

YouGov/ Daily Telegraph Survey Results

Sample Size: 2245

Fieldwork: 22nd - 24th January 2007

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People often criticise and make rude remarks about politicians as a whole – not just individual politicians, but almost all of them. How about you? In the case of each of the following statements, please indicate whether you think it is, on balance, fair or unfair.

'Most politicians are too concerned to score points off their political opponents'

Yes, it is fair	70
No, it isn't	18
Don't know	12

'Politicians constantly make promises they know they can't keep'

Yes, it is fair	73
No, it isn't	20
Don't know	7

'Most politicians are in it for what they can get out of it'

Yes, it is fair	53
No, it isn't	33
Don't know	15

'If you vote a party into power, you never quite know what you're going to get'

Yes, it is fair	71
No, it isn't	20
Don't know	9

'Politicians of different parties are too reluctant to bury their differences and to cooperate in the national interest'

Yes, it is fair	70
No, it isn't	18
Don't know	12

'Most politicians nowadays are only politicians: they know little or nothing about the real world'

Yes, it is fair	57
No, it isn't	30
Don't know	13

SUMMARY - Criticisms of Politicians

None	8
Only 1	5
2	8
3	13
4	17
5	22
All 6	26

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Thinking not of politicians as people but about the competition among the various parties, please indicate which of these statements you agree with and which of them you disagree with.

'None of the main political parties accurately represents my own views'

I agree	65
I disagree	21
Don't know	14

'I don't really know any longer what the main political parties stand for'

I agree	65
I disagree	26
Don't know	9

'Whichever party is in power, the quality of life in Britain seems to deteriorate'

I agree	57
I disagree	32
Don't know	11

'There aren't really important differences between the parties: they're all much of a muchness'

I agree	58
I disagree	32
Don't know	10

SUMMARY - Criticisms of Parties

None	14
Only 1	13
2	18
3	24
All 4	31

If a political leader comes on television or radio, what is your immediate inclination?

To stay and watch or listen	37
To switch off	54
Don't know	9

Generally speaking, how interested would you say you are in politics and elections?

I am very interested	19
I am fairly interested	45
I am not much interested	24
I am not at all interested	11
Don't know	2

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If you had a son or daughter, would you like to see him or her go into politics as a life's work?

Yes, I would	20
No, I wouldn't	62
Don't know	17

Do you think British politicians are out merely for themselves, for their party, or to do their best for their country?

Out merely for themselves	49
Out for their party	28
Do their best for their country	12
Don't know	11