Survey on Class

Contributed by Ipsos MORI
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Ipsos MORI and Ben Schott of 'Schott's Almanac' have teamed up to explore the British public's attitudes towards Class.

Topline Results
- Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,054 adults in Great Britain aged 16+
- Interviews were conducted by telephone between 7-9 March 2008
- Data are weighted to match the profile of the population
- Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" categories, or multiple answers. Throughout the volume, an asterisk (*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent
- Unless otherwise stated, results are based on all respondents (1,054) Download the data tabulations pdf, 1.1MB Â

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Q1 Most people say they belong either to the middle class or to the working class. Which of these best describes you, middle class or working class?Â May 1981August 1991March 2008Â %%%Working Class636152Middle Class*283044Don't know993Refused--1

*In 1991 and 1981, asked as 'middle / upper class'Q2 And which social class would you say your parents belonged to when you started primary school?Â %Working Class67Middle Class30Don't know3Refused*Q3 Some people alter the way they behave in certain situations to make it appear as if they are in a different class. Have you ever done this?Â %Yes â€" a higher class4Yes â€" a lower class2Yes â€" the class depends on the circumstances11No, I have not pretended to be in a different class84Don't know*Q4 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree that there is a class system in Britain?Â %Agree88Disagree10Don't know2Q5-Q6 And do you feel that the class system has become more or less rigid â€¦â€¦ since the 2nd World War? â€¦ during the last 10 years? Â Since the 2nd World WarDuring the last 10 yearsÂ %%More rigid2831Less rigid5843Same719Don't know86Q7-Q9 Which political party, if any, do you feel best represents the rights of the â€¦â€¦ working classes? â€¦ middle classes? â€¦ upper classes? Â Working classesMiddle classesUpper classesÂ %%%Labour Party39197Conservative Party104665Liberal Democrats872Other521None2176Don't know171919Q10 How often, if at all, do you feel uncomfortable when dealing with people of a different class to you?Â %All of the time2Some of the time12Rarely24Never62Don't know1Q11 How often, if at all, do you think that other people can tell what class you are by the way you speak?Â %All of the time27Some of the time39Rarely13Never12Don't know8Q12 Have you ever been in a romantic relationship with someone of a different class to yourself?Â %Yes â€" frequently7Yes â€" seldom (at least once)27No â€" never63Don't know3Q13 Did you find the difference in class to be â€¦Base: All who have ever been a relationship with someone of a different class (363)Â %A very big problem5A fairly big problem12Not much of a problem40Not at all a problem42Don't know1Q14-Q28 Here is a list of things that some people do. For each, would you tell me whether you think it would most likely be done by a working class person, a middle class person, or an upper class person?Â Working class personMiddle class personUpper class personCould be any classDon't knowÂ %%%%%Watch Coronation Street4511*404Have an allotment1991728n/an/an/a200852222205Holiday in Spain19913620n/an/an/a200837164412Eat peas with a knife356132521Recycle9382483Watch a nature programme1991836n/an/an/a20086344533Be a vegetarian3396493Go to a museum4468392Eat in front of the television4891402Take the bus629*263Go to university34012441Watch the news regularly8334531Own designer clothes72530352Go to football matches42121422Buy organic food25219252Go to the opera12361132Play rugby93914372Play cricket34119352Q32-Q39 Here is a list of supermarkets. For each, would you tell me who is most likely to shop there, a working class person, a middle class person, or an upper class person?Â Working class personMiddle class personUpper class personCould be any classDon't knowÂ %%%%%Waitrose539301511Sainsbury's85310272Tesco31301362Morrisons / Safeway40261294ASDA50181284Iceland6312*187Somerfield45221218LIDL7071148Q40-Q46 Do you agree or disagree that â€¦Â AgreeNeither agree nor disagreeDisagreeDon't knowÂ %%%%There will never be a 'classless society' in Britain199179Â 14Â 2008682272This country has too many barriers based on social class199176Â 18Â 2008555373You are much more likely to get to the top in this country if you've been to a private school199169Â 27Â 20086343214If you want to get ahead it is important to talk with the right accent199159Â 32Â 2008447472In this country the best people get to the top whatever start they've had in life199149Â 44Â 2008494442It is easy for people to move up from one social class to another199137Â 55Â 2008359533I would be happier if I belonged to a different class19919Â 80Â 200844902Q47 There has

been debate over which is the polite word to use â€” lavatory or toilet. Which do you think is the more polite usage?Â %Lavatory36Toilet46Neither4Both3It depends1Doesn't matter8Don't know3Q48 And which word do you use most often?Â %Lavatory5Toilet79Neither12Both1It depends2Don't know1Q49 How often, if at all, do you ever listen to BBC Radio 4?Â %All of the time10Some of the time20Rarely19Never51Q50 Some people have criticised Radio 4 for being too middle class. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Radio 4 is too middle class?Base: All who ever listen to Radio 4 (529)Â %Strongly agree4Tend to agree20Neither agree nor disagree11Tend to disagree33Strongly disagree20Don't know11