

# Attitudes to inequalities during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Questionnaire

### General perceptions of/attitudes to inequality and its causes

[Q1 mostserious]

ASK ALL

**Q1. Which three or four of the following types of inequality, if any, do you think are most serious in Britain?**

MULTICODE UP TO 4 – ORDER RANDOMISED, 8-9 PINNED TO BOTTOM

1. Inequalities in income and wealth
2. Inequalities in educational outcomes for children
3. Inequalities in health and life expectancies
4. Inequalities between men and women
5. Inequalities between older generations and younger generations
6. Inequalities between racial or ethnic groups
7. Inequalities between more and less deprived areas in the UK
8. None of these
9. Don't know

[Q2 incomegap]

ASK ALL

**Q2. Thinking of income levels generally in Britain today, would you say that the gap between those with high incomes and those with low incomes is:**

SINGLE CODE

1. Too large
2. About right
3. Too small
4. Don't know

[Q3 concern]

ASK ALL

**Q3. If the gap between the incomes of the following groups increases, would you consider this:**

ORDER RANDOMISED

Rich people/poor people

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

SINGLE CODE

1. A very big problem
2. A fairly big problem
3. Not really a problem
4. Not a problem at all
5. Don't know

[Q4a\_incperception\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE GROUP 1

**Q4. If an individual person earns an annual income of £160,000 (before taxes), which of these descriptions would apply to them?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. They would be in the top 0.01% of earners in Britain
2. They would be in the top 0.1% of earners in Britain
3. They would be in the top 1% of earners in Britain
4. They would be in the top 10% of earners in Britain
5. They would be in the top 20% of earners in Britain
6. Don't know

[Q4b\_incperception\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE GROUP 2

**Q4. What annual income (before taxes) would an individual person need to earn in order to be in the top 1% of earners in Britain?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. £2,000,000 per year
2. £650,000 per year
3. £160,000 per year
4. £51,000 per year
5. £40,000 per year
6. Don't know

[Q5a\_wealthperception\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE GROUP 1

**Q5. In the following question, we ask about total household wealth in Britain. By this, we mean the total value of everything a household owns, including their bank accounts, savings, property, stocks and shares etc., minus any debt that they owe (for example loans and mortgages). What percentage of Britain's total household wealth do you think the wealthiest 1% own?**

**SINGLE CODE**

Enter value - 0-100%  
Don't know

[Q5b\_wealthperception\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE GROUP 2

**Q5. In the following question, we ask about total household wealth in Britain. By this, we mean the total value of everything a household owns, including their bank accounts, savings, property, stocks and shares etc., minus any debt that they owe (for example loans and mortgages). What percentage of Britain's total household wealth do you think the wealthiest 10% own?**

**SINGLE CODE**

Enter value - 0-100%  
Don't know

[Q6 healthineq]

ASK ALL

**Q6. Some people think that those in Britain with more money are better able than those in Britain with less money to live healthy lives. Others disagree. How about you? Would you say that people with more money are:**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. A lot better able to live healthy lives
2. A little better able to live healthy lives
3. It makes no difference
4. A little less able to live healthy lives
5. A lot less able to live healthy lives
6. Don't know

[Q7 educationineq]

ASK ALL

**Q7. To what extent do you think this statement applies in Britain? Overall, everyone in Britain has a fair chance of achieving the level of education they seek.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. 0 = Does not apply at all
2. 1
3. 2
4. 3
5. 4
6. 5
7. 6
8. 7
9. 8
10. 9
11. 10 = Applies completely
12. Don't know

[Q8 healthcauses]

ASK ALL

**Q8. In Britain, people's health and life expectancy varies a lot. Please say how important you think each of the following explanations is in determining how healthy people are.**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

- How much money people earn
- Whether they have good luck or bad luck
- Genetics and family history of illness
- How people were brought up as children
- Access to good quality health and medical care
- Access to good quality social care
- The lifestyle choices people make
- The strength of people's social networks
- The quality of the houses people live in
- The nature of the work that people do
- How much education people have

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Very important

2. Fairly important
3. Not very important
4. Not important at all
5. Don't know

[Q9\_legap]

ASK ALL

**Q9. If the gap between the life expectancy of the following groups increases, would you consider this:**

ORDER RANDOMISED

Rich people/poor people

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

SINGLE CODE

1. A very big problem
2. A fairly big problem
3. Not really a problem
4. Not a problem at all
5. Don't know

[Q10\_benefitslevel]

ASK ALL

**Q10. Opinions differ about the level of benefits for unemployed people. Which of these two statements comes closest to your own view?**

ORDER RANDOMISED 1-2, SINGLE CODE

1. Benefits for unemployed people are too low and cause hardship
2. Benefits for unemployed people are too high and discourage them from finding jobs
3. Neither of these
4. Don't know

[Q11\_benefits]

ASK ALL

**Q11. Here are some opinions people have expressed about unemployment benefits. For each of the following statements, please say to what extent you agree or disagree with it.**

ORDER RANDOMISED

Unemployment benefits discourage people from finding jobs

Unemployment benefits help people who are facing difficult times through no fault of their own

Unemployment benefits encourage reliance on the state

Unemployment benefits help to prevent child poverty and hunger

SINGLE CODE

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know

[Q12a redistribution split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 1

**Q12. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q12b redistribution split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 2

**Q12. Please say to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q13 richpoorlaw]

ASK ALL

**Q13. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There is one law for the rich and one for the poor.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q14 gethead]

ASK ALL

**Q14. Please tick one box for each of these to show how important you think it is for getting ahead in life...**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

- Coming from a wealthy family
- Having well-educated parents
- Having a good education yourself
- Having ambition
- Hard work
- Knowing the right people
- Having political connections
- Giving bribes
- A person's race

A person's religion  
Being born a man or a woman

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Essential
2. Very important
3. Fairly important
4. Not very important
5. Not important at all
6. Don't know

**[Q15\_fairsociety]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q15. There are many different views as to what makes a society fair or unfair. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

A society is fair when income and wealth are equally distributed among all people

A society is fair when hardworking people earn more than others

A society is fair when it takes care of those who are poor and in need regardless of what they give back to society

A society is fair when people from families with high social status enjoy privileges in their lives

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

**[Q16\_rewardeffort]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q16. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

**[Q17\_livingstandard]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q17. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: For a society to be fair, differences in people's standard of living should be small.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree

3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q18a\_healthcareaccess\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 1

**Q18. Is it right or wrong that people with higher incomes can buy better health care than people with lower incomes?**

SINGLE CODE

1. Definitely right
2. Somewhat right
3. Neither right nor wrong, mixed feelings
4. Somewhat wrong
5. Very wrong
6. Don't know

[Q18b\_healthcareaccess\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 2

**Q18. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: It is not fair that people with higher incomes can buy better health care than people with lower incomes.**

SINGLE CODE

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know

[Q19a\_medtreatment\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 1

**Q19. Please say which answer comes closest to your view on the following statement: It is not fair that some people can get medical treatment before others, just because they can afford to pay for it.**

SINGLE CODE

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know

[Q19b\_medtreatment\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 2

**Q19. Is it right or wrong that some people can get medical treatment before others, just because they can afford to pay for it?**

SINGLE CODE

1. Definitely right

2. Somewhat right
3. Neither right nor wrong, mixed feelings
4. Somewhat wrong
5. Very wrong
6. Don't know

[Q20a\_buyingeducation\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 1

**Q20. Is it right or wrong that people with higher incomes can buy better education for their children than people with lower incomes?**

SINGLE CODE

1. Definitely right
2. Somewhat right
3. Neither right nor wrong, mixed feelings
4. Somewhat wrong
5. Very wrong
6. Don't know

[Q20b\_buyingeducation\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 2

**Q20. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: It is not fair that some people can get better education for their children, just because they can afford to pay for it.**

SINGLE CODE

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know

## Inequalities post-COVID

The following questions are about the impact on inequality of the outbreak of respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus (or COVID-19), which we'll refer to as coronavirus.

[Q21\_equality\_precovid]

ASK ALL

**Q21. How equal or unequal do you think Britain was before the coronavirus outbreak?**

SINGLE CODE

1. Very equal
2. Somewhat equal
3. Neither equal nor unequal
4. Somewhat unequal
5. Very unequal
6. Don't know



[Q22\_equality\_postcovid]

ASK ALL

**Q22. How equal or unequal do you think Britain will be after we have recovered from the coronavirus outbreak?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Very equal
2. Somewhat equal
3. Neither equal nor unequal
4. Somewhat unequal
5. Very unequal
6. Don't know

[Q23\_inequalityrise]

ASK ALL

**Q23. Do you think the coronavirus crisis will increase or decrease the level of inequality in Britain compared with before the pandemic, or will it make no difference?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Increase
2. Decrease
3. Make no difference
4. Don't know

[Q24\_covinequalityrise]

ASK IF CODED AT 1 OR 2 IN Q23

**Q24. Which of these types of inequality, if any, do you think will [increase/decrease] as a result of the coronavirus crisis? Please tick all that apply.**

**MULTICODE – ORDER RANDOMISED**

- Inequalities in income and wealth
- Inequalities in educational outcomes for children
- Inequalities in health and life expectancies
- Inequalities between men and women
- Inequalities between older generations and younger generations
- Inequalities between racial or ethnic groups
- Inequalities between more and less deprived areas in Britain
- None of these
- Don't know

[Q25\_covhealthimpact]

ASK ALL

**Q25. Thinking specifically about the immediate physical health impacts of coronavirus (in terms of catching the disease and experiencing a serious form of the disease), which of GROUP A OR GROUP B do you believe has been more negatively affected?**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

- Old people/young people
- Children/adults
- People in low paying jobs/people in high paying jobs
- People with large amounts of wealth/people without much wealth
- People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Group A more negatively affected
2. Group B more negatively affected
3. Same impact on both
4. It has not had a negative impact on either
5. Don't know

[Q26\_covmentalhealth]

ASK ALL

**Q26. Thinking specifically about the mental health impacts of the coronavirus crisis, which of GROUP A OR GROUP B do you believe has been more negatively affected?**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

Old people/young people

Children/adults

People in low paying jobs/people in high paying jobs

People with large amounts of wealth/people without much wealth

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Group A more negatively affected
2. Group B more negatively affected
3. Same impact on both
4. It has not had a negative impact on either
5. Don't know

[Q27\_coveconomic]

ASK ALL

**Q27. Thinking about the economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis so far (e.g. loss of income or wealth, job losses), which of GROUP A OR GROUP B do you believe has been more negatively affected?**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

Old people/young people

People in low paying jobs/people in high paying jobs

People with large amounts of wealth/people without much wealth

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Group A more negatively affected
2. Group B more negatively affected
3. Same impact on both
4. It has not had a negative impact on either
5. Don't know

[Q28a\_covidredistrib\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 1

**Q28. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statement: The coronavirus crisis means there is more need for the government to redistribute income from the better off to those who are less well-off.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q28b\_covidtakemeasures\_split]

SPLIT SAMPLE, GROUP 2

**Q28. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statement: The coronavirus crisis means there is more need for the government to take measures to reduce differences in income levels.**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Disagree strongly
6. Don't know

[Q29\_covincomegap]

ASK ALL

**Q29. If the gap between the incomes of the following groups increases as a result of the coronavirus crisis, would you consider this:**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

Rich people/poor people

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

**SINGLE CODE**

1. A very big problem
2. A fairly big problem
3. Not really a problem
4. Not a problem at all
5. Don't know

[Q30\_covidlegap]

ASK ALL

**Q30. If the gap between the life expectancy of the following groups increases as a result of the coronavirus crisis, would you consider this:**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

Rich people/poor people

People from ethnic minorities/white people

Men/women

People living in deprived areas/people living in less deprived areas

**SINGLE CODE**

1. A very big problem
2. A fairly big problem
3. Not really a problem
4. Not a problem at all
5. Don't know

**[Q31\_joblossluck]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q31. Some people have already lost their jobs as a result of the coronavirus crisis, and others are likely to in the coming months. How important do you think luck is in determining whether people lose their jobs at this time?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Very important
2. Fairly important
3. Fairly unimportant
4. Very unimportant
5. Don't know

**[Q32\_joblossperf]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q32. And how important do you think how well people are performing at their jobs is in determining whether people lose their jobs at this time?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Very important
2. Fairly important
3. Fairly unimportant
4. Very unimportant
5. Don't know

**[Q33\_furlough]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q33. Many people who have been unable to work due to the coronavirus crisis have had most of their wages paid by government under the Job Retention Scheme, or 'furlough' scheme. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?**

**SINGLE CODE – ORDER RANDOMISED OF 1-2**

1. The government's furlough scheme is essential to protect people's livelihoods.
2. The government should not be interfering in the labour market through the furlough scheme - the economy should be left to adjust by itself.
3. Neither of these
4. Don't know

**[Q34\_furloughbattery]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q34. Here are some statements of opinion about the furlough scheme. For each statement, please say to what extent you agree or disagree with it.**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

The furlough scheme discourages people from looking for new and more secure jobs  
The furlough scheme helps people who are facing difficult times through no fault of their own

The furlough scheme encourages reliance on the state

The furlough scheme helps to prevent child poverty and hunger

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know

[Q35\_goveconomicrole]

ASK ALL

**Q35. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?**

**SINGLE CODE – RANDOMISE ORDER OF 1-2**

1. Government support for people and businesses during the coronavirus crisis strengthens the case for government playing a more active role in the economy in the future.
2. Government support for people and businesses during the coronavirus crisis should be a one-off.
3. Neither of these
4. Don't know

[Q36\_earningsgapcause]

ASK ALL

**Q36. On average Black people in Britain have lower earnings and are more likely to be unemployed than White people. Do you think these differences are:**

**RANDOMISE ORDER**

Because of discrimination?

Because most Black people have less in-born ability to learn?

Because most Black people don't have the chance for education that it takes to rise out of poverty?

Because most Black people don't have the motivation or will power to pull themselves up out of poverty?

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

[Q37\_infectiongapcause]

ASK ALL

**Q37. Emerging evidence indicates that rates of infection and death from coronavirus are higher for members of Black and Asian ethnic groups than for white ethnic groups. Which of the following reasons, if any, do you think are important in**

**explaining why this might be the case? Please tick all that apply. People from Black and Asian ethnic groups are...**

**MULTICODE – ORDER RANDOMISED**

- More likely to work in jobs requiring social contact
- Less able to raise concerns about health and safety in the workplace
- Less able to practice social distancing at home or in the community
- More likely to have pre-existing health conditions that increase the risk of severe infection
- More likely to live in poor socio-economic circumstances that lead to poorer health outcomes
- More likely to experience racism and discrimination in the health and care system that affects the medical care they receive
- Less able to access appropriate information on how to reduce the risk of contracting the coronavirus
- None of these
- Don't know

**[Q38\_mortalitygapcause]**

**ASK ALL**

**Q38. Data indicates that death rates from coronavirus are significantly higher among people living in the most deprived areas than those living in the least deprived areas. Which of the following reasons, if any, do you think are important in explaining why this might be the case? Please tick all that apply. People in more deprived areas are...**

**MULTICODE – ORDER RANDOMISED**

- More likely to work in jobs requiring social contact
- Less able to practice social distancing at home or in the community
- Less able to access appropriate information on how to reduce the risk of contracting the coronavirus
- More likely to have pre-existing health conditions that increase the risk of severe infection
- Less able to access medical care or receive worse quality care
- Less concerned about the virus and its impact
- Less well informed about the virus and its impact
- None of these
- Don't know

## Analysis variables

[D1\_covid]

ASK ALL

**D1. Do you have, or have you had, the coronavirus?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Yes, confirmed by a test
2. Yes, I'm sure I have, but not confirmed by a test
3. I'm not sure, but I think so
4. I'm not sure, but I don't think so
5. No
6. Don't know
7. Prefer not to say

[D2\_furlough]

ASK ALL EMPLOYEES

**D2. Are you currently 'furloughed' from your job as a result of the coronavirus, or have you been furloughed at some point during the crisis, or not?**

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Yes, currently furloughed
2. Yes, have been furloughed during crisis
3. No
4. Don't know

[D3\_MFTa]

ASK ALL

**MFTa. When you decide whether something is right or wrong, to what extent are the following considerations relevant to your thinking? Please rate each statement using this scale:**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

- Whether or not someone suffered emotionally
- Whether or not some people were treated differently than others
- Whether or not someone's action showed love for his or her country
- Whether or not someone showed a lack of respect for authority
- Whether or not someone violated standards of purity and decency
- Whether or not someone was good at math
- Whether or not someone cared for someone weak or vulnerable
- Whether or not someone acted unfairly
- Whether or not someone did something to betray his or her group
- Whether or not someone conformed to the traditions of society
- Whether or not someone did something disgusting
- Whether or not someone was cruel
- Whether or not someone was denied his or her rights
- Whether or not someone showed a lack of loyalty
- Whether or not an action caused chaos or disorder
- Whether or not someone acted in a way that God would approve of

1. Not at all relevant
2. Not very relevant
3. Slightly relevant
4. Somewhat relevant
5. Very relevant
6. Extremely relevant

[D3\_MFTB]

ASK ALL

**MFTb. Please read the following sentences and indicate your agreement or disagreement:**

**ORDER RANDOMISED**

Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue.

When the government makes laws, the number one principle should be ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.

I am proud of my country's history.

Respect for authority is something all children need to learn.

People should not do things that are disgusting, even if no one is harmed.

It is better to do good than to do bad.

One of the worst things a person could do is hurt a defenceless animal.

Justice is the most important requirement for a society.

People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong.

Men and women each have different roles to play in society.

I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural.

It can never be right to kill a human being.

I think it's morally wrong that rich children inherit a lot of money while poor children inherit nothing.

It is more important to be a team player than to express oneself.

If I were a soldier and disagreed with my commanding officer's orders, I would obey anyway because that is my duty.

Chastity is an important and valuable virtue.

**SINGLE CODE**

1. Strongly disagree
2. Moderately disagree
3. Slightly disagree
4. Slightly agree
5. Moderately agree
6. Strongly agree