

# YouGov Survey for the Hansard Society: Results

Sample Size: 1980

Fieldwork: 17th - 19th October 2006

Internal	Total	Gender		Age			Social Grade		Region					Party identification			Know "very" or "fairly" well how H of Lords works
		Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands & Wales	North	Scotland	Lab	Con	Lib Dem	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>1980</b>	948	1032	427	727	827	1064	916	415	401	474	513	177	671	491	201	749
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>1980</b>	992	988	357	687	936	1181	799	366	472	450	520	172	740	580	223	833
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

As you probably know, Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. How well do you feel you know how they work?

## House of Commons

Very well	9	13	6	8	8	11	12	6	11	9	7	8	17	11	12	8	20
Fairly well	47	55	40	35	44	56	50	44	49	45	45	50	46	52	52	51	75
<b>Total: very + fairly well</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>95</b>
Not very well	23	19	26	21	25	22	21	24	22	30	20	22	18	21	24	21	5
Not at all well	15	11	18	24	16	8	12	17	12	11	20	15	13	14	10	16	0
<b>Total: not very + not at all well</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5</b>
Don't know	6	2	10	12	6	3	5	8	6	5	8	6	6	3	3	4	0

## House of Lords

Very well	5	7	2	4	4	5	6	3	6	6	4	3	5	4	8	5	12
Fairly well	33	39	28	23	28	43	37	28	37	30	31	32	40	32	41	38	88
<b>Total: very + fairly well</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100</b>
Not very well	34	34	34	31	36	33	33	35	33	39	30	36	30	38	33	30	0
Not at all well	22	18	25	29	25	15	18	25	18	20	27	23	17	23	14	22	0
<b>Total: not very + not at all well</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>
Don't know	7	2	11	13	7	4	5	8	6	5	9	6	9	3	4	5	0

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Leaving aside the issue of how members of the House of Lords are chosen, how important do you think it is in principle to have a second chamber, in addition to the House of Commons?

It is vital to have a second Chamber	<b>30</b>	39	22	19	24	41	38	21	36	33	28	24	32	19	45	37	53
It is on balance a good idea	<b>37</b>	35	38	32	40	36	37	36	34	40	37	39	31	44	36	32	35
It is on balance not a good idea	<b>4</b>	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	6	3	4	3
It is completely unnecessary	<b>9</b>	9	8	8	8	10	7	11	8	6	7	10	15	13	5	9	5
Don't know	<b>20</b>	13	28	37	23	10	15	27	18	19	23	23	18	19	12	18	3

At present, members of the House of Lords are either appointed, or have inherited their title. All parties at Westminster agree that the membership of the House of Lords should be reformed. Which of these options would you prefer for the House of Lords in future?

All members of the House of Lords should be appointed	<b>6</b>	6	5	7	5	6	6	6	6	4	5	7	9	6	6	6	6
All members of the House of Lords should be elected	<b>42</b>	44	41	40	43	43	41	43	38	39	47	42	45	49	33	45	43
The House of Lords should comprise a mixture of elected and appointed members	<b>40</b>	41	38	32	38	46	46	33	44	45	36	38	35	36	52	42	49
Don't know	<b>12</b>	8	16	21	14	6	8	17	12	12	11	13	11	10	9	7	3

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

**Which of these do you think should be the TWO most important functions of the House of Lords?  
[Please tick up to TWO]**

Hold the government to account for its policies and expenditure	<b>65</b>	67	64	56	62	73	70	59	68	68	63	62	70	55	78	73	75
Revise legislation (laws)	<b>44</b>	51	36	45	44	42	46	40	49	43	44	39	44	41	47	52	52
Hold debates on key issues and areas of public concern	<b>37</b>	35	39	31	37	41	37	37	35	38	37	39	35	42	37	29	34
Undertake expert inquiries	<b>22</b>	22	21	21	21	22	23	20	22	21	21	22	20	27	18	20	25
Ceremonial role	<b>3</b>	3	3	2	3	4	1	5	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	2	4
Dont know	<b>11</b>	7	14	19	13	4	7	15	9	9	11	12	11	10	5	9	1

**Thinking about the powers of the House of Lords, which ONE of these options would you most favour...**

**If a reformed House of Lords had a mixture of elected and unelected members**

Block Laws Proposed by the Commons	<b>21</b>	24	18	14	20	26	27	14	23	26	18	19	19	11	36	24	32
Delay Laws Proposed by the Commons for a Fixed Period	<b>26</b>	30	22	25	24	28	28	23	31	24	23	25	28	26	28	30	33
Only be able to advise on or discuss Laws Proposed by the Commons	<b>29</b>	28	29	25	28	31	27	31	26	29	29	30	31	39	18	25	27
Don't know	<b>24</b>	17	31	36	28	15	18	31	20	21	30	26	22	24	17	20	9

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

**If a reformed House of Lords consisted entirely of elected members**

Block Laws Proposed by the Commons	<b>33</b>	40	27	26	35	35	40	26	34	39	32	30	31	24	46	34	43
Delay Laws Proposed by the Commons for a Fixed Period	<b>25</b>	25	25	24	23	27	27	22	32	22	21	24	29	28	22	33	30
Only be able to advise on or discuss Laws Proposed by the Commons	<b>18</b>	18	19	14	15	24	16	21	14	17	20	22	19	25	15	12	18
Don't know	<b>23</b>	16	30	36	27	13	16	31	19	22	28	24	21	23	17	20	8

**Which TWO of these qualities do you think it most important for future members of the House of Lords to have? [Please tick up to TWO]**

More independent of party politics than the House of Commons	<b>57</b>	63	52	45	53	67	64	49	61	61	57	53	54	50	69	59	70
Bringing expertise and experience (e.g. from science, business, law etc)	<b>54</b>	55	53	47	50	62	60	47	59	57	54	50	50	49	71	55	67
Representing the different regions and nations of the UK	<b>26</b>	28	23	27	28	23	23	28	22	25	24	28	35	31	22	25	25
Diverse and reflecting UK society (e.g. gender, ethnicity, age etc)	<b>24</b>	22	25	24	24	23	23	24	24	22	24	24	24	28	15	27	21
Representing a single constituency	<b>5</b>	7	4	3	7	5	5	6	6	5	5	6	5	7	5	4	6
Dont know	<b>12</b>	7	17	21	15	5	8	17	10	11	13	14	13	11	5	11	1