

**Great Britain**  
**ISSP 2004 – Citizenship**  
**Questionnaire**

**ISSP 2004 BRITISH DATA:  
THE QUESTIONNAIRE.**

1. There are different opinions as to what it takes to be a good citizen.  
As far as you are concerned personally, on a scale of 1 to 7,  
where 1 is not at all important and 7 is very important, how important is it...?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

Not at all  
Important

Very  
Important

Can't  
choose

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

a. ...always to vote in elections

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2035-6

b. ...never to try to evade taxes

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2037-8

c. ...always to obey laws and regulations

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2039-40

d. ...to keep watch on the actions of  
government

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2041-2

e. ...to be active in social or political  
associations

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2043-4

f. ...to try to understand the reasoning  
of people with other opinions

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2045-6

g. ...to choose products for political,  
ethical or environmental reasons,  
even if they cost a bit more

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2047-8

h. ...to help people in Britain who are  
worse off than yourself

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2049-50

i. ...to help people in the rest of the world  
who are worse off than yourself

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2051-2

j. ...to be willing to serve in the military  
at a time of need

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

2053-4

(01)

(02)

(03)

(04)

(05)

(06)

(07)

(08)

2. There are a number of groups in society.  
Should religious extremists be allowed to hold public meetings?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(X)

Should definitely be allowed

☐

(1)

2055

Should probably be allowed

☐

(2)

Should probably not be allowed

☐

(3)

Should definitely not be allowed

☐

(4)

Can't choose

☐

(8)

3. Should people who want to overthrow the government by  
force be allowed to hold public meetings?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(X)

Should definitely be allowed

☐

(1)

2056

Should probably be allowed

☐

(2)

Should probably not be allowed

☐

(3)

Should definitely not be allowed

☐

(4)

Can't choose

☐

(8)

4. Should people prejudiced against any racial or ethnic group be allowed to hold public meetings?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

- (2)
- Should definitely be allowed ☐ (1)
- Should probably be allowed ☐ (2)
- Should probably not be allowed ☐ (3)
- Should definitely not be allowed ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2057

5. Here are some different forms of political and social action that people can take. Please indicate, for each one, whether: you have done any of these things in the past year; you have done it in the more distant past; you have not done it but might do it; or have not done it and would never, under any circumstances, do it.

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

- |  | Have done<br>it in the<br>past year | Have done<br>it in the more<br>distant past | Have not<br>done it but<br>might do it | Have not<br>done it and<br>would never<br>do it | Can't<br>choose          |      |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------|------|
| a. Signed a petition   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2058 |
| b. Boycotted, or deliberately bought, certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2059 |
| c. Took part in a demonstration  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2060 |
| d. Attended a political meeting or rally   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2061 |
| e. Contacted, or attempted to contact, a politician or a civil servant to express your views           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2062 |
| f. Donated money or raised funds for a social or political activity                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2063 |
| g. Contacted or appeared in the media to express your views  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2064 |
| h. Joined an Internet political forum or discussion group  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2065 |
|  | (1)                                 | (2)   | (3)                                    | (4)   | (8)                      |      |

SPARE  
2066-80

6. People sometimes belong to different kinds of groups or associations.  
For each type of group, please indicate whether you: belong and actively participate; belong but don't actively participate; used to belong but do not any more; or have never belonged to it.

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

	Belong, actively participate	Belong, don't participate	Used to belong	Never belonged	Can't choose	
a. A political party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2109
b. A trade union, business, or professional association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2110
c. A church or other religious organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2111
d. A sports, leisure or cultural group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2112
e. Another voluntary association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2113
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(8)	

7. There are different opinions about people's rights in a democracy.  
On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is not at all important and 7 is very important,  
how important is it:

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

	Not at all Important					Very Important		Can't choose	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
a. ...that all citizens have an adequate standard of living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2114-5
b. ...that government authorities respect and protect the rights of minorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2116-7
c. ...that government authorities treat everybody equally regardless of their position in society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2118-9
d. ...that politicians take into account the views of citizens before making decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2120-21
e. ...that people be given more opportunities to participate in public decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2122-3
f. ...that citizens may engage in acts of civil disobedience when they oppose government actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2124-5
	(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)	

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I don't think the government cares much what people like me think	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I think most people in Britain are better informed about politics and government than I am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(8)

2126

2127

2128

2129

9. Suppose a law were being considered by parliament that you considered to be unjust or harmful.

- a. If such a case arose, how likely is it that you, acting alone or together with others, would be able to try to do something about it?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

	(8)
Very likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
Fairly likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Not very likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (3)
Not at all likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> (8)

2130

- b. If you made such an effort, how likely is it that parliament would give serious attention to your demands?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

	(8)
Very likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
Fairly likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Not very likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (3)
Not at all likely	<input type="checkbox"/> (4)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> (8)

2131

10. How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

- Very interested ☐ (1)
- Fairly interested ☐ (2)
- Not very interested ☐ (3)
- Not at all interested ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2132

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

- |   | Agree<br>strongly        | Agree                    | Neither<br>agree nor<br>disagree | Disagree                 | Disagree<br>strongly     | Can't<br>choose          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Most of the time we can trust people in government to do what is right           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Most politicians are in politics only for what they can get out of it personally | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | (1)                      | (2)                      | (3)                              | (4)                      | (5)                      | (8)                      |

2133

2134

12. How often do you think that people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, and how often would they try to be fair?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

- (8)
- Try to take advantage almost all of the time ☐ (1)
- Try to take advantage most of the time ☐ (2)
- Try to be fair most of the time ☐ (3)
- Try to be fair almost all of the time ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2135

13. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

- (8)
- People can almost always be trusted ☐ (1)
- People can usually be trusted ☐ (2)
- You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people ☐ (3)
- You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2136

14. When you get together with your friends, relatives or fellow workers how often do you discuss politics?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

()

- Often ☐ (1)
- Sometimes ☐ (2)
- Rarely ☐ (3)
- Never ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2137

15. When you hold a strong opinion about politics, how often do you try to persuade your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

()

- Often ☐ (1)
- Sometimes ☐ (2)
- Rarely ☐ (3)
- Never ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2138

16. Now we would like to ask your opinion about international issues.  
Thinking about the United Nations, which comes closest to your view?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

()

- The United Nations has too much power ☐ (1)
- The United Nations has about the right amount of power ☐ (2)
- The United Nations has too little power ☐ (3)
- I don't know what the United Nations is ☐ (4)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2139

17. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

()

- In international organisations, decisions should be left to national government representatives ☐ (1)
- In international organisations, citizens' organisations should be involved directly in the decision-making process ☐ (2)
- Can't choose ☐ (8)

2140

18. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

If a country seriously violates human rights,  
the United Nations should intervene ☐ (1)

Even if human rights are seriously violated, the country's sovereignty  
must be respected, and the United Nations should not intervene ☐ (2)

I don't know what the United Nations is ☐ (3)

Can't choose ☐ (8)

2141

19. Thinking now about politics in Britain, to what extent do you agree  
or disagree with the following statements?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX  
ON EACH LINE

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
a. Political parties encourage people to become active in politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Political parties do not give voters real policy choices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Referendums are a good way to decide important political questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(8)

2142

2143

2144

20. Thinking of the last national election in Britain, how honest  
was it regarding the counting and reporting of the votes?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

Very honest ☐ (1)

Somewhat honest ☐ (2)

Neither honest or dishonest ☐ (3)

Somewhat dishonest ☐ (4)

Very dishonest ☐ (5)

Can't choose ☐ (8)

2145

21. Thinking of the last national election in Britain, how fair was it  
regarding the opportunities of the candidates and parties to campaign?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

Very fair ☐ (1)

Somewhat fair ☐ (2)

Neither fair or unfair ☐ (3)

Somewhat unfair ☐ (4)

Very unfair ☐ (5)

☐

2146

22. Thinking of the civil service in Britain, how committed is it to serving the people?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

Very committed	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
Fairly committed	<input type="checkbox"/>	(2)
Not very committed	<input type="checkbox"/>	(3)
Not at all committed	<input type="checkbox"/>	(4)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	(8)

2147

23. When the civil service makes serious mistakes in Britain how likely is it they will be corrected?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

Very likely	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
Somewhat likely	<input type="checkbox"/>	(2)
Not very likely	<input type="checkbox"/>	(3)
Not at all likely	<input type="checkbox"/>	(4)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	(8)

2148

24. How widespread do you think corruption is in the civil service in Britain?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

(2)

Hardly anyone is involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
A small number of people are involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	(2)
A moderate number of people are involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	(3)
A lot of people are involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	(4)
Almost everyone is involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	(5)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	(8)

2149

25. On the whole, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is very poorly and 10 is very well...

a. ...how well does democracy work in Britain today?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

Very poorly										Very well	Can't choose
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(00)	(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)	(09)	(10)	(98)

2150-1

b. And what about 10 years ago? How well did democracy work in Britain then?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

Very poorly										Very well	Can't choose
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(00)	(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)	(09)	(10)	(98)

2152-3

c. And how about 10 years from now? How well do you think democracy will work in Britain then?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

Very poorly										Very well	Can't choose
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(00)	(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)	(09)	(10)	(98)

2154-5

26. Here are some views regarding Britain's political system.  
Which of these statements is closer to your view?

PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY

Under no circumstances should democratic rights be restricted by government	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1)
When the government thinks it is necessary it should restrict democratic rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	(2)
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	(8)

(2)

2156

SPARE  
2157-80