

YouGov / The Sun Survey Results

Sample Size: 1503 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 14th - 15th February 2010

	Gender		Age			Social Grade		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample	1503	724	779	452	530	522	824	679	192	485	325	370	131
Unweighted Sample	1503	703	800	454	474	575	984	519	259	480	275	346	142
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

How much do you think the votes of you and people like you make a difference to your lives?

Our votes make a big difference	23	23	24	19	27	23	24	22	24	25	24	20	22
Our votes make some difference	35	35	36	37	36	34	37	33	38	35	39	33	29
TOTAL SOME/ BIG DIFFERENCE	58	58	59	55	63	57	61	55	62	59	63	54	51
Our votes make a little difference	26	27	24	25	25	26	25	26	21	27	22	29	28
Our votes make no difference	12	12	13	11	9	16	11	14	9	13	10	14	18
TOTAL LITTLE/ NO DIFFERENCE	38	39	37	37	34	42	36	40	30	39	32	42	46
Don't know	4	3	4	8	3	1	3	5	8	2	5	4	4

Many MPs have had to repay money that they claimed in expenses. What is your view of the expenses issue?

It is a major scandal that shames parliament	83	80	85	75	83	89	82	83	81	84	82	83	80
It is a minor matter that has been exaggerated by the media	14	16	12	17	15	10	15	13	13	15	13	14	17
Don't know	3	3	3	8	2	1	2	4	5	2	5	3	3

Many MPs have said that they claimed what they genuinely thought they were entitled to receive under the old rules, and that they did not set out deliberately to use the expenses system to enrich themselves

If you had to guess, how many MPs sitting in Parliament today would you say deliberately set out to exploit the rules in order to enrich themselves?

Hardly any	3	4	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	2	2	6
A minority	28	29	28	31	27	27	30	27	31	30	33	22	26
Around half	25	23	27	21	28	26	24	27	23	24	28	25	26
Most of them	40	41	39	38	40	42	40	40	37	40	33	48	40
Don't know	4	3	4	6	3	2	3	4	5	3	5	3	2

New rules have been put in place on what MPs can claim; and in future all details of each MP's expenses will be made public. Do you think...

Most MPs now 'get it' and know they will have to behave better in future	48	46	50	47	53	44	49	47	46	46	56	44	49
Most MPs don't 'get it' and will continue to try to get away with whatever they can	47	48	45	44	43	52	47	47	44	49	40	51	45
Don't know	6	6	5	9	4	4	5	7	10	5	4	5	5

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Does the expenses scandal...

Makes me more likely to vote at the coming election, to express my anger at the way some politicians have behaved	14	16	13	13	13	16	13	15	17	16	12	13	13
Makes me more likely NOT to vote, because politicians are much the same, and I don't trust any of them any longer	12	11	13	14	11	12	11	13	10	11	14	14	12
Make no difference, I will vote anyway	64	64	64	54	69	68	68	59	59	68	64	61	65
Make no difference, I will NOT vote anyway	5	5	5	10	3	3	4	7	6	3	5	8	6
Don't know	5	4	5	9	4	2	4	5	9	3	5	4	5

Which makes you more angry - MPs who cheat on their expenses or footballers who cheat on their wives?

MPs who cheat on their expenses	83	84	82	76	82	90	84	81	81	82	83	83	85
Footballers who cheat on their wives	9	8	10	12	10	5	8	10	9	10	10	8	5
Don't know	9	9	8	13	8	5	8	9	9	8	7	9	10

More generally, do you think most MPs are...

Harding working or lazy?

Hard-working	48	49	47	41	50	52	52	42	46	51	52	40	50
Lazy	31	31	31	34	30	28	27	35	28	30	29	36	29
Don't know	22	20	23	25	20	20	21	22	26	19	20	24	21

Honest or dishonest?

Honest	34	36	32	26	36	38	37	30	36	34	34	30	38
Dishonest	48	48	48	57	43	44	43	54	44	48	46	53	42
Don't know	18	16	21	17	21	18	20	16	20	18	20	17	20

In touch with the day-to-day lives of their constituents or out of touch?

In touch with the day-to-day-lives of their constituents	19	18	19	17	18	21	21	16	21	19	20	17	17
Out of touch	70	73	68	69	72	69	67	73	64	69	68	75	71
Don't know	12	10	13	14	11	11	12	11	15	12	13	8	12

Concerned with the issues that their constituents really care about, or concerned with issues that matter more to them than their constituents?

Concerned with the issues that their constituents really care about	19	18	20	22	16	19	19	19	19	18	23	16	18
Concerned with issues that matter more to them than their constituents	68	70	65	62	71	69	70	65	61	70	62	71	71
Don't know	14	12	15	15	14	12	11	16	20	12	14	12	11

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Principled or unprincipled?

Principled	32	33	31	36	32	29	32	32	32	36	33	27	29
Unprincipled	47	49	44	39	45	55	46	48	41	45	49	50	48
Don't know	22	18	25	25	23	17	22	21	27	19	18	24	23

Competent or incompetent?

Competent	34	35	34	33	37	32	37	30	31	36	39	28	37
Incompetent	46	47	44	47	41	49	43	49	42	46	40	51	47
Don't know	20	18	22	21	22	19	20	21	27	18	21	21	16

Devoted to serving the public interest, or more interested in their own personal interests?

Devoted to serving the public interest	19	19	20	21	18	20	20	18	20	20	21	16	21
More interested in their own personal interests	66	68	65	63	66	70	66	67	61	67	64	72	63
Don't know	14	14	15	17	16	11	14	15	19	13	15	13	16

Do you feel your own MP listens, or does not listen, to the concerns of people like you?

Yes, my own MP does listen to the concerns of people like me	36	37	35	28	35	44	37	36	33	37	37	35	37
No, my MP does not	30	34	27	29	31	31	30	31	23	30	29	35	32
Don't know	34	30	37	43	34	25	34	34	44	33	34	30	31

Thinking about Britain's political system overall, which of these views comes closest to your own?

It works extremely well	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
It works reasonably well	33	36	31	28	36	35	36	31	37	31	36	30	37
TOTAL WORKS WELL	36	39	33	30	39	38	38	34	39	34	38	33	40
It sometimes appears broken	42	41	43	45	43	38	42	41	39	44	43	42	35
It is badly broken	18	16	20	16	15	23	17	19	14	19	16	20	21
TOTAL BROKEN	60	57	62	61	58	60	59	60	53	62	59	62	56
Don't know	4	4	5	8	4	2	3	7	8	4	3	5	4

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If Labour wins the coming election, do you think Britain's political system will become...

Much better	4	3	4	3	2	5	3	5	2	3	5	5	2
Slightly better	15	16	14	16	15	14	15	15	13	12	17	17	21
TOTAL BETTER	19	19	18	19	18	20	18	20	15	14	22	22	23
Neither better nor worse	38	36	40	42	42	31	38	39	38	37	39	38	40
Slightly worse	11	12	10	13	9	11	12	10	12	12	10	10	10
Much worse	26	27	24	15	26	35	28	23	27	32	22	22	19
TOTAL WORSE	37	39	34	28	35	46	40	33	39	44	32	32	29
Don't know	7	6	8	10	6	4	5	9	8	5	7	8	7

If the Conservatives win the coming election, do you think Britain's political system will become...

Much better	4	5	3	2	5	4	5	3	6	6	4	1	1
Slightly better	23	22	23	21	21	26	27	17	23	28	22	16	20
TOTAL BETTER	26	27	26	23	26	30	32	20	29	34	26	17	21
Neither better nor worse	30	32	29	32	33	27	31	30	33	30	27	31	34
Slightly worse	17	17	17	14	17	21	17	18	12	16	16	21	21
Much worse	17	17	17	16	17	17	14	21	16	12	22	21	16
TOTAL WORSE	34	34	34	30	34	38	31	39	28	27	38	43	37
Don't know	9	7	11	16	7	5	7	12	10	9	9	10	9