

Guardian Opinion Poll

Fieldwork : December 12th-14th 2003

Absolutes/col percents

Table 8

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the government's plans to introduce top-up fees for university students?**Base: All respondents**

	Total	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
		Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
NET: Approve	272 27%	154 31%	118 23%	31 29%	49 26%	122 25%	69 34%	61 26%	61 22%	64 31%	86 31%	57 28%	89 37%	25 19%	14 28%	89 27%	77 25%	105 30%
Approve strongly	(4) 12%	74 15%	48 9%	16 14%	19 10%	48 10%	39 19%	27 11%	27 10%	24 12%	45 16%	32 16%	43 18%	8 6%	6 11%	40 12%	37 12%	45 13%
Approve somewhat	(3) 15%	80 16%	70 14%	16 15%	31 16%	74 15%	29 14%	35 14%	34 12%	40 19%	41 15%	25 12%	45 19%	17 13%	9 17%	49 15%	40 13%	60 17%
Disapprove somewhat	(2) 19%	89 18%	104 20%	16 15%	44 23%	93 19%	41 20%	44 18%	59 21%	36 17%	54 20%	45 22%	48 20%	22 16%	7 13%	60 18%	54 17%	80 23%
Disapprove strongly	(1) 40%	185 38%	216 42%	49 44%	64 33%	218 44%	70 34%	109 46%	120 43%	79 38%	93 34%	85 42%	67 28%	82 60%	21 41%	139 41%	138 44%	124 35%
NET: Disapprove	594 59%	275 56%	320 63%	65 59%	108 56%	310 63%	111 55%	153 64%	179 64%	115 55%	147 53%	129 64%	115 48%	104 76%	27 54%	199 59%	192 61%	204 58%
Don't know	135 13%	61 13%	73 14%	13 12%	35 18%	64 13%	24 12%	25 11%	38 14%	28 14%	43 16%	15 7%	34 14%	8 6%	9 17%	48 14%	45 14%	42 12%
Mean	1.99	2.10	1.89	1.98	2.03	1.89	2.21	1.90	1.86	2.05	2.16	2.03	2.32	1.63	1.98	1.97	1.91	2.08
Standard deviation	1.10	1.14	1.04	1.15	1.04	1.05	1.18	1.08	1.03	1.10	1.15	1.14	1.14	0.94	1.13	1.10	1.10	1.08
Standard error	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.18	0.06	0.07	0.06

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Table 8

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the government's plans to introduce top-up fees for university students?

Base: All respondents

	Total	Q.2 What do you understand top-up fees to be?	
		£3,000 a year that students pay back once they have a job which earns more than £15,000 a year	A £3,000 annual fee that students have to pay when they start their university course/or have to pay back through taxes for the rest of their working lives/or Don't know
Unweighted base	1001	751	250
Weighted base	1001	752	249
NET: Approve	272 27%	224 30%	48 19%
Approve strongly	(4) 122 12%	103 14%	19 8%
Approve somewhat	(3) 150 15%	121 16%	29 12%
Disapprove somewhat	(2) 194 19%	166 22%	28 11%
Disapprove strongly	(1) 401 40%	276 37%	124 50%
NET: Disapprove	594 59%	442 59%	152 61%
Don't know	135 13%	86 11%	49 20%
Mean	1.99	2.08	1.72
Standard deviation	1.10	1.10	1.03
Standard error	0.04	0.04	0.07

Prepared for The Guardian by ICM Research Limited



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Table 9

Q.2 What do you understand top-up fees to be?**Base: All respondents**

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
A £3,000 annual fee that students have to pay when they start their university course	84 8%	45 9%	40 8%	7 6%	15 8%	49 10%	14 7%	18 8%	18 6%	20 10%	28 10%	11 5%	19 8%	16 12%	2 4%	32 9%	27 9%	26 7%
£3,000 a year which students have to pay back through their taxes for the rest of their working lives	76 8%	38 8%	38 7%	10 9%	11 6%	32 6%	22 11%	13 5%	20 7%	17 8%	25 9%	14 7%	22 9%	10 7%	3 7%	24 7%	28 9%	23 7%
£3,000 a year that students pay back once they have a job which earns more than £15,000 a year	752 75%	373 76%	379 74%	82 75%	152 79%	376 76%	142 70%	196 82%	215 78%	151 73%	190 69%	166 83%	177 74%	101 74%	43 85%	247 73%	231 73%	275 78%
Don't know	89 9%	34 7%	55 11%	10 10%	14 7%	40 8%	25 12%	13 5%	24 9%	19 9%	33 12%	10 5%	19 8%	10 8%	2 5%	34 10%	29 9%	26 8%

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Table 10

Q.3 If tuition fees were to be introduced which of these two alternatives would you prefer?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
A £3,000 annual fee that students have to pay when they start their university course	89 9%	38 8%	51 10%	9 9%	20 10%	33 7%	27 13%	23 9%	15 5%	21 10%	30 11%	14 7%	22 9%	10 7%	8 16%	33 10%	27 9%	29 8%
£3,000 a year that students pay back once they have a job which earns more than £15,000 a year	833 83%	418 85%	416 81%	97 88%	160 84%	416 84%	160 79%	193 80%	242 87%	178 86%	221 80%	166 83%	208 87%	115 84%	39 76%	284 84%	258 82%	292 83%
Neither of these	42 4%	19 4%	23 4%	1 1%	7 3%	27 6%	7 3%	19 8%	13 5%	3 1%	8 3%	17 8%	5 2%	8 6%	2 3%	10 3%	15 5%	17 5%
Don't know	37 4%	15 3%	22 4%	2 2%	5 3%	20 4%	10 5%	6 3%	8 3%	6 3%	17 6%	4 2%	3 1%	5 4%	2 4%	10 3%	15 5%	13 4%

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Table 11

Q.3a If tuition fees are introduced do you think that individual Universities should?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
Be given limited freedom to set their own fees or	214 21%	113 23%	101 20%	16 14%	38 20%	110 22%	50 25%	68 28%	48 17%	42 20%	56 20%	58 29%	37 16%	29 21%	10 19%	64 19%	68 22%	82 23%
Should they all set the same flat rate fee	732 73%	353 72%	379 74%	92 84%	148 77%	361 73%	131 64%	163 68%	213 77%	159 77%	197 71%	133 66%	193 81%	103 75%	40 79%	255 76%	232 74%	245 70%
Don't know	55 6%	24 5%	31 6%	2 2%	5 3%	25 5%	23 11%	9 4%	16 6%	6 3%	23 8%	10 5%	7 3%	5 4%	1 2%	17 5%	15 5%	23 7%

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Table 12

Q.4 Some say the top universities should offer places to children from poorer backgrounds even if they have worse A level grades than applicants from richer backgrounds. Do you agree or disagree with this plan?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
Agree	508 51%	233 48%	275 54%	62 57%	99 52%	243 49%	103 50%	100 42%	116 42%	127 61%	165 60%	82 41%	132 55%	56 41%	29 57%	179 53%	162 51%	166 48%
Disagree	457 46%	242 49%	215 42%	46 42%	88 46%	236 48%	87 43%	135 56%	147 53%	74 36%	101 37%	115 57%	101 42%	78 57%	20 41%	145 43%	144 46%	168 48%
Don't know	36 4%	15 3%	21 4%	1 1%	5 2%	17 3%	14 7%	5 2%	15 5%	5 3%	10 4%	4 2%	5 2%	3 2%	1 2%	12 4%	9 3%	15 4%

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Table 13

Q.5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the job Tony Blair is doing as prime minister?**Base: All respondents**

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
Satisfied	387 39%	187 38%	200 39%	50 45%	84 44%	180 36%	73 36%	91 38%	106 38%	75 36%	115 42%	33 16%	171 72%	41 30%	14 28%	137 41%	117 37%	134 38%
Dissatisfied	521 52%	258 53%	263 51%	53 48%	86 45%	270 54%	113 55%	131 55%	143 52%	112 54%	135 49%	162 81%	51 22%	90 66%	36 71%	169 50%	168 54%	183 52%
Don't know/ refused	92 9%	44 9%	48 9%	7 7%	21 11%	46 9%	18 9%	18 8%	29 10%	20 9%	26 9%	6 3%	16 7%	6 4%	1 2%	30 9%	29 9%	33 9%

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Table 14

Q.6 Do you think it is likely or unlikely that Tony Blair will be Prime Minister in a years time?

Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
Likely	479 48%	274 56%	205 40%	43 40%	95 50%	258 52%	82 40%	128 53%	144 52%	97 47%	109 40%	73 36%	165 69%	69 50%	29 57%	163 49%	143 45%	173 49%
Unlikely	458 46%	192 39%	265 52%	62 56%	83 43%	209 42%	104 51%	99 41%	106 38%	101 49%	152 55%	126 63%	65 27%	66 48%	19 38%	156 46%	148 47%	154 44%
Don't know	64 6%	23 5%	41 8%	5 4%	13 7%	29 6%	18 9%	14 6%	27 10%	9 4%	15 5%	2 1%	8 3%	2 2%	3 6%	17 5%	24 8%	23 7%

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Table 15

Q.7 Ken Livingstone, the current Mayor of London was expelled from the Labour Party in 2000. Do you think Labour should now allow him back into the party or should he not be allowed back into the Labour Party?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1001	464	537	91	162	547	201	278	235	210	278	196	233	144	45	341	306	354
Weighted base	1001	490	511	110	192	496	203	240	277	207	276	201	238	137	51	336	315	350
Allow Ken back in	359	195	164	40	50	193	76	95	112	56	97	71	101	68	14	106	105	148
	36%	40%	32%	37%	26%	39%	37%	39%	40%	27%	35%	35%	42%	49%	28%	32%	33%	42%
Not allow Ken back in	435	213	221	41	90	205	98	89	108	107	129	103	106	48	29	160	137	137
	43%	43%	43%	37%	47%	41%	48%	37%	39%	52%	47%	51%	44%	35%	57%	48%	44%	39%
Don't know	207	82	125	28	51	99	29	56	57	44	50	28	31	21	8	70	72	65
	21%	17%	24%	26%	27%	20%	14%	23%	21%	21%	18%	14%	13%	15%	16%	21%	23%	19%