primary and secondary school teachers and job roles from Head Teacher down to classroom teacher. Fieldwork was undertaken from 21st-27th September, 2012. The survey was carried out online. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc.

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About YouGov

YouGov is an international, full service market research agency offering added value consultancy, qualitative research, field and tab services, syndicated products such as the daily brand perception tracker BrandIndex and social media analysis tool SoMA, fast turnaround omnibus and comprehensive SixthSense market intelligence reports. YouGov's sector specialist teams serve financial, media, technology and telecoms, FMCG and public sector markets.

YouGov is considered a pioneer of online market research and has a panel of 2.5 million people worldwide, including over 350,000 people in the UK representing all ages, socio-economic groups and other demographic types.

As the most quoted market research agency in the UK, YouGov has a well-documented and published track record illustrating the accuracy of its survey methods.

About Teacher Track

Teacher Track is a fast turnaround survey that enables you to access up-to-the-minute views from teachers on a range of topical issues. The survey runs on an omnibus, so you pay-per-question, which allows you to gain insight without having to commission a full survey or research project.

YouGov's experienced Public Sector team provide advice and guidance on question wording, and our statistical teams provide a comprehensive set of results for your use. Our teacher panel represents the whole teaching workforce: from experienced teachers to newly qualified classroom teachers, drawn from a sample of maintained, academy and independent primary and secondary schools in the UK.

For further information visit yougov.co.uk