

YouGov / Sunday Times Survey Results

Sample Size: 1942

Fieldwork: 13th - 14th September 2007

For detailed results [click here](#)

		Total %
Headline Voting Intention [exlcuding Don't Knows and Would Not Votes]	<i>August</i>	
Lab	42	39
Con	32	34
Lib Dem	14	15
Other	12	12
 Other Parties Voting Intention		
SNP / PCY		4
Geen		2
UKIP		3
BNP		2
Respect		0
Other		1
 Do you think Gordon Brown is doing well or badly as Prime Minister?	<i>August</i>	
Well	65	62
Badly	17	23
Don't know	19	15
 Since Gordon Brown has taken over as Prime Minister has he done better or worse than you expected?	<i>August</i>	
Better	36	30
Worse	5	7
About the same	50	56
Don't know	9	7

		Total %
Do you think David Cameron is doing well or badly as leader of the Conservative Party?	<i>August</i>	
Well	29	35
Badly	55	50
Don't know	17	15
Do you think Sir Menzies Campbell is doing well or badly as leader of the Liberal Democrats?	<i>August</i>	
Well	24	24
Badly	43	45
Don't know	32	31
Which of the three main party leaders impresses you most?		
Gordon Brown		39
David Cameron		17
Sir Menzies Campbell		4
None of them impress me at all		40
The Liberal Democrats will hold their party conference next week. Which best sums up your view of them?		
They are a useful third force in British politics		41
They are an irrelevance		36
Neither		13
Don't know		10
Do you think the Liberal Democrats would do better or worse if they replaced Sir Menzies Campbell with a younger leader?		
Better with a younger leader		45
Worse with a younger leader		5
It would not make much difference either way		38
Don't know		13

Total
%

Turning now to the disappearance of Madeleine McCann in Portugal, both her parents have now been named as suspects by the Portuguese police. Leaving aside for a moment the question of the McCanns' guilt or innocence, some people have criticised her parents for leaving her unsupervised when she disappeared.

Do you agree or disagree with such criticisms?	August	
Agree - they were wrong to leave her alone	71	76
Disagree - most parents have done this at times, they were just very unlucky	23	19
Not sure	6	5

Did the high-profile campaign run by the McCanns over the past four months make you at all suspicious of their motives?

Yes, it did make me suspicious	40
No, it did not	50
Don't know	10

Do you think they should have returned to the UK earlier, for the sake of their other children, rather than remain in Portugal, or were they right to have continued their campaign there?

Should have returned to the UK earlier	45
Were right to have stayed	34
Don't know	21

Do you think, from what you have heard or read, that either of Madeleine's parents could have been responsible for her death, even in a tragic accident?

Yes, they could have been	48
No, I am certain they are completely innocent	20
Not sure	32

	Total
	%
If it turns out that either or both of the parents were responsible, how would that affect you?	
I would not be greatly surprised or affected	47
I would be very surprised; it would undermine my faith in humanity	36
Neither	11
Don't know	6

Do you think their other children should be taken into care, pending the outcome of the investigation?	
Yes, they should be taken into care	16
No, they should remain with their parents	68
Don't know	16

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The Portuguese police have targeted the McCanns to cover up the shortcomings in their investigation'.

Agree	33
Disagree	28
Neither	16
Don't know	23

Turning now to issues back in Britain...

How would you describe the outlook for you and your family's finances over the next year?

Healthy	26
Under some pressure	50
Under a lot of pressure	21
Don't know	4

Total
%

The Bank of England has raised interest rates five times since last year and the turmoil in financial markets may put further upward pressure on mortgage rates. Would further increases in interest rates cause you problems?

Yes, they would cause me serious problems	16
Yes, but not enough to make a significant difference	31
No, they would not cause me any problems	28
No, I would benefit from higher interest rates	18
Don't know	7

Do you think you will be spending more or less on non-essential items over the next 12 months than over the past 12 months?

More	12
Less	46
About the same	40
Don't know	3

Do you think house prices in your area will rise or fall over the next 12 months?

	<i>July</i>	
Rise by more than 10%	22	15
Rise by less than 10%	40	37
Stay about the same	22	28
Fall, by less than 10%	5	7
Fall, by more than 10%	1	2
Don't know	9	12

Gordon Brown said last week he would toughen the language tests for workers from outside the EU coming to Britain. Some say immigrants take the jobs of British workers, others argue that they perform a vital role by doing the jobs British workers can't or won't do. On balance, which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Immigrants harm the economy by taking the jobs of British workers	42
Immigrants help the economy by doing jobs that not enough British workers can or will do	47
Don't know	11

Total
%

A report last week from Sir Derek Wanless, who advised the government five years ago to increase NHS spending sharply, said that despite the extra money and some improvements in the NHS, it was still not on course to become a world class health system. In your experience, has the NHS got better or worse in recent years?

Much better	6
Slightly better	21
Stayed about the same	25
Slightly worse	22
Much worse	19
Don't know	7

Do you think taxpayers have or have not got value for money for the extra taxes that have gone into the NHS?

Have got good value	18
Have NOT got good value	68
Don't know	15

**Who do you blame most for this?
[to those saying 'Have NOT got good value']**

The Government	57
The medical profession	6
Both equally	35
Don't know	3

Many people say there should be a referendum on the new EU reform treaty, including trade unions, the Conservative party and some Labour MPs. Others, including the government, says there is no need for a referendum. What is your view?

There should be a referendum	60
There is no need for a referendum	16
Don't know	24

Total
%

Labour promised a referendum on the proposed EU constitution, which the reform treaty replaces. From what you know, do you think the new treaty is like the constitution in all but name, or are the two significantly different from each other?

The treaty is like the constitution in all but name	40
They are significantly different	12
Not sure	49

If the government fails to hold a referendum, do you think it is breaking its promise?

Yes it is	61
No, it is not	12
Don't know	27

If there were to be a referendum on the new EU treaty, how do you think you would vote?

For the EU treaty	17
Against it	41
Would not vote	8
Don't know	34

A Conservative Party policy group has made a number of proposals designed to help the environment.

Please say to what extent you agree or disagree with the following proposals:

Putting VAT on domestic flights in Britain and short-haul flights to Europe

Agree strongly	12
Tend to agree	27
Tend to disagree	26
Disagree strongly	28
Don't know	6

	Total %
Raising taxes on high emission 'gas guzzling' cars and lowering taxes on low polluting vehicles	
Agree strongly	45
Tend to agree	35
Tend to disagree	8
Disagree strongly	9
Don't know	3
Putting a stop to most of the planned expansion of Britain's airport capacity	
Agree strongly	16
Tend to agree	29
Tend to disagree	31
Disagree strongly	14
Don't know	9
Lowering stamp duty and council tax on energy- efficient homes	
Agree strongly	38
Tend to agree	45
Tend to disagree	9
Disagree strongly	4
Don't know	5
Allowing local authorities to impose parking levies on out-of-town shopping centres	
Agree strongly	8
Tend to agree	14
Tend to disagree	27
Disagree strongly	43
Don't know	10
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Politicians use 'green' taxes as an excuse for raising taxes overall'	
Strongly agree	38
Tend to agree	45
Tend to disagree	8
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know	9

Total
%

And finally...

The Conservatives say they will increase 'green' taxes but reduce other taxes, so that there will be no increase in the overall tax burden. Do you agree or disagree that the Conservatives will be able to raise 'green' taxes without affecting the overall tax burden?

Agree	13
Disagree	61
Neither	8
Don't know	18