

The Breadline Britain 1983 questionnaire

The questionnaire for the *Breadline Britain* survey was entitled 'Living in Britain'. The survey was conducted by Market Opinion Research International (MORI) and developed by Joanna Mack, Stewart Lansley and Brian Gosschalk.

Figures in *italic* indicate percentage responses to questions.

* = less than 0.5 per cent.

SHOWCARD A

Q.1 Here is a list of problems which some people have told us they face. Which, if any, of these are major problems facing you or your immediate family?

Mugging/vandalism	<i>21</i>
Your own health	<i>14</i>
The health of someone else in your family	<i>19</i>
Not having enough money to make ends meet	<i>29</i>
Poor local schools	<i>6</i>
Poor public transport	<i>10</i>
Unemployment	<i>22</i>
Fear of unemployment	<i>16</i>
Employment prospects for your children	<i>24</i>
None of these	<i>17</i>
Don't know/no opinion	<i>6</i>

SHOWCARD B

Q.2 The things people can buy and do - their housing, furniture, food, cars, recreation and travel - make up their standard of living. How satisfied or dissatisfied do you feel about your standard of living at present?

Very satisfied	<i>17</i>
Fairly satisfied	<i>58</i>
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	<i>8</i>
Fairly dissatisfied	<i>10</i>
Very dissatisfied	<i>7</i>
Don't know/no opinion	*

Q.3 Overall, do you think your present standard of living is higher, lower or about the same as five years ago?

Q.4 And do you think it will be higher, lower or about the same, in five years time?

	(Q3)	(Q4)
Higher	26	29
About the same	34	34
Lower	39	28
Don't know	1	9

SHOWCARD C

Q.5a Here is a list of things the Government spends money on. If the Government had to reduce its spending, which *three* of these do you think it should cut its spending on?

Q.5b And if the Government intended to increase its spending, which *three* of these do you think it should increase its spending on?

	(5a) <i>Cut</i>	(5b) <i>Increase</i>
Local housing	12	29
Social Security benefits	23	19
National Health Service	2	59
Roads	17	20
Police	10	22
Education / schools	3	55
Grants to local authorities	25	9
Defence	45	10
Job training for the unemployed	13	38
Child benefits	20	16
Grants for regional development	39	6
None/no opinion	19	3

Q.6 I am going to read out a number of statements about Britain today. Please could you tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
a) Differences in pay between the highly-paid and the lowly-paid are too great	76	20	4
b) The Government should increase taxation on the rich	63	32	5
c) There's no incentive for low paid workers to earn extra money because any gain disappears though deductions in benefit and extra taxes	79	17	4

- d) The gap between the rich and the poor in Britain today is too wide 74 21 5
- e) Britain's welfare system removes the incentive for people to help themselves 57 35 8
- f) the government should introduce a minimum wage for all workers 66 28 5

ASK ALL WHO AGREE WITH LAST STATEMENT: (OTHERS GO TO Q8)

Q.7 How much do you think the minimum wage before tax should be for full-time adult workers, excluding school leavers?

Less than £40 per week	Less than £160 per month 0
£41 - £ 50 per week	£160-200 per month 1
£51 - £ 60 per week	£201-240 per month 4
£61 - £ 70 per week	£241-280 per month 4
£71 - £ 80 per week	£281-320 per month 13
£81 - £ 90 per week	£321-360 per month 13
£91 - £100 per week	£361-400 per month 23
Over £100 per week	Over £400 per month 32
Don't know	Don't know 10

SHOWCARD D

Q.8 Here is a list of problems which some people say they have experienced in and around their homes. Which, if any, have been serious problems for you with your present home in the past year? (PROBE FOR ANY OTHER HOUSING-TYPE PROBLEMS AND WRITE IN)

01	Broken windows	7
02	Damp/ condensation	24
03	Mice/rats	4
04	Poor heating	20
05	Poor decoration inside	7
06	Lifts not working	1
07	Dirty/unpleasant environment	10
08	Poor decoration outside	10
09	Lack of places for children to play	21
10	Lack of recreational facilities for young people/adults .	23
11	Too much noise	9
12	Heavy traffic	16
13	Some other problem(s) (WRITE IN)	9
14	None of these	29

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SHUFFLE BOARD AND CARDS EXCLUDE CARDS ASTERISKED, WHICH RELATE TO CHILDREN

Q.9 On these cards are a number of different items which relate to our standard of living. Please would you indicate by placing the cards in the appropriate box the living standards you feel all adults should have in Britain today. This box (POINTS TO BOX A) is for items which you think are necessary, and which all adults should be able to afford and which they should not have to do without; this box (POINT TO BOX B) is for items which may be desirable, but are not necessary.

GIVE CARDS RELATING TO CHILDREN*

Q.10 Now could you do the same, this time thinking of a family with children

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	
	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Not</i>	
	<i>should</i>	<i>necessary</i>	
	<i>be able</i>	<i>but may</i>	
	<i>to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>Don't</i>
	<i>afford</i>	<i>desirable</i>	<i>know</i>
1 *	40	50	11
2	55	44	*
3	67	32	1
4	63	35	1
5	97	2	*
6	38	60	1
7	78	21	*
8	64	34	1
9	51	48	*
10	70	29	*

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11	Telephone	43	56	1
12	Refrigerator	77	22	*
13	Indoor toilet (not shared with another household)	96	3	*
14	Bath (not shared with another household)	94	6	*
15	Beds for everyone in the household	94	6	*
16	Damp-free home	96	3	*
17	A car	22	76	1
18	Public transport for one's needs	88	11	*
19	A night out once a fortnight	36	62	1
20	A packet of cigarettes every other day	14	82	4
21	A hobby or leisure activity	64	34	*
22	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not with relatives	63	36	*
23	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas	69	30	1
24	Presents for friends or family once a year	63	36	1
25	Friends/family round for a meal once a month	32	66	1
26 *	Children's friends round for tea/a snack once a fortnight	37	53	10
27	A "best outfit" for special occasions	48	50	1
28	A washing machine	67	31	*
29 *	Three meals a day for children	82	8	10
30 *	Toys for children e.g. dolls or models	71	20	9
31	A warm water-proof coat	87	11	*
32 *	Leisure equipment for children e.g. sports equipment or a bicycle	56	35	9
33 *	Enough bedrooms for every child over 10 of different sex to have his/her own bedroom	77	15	8
34	Two hot meals a day	64	35	1
35	Self-contained accommodation	79	20	1

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SHOWCARD E

Q.11 Why, in your opinion, are there people who live in need? Here are four opinions - which is the closest to yours?

Because they have been unlucky	13
Because of laziness and lack of willpower	22
Because there is much injustice in our society	32
It's an inevitable part of modern progress	25
None of these	5
Don't know	3

Q.12 Still thinking about people who lack the things you have said are necessities for living in Britain today, do you think that the Government is doing too much, too little or, about the right amount to help these people?

Too much	6
Too little	57
About the right amount	33
Don't know	4

Q.13 If the Government proposed to increase income tax by one penny (1p) in the pound to enable everyone to afford the items you have said are necessities, on balance would you support or oppose this policy? IF SUPPORT AT Q13, ASK:

Q.14 If the Government proposed to increase income tax by five pence (5p) in the pound to enable everyone to afford the items you have said are necessities, on balance would you support or oppose this policy?

	<i>Q.13</i>		<i>Q.14</i>
Support	74	GO TO Q.14	34
Oppose	20	} GO TO	53
Don't know	6	} Q.15	13

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SHUFFLE CARDS AND BOARD - REMOVE CARDS RELATING TO CHILDREN IF NO CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME

Q.15 Now, could you please put the cards into these four boxes: This box (POINT TO BOX A) is for the items you do have, and couldn't do without; this box (POINT TO BOX B) is for items you have, but could do without; this box (POINT TO BOX C) is for items you don't have but don't want; and this box (POINT TO BOX D) is for items you don't have and can't afford.

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	
	<i>Have</i>	<i>Have</i>	<i>Don't</i>	<i>Don't</i>	<i>Not</i>
	<i>and</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>applic-</i>
	<i>couldn't</i>	<i>could</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>able/</i>
	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>don't</i>	<i>can't</i>	<i>Don't</i>
	<i>without</i>	<i>without</i>	<i>want</i>	<i>afford</i>	<i>know</i>
Base = 60% for items relating to children					
1 * An outing for children once a week	14	16	8	9	13
2 A garden	51	36	7	4	2
3 A roast meat joint or its equivalent once a week	48	37	6	7	1
4 Meat or fish every other day	47	34	9	8	1
5 Heating to warm living areas of the home it it's cold	90	3	*	5	1
6 A dressing gown	33	52	10	3	1
7 Two pairs of all weather shoes	68	19	4	9	*
8 New, not second hand clothes	59	27	6	6	1
9 A television	51	46	1	*	*
10 Carpets in living rooms and bedrooms in the home.....	71	25	*	2	*
11 Telephone	51	30	6	11	1
12 Refrigerator	78	18	1	2	*

(Continued)

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Q.15 (Continued)

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Not</i>
	<i>Have</i>	<i>Have</i>	<i>Don't</i>	<i>Don't</i>	<i>applic-</i>
	<i>and</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>able/</i>
	<i>couldn't</i>	<i>could</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Don't</i>
	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>don't</i>	<i>can't</i>	<i>Don't</i>
	<i>without</i>	<i>without</i>	<i>want</i>	<i>afford</i>	<i>know</i>
<i>Base = 60% for items relating to children</i>					
13	Indoor toilet (not shared with another household)94	2	1	2	*
14	Bath (not shared with another household)95	2	*	2	*
15	Beds for everyone in the household94	3	1	1	1
16	Damp-free home82	4	3	7	3
17	A car37	23	16	22	1
18	Public transport for one's needs63	23	7	3	3
19	A night out once a fortnight19	36	26	17	1
20	A packet of cigarettes every other day14	24	53	6	3
21	A hobby or leisure activity50	28	12	7	1
22	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not with relatives38	31	8	21	1
23	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas61	32	3	4	*
24	Presents for friends or family once a year58	33	3	5	*
25	Friends/family round for a meal once a week24	40	20	11	4
26 *	Children's friends round for tea/a snack once a fortnight10	21	10	5	13
27	A "best outfit" for special occasions39	41	8	10	1
28	A washing machine68	18	7	6	1
29 *	Three meals a day for children39	5	2	2	12

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30 *	Toys for children e.g. dolls or models	30	13	3	2	12
31 *	A warm water-proof coat	81	8	3	7	*
32 *	Leisure equipment for children e.g. sports equipment or a bicycle	22	16	4	6	12
33 *	Enough bedrooms for every child over 10 of different sex to have his/her own bedroom	35	5	4	3	13
34	Two hot meals a day	53	26	17	3	*
35	Self-contained accommodation	87	7	3	3	1

Q.16 A number of people have told us they have had to miss out on meals because of a lack of money. Have there been times during the past year when you did not have enough money to buy food you (and your family) needed?

Yes 13
 No 87
 Don't know 1

SHOWCARD F

Q.17 For each of the items on this list, could you tell me whether you think their level is too high, too low or about right at present?

	<i>Too high</i>	<i>Too low</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
State pensions	1	59	29	11
Unemployment benefit	9	40	24	27
Child benefit	16	24	41	18
Married man's allowance	4	37	28	31
Mortgage allowance	4	15	35	44

Q.18 People claiming supplementary benefit are people who are not working and who don't have enough to live on because their pension or income is below a certain minimum level. They receive 09.20 per week excluding rent for a family with two young children. Do you think this amount is too high, too low, or about right?

Too high 3
 Too low 59
 About right 33
 Don't know 6

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SHOWCARD G

Q.19 I'd now like to ask you some questions about supplementary benefits. I'm going to read out some statements and I'd like you to tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with each one.

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Tend to agree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Tend to disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Most people claiming supplementary benefit are in real need	25	44	8	16	3	4
A lot of people who are entitled to claim supplementary benefit don't claim it	23	51	8	10	2	6
Many people claiming supplementary benefit are on the fiddle	25	37	9	17	6	7

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Q.20 Have you or anyone in your family, excluding when a student, ever received supplementary benefits?

Yes 36
 No 63
 Don't know *

SHOWCARD H

Q.21 Have there been times during the past year when you were seriously behind in paying for any of the following items?

	<i>In arrears</i>
Rent	7
Gas	5
Electricity	7
Goods on hire purchase	3
Mortgage	1
Rates	4
None of these	85

Q.22 And have there been times during the past year when you have had to borrow money from friends or family in order to pay for your day-to-day needs?

Yes 16
 No 82
 Don't know 2

Q.23 Do you think you could genuinely say you are poor now, all the time, sometimes or never?

All the time..... 12
 Sometimes 28
 Never 59
 Don't know 1

SHOWCARD I

Q.24a A number of people have told us they have different kinds of personal difficulties these days. Which if any of the items on this card have you worried about or have you experienced in the past month due to lack of money?

Being depressed 18
 Relations with your friends 3
 Relations with your family 5
 Being bored 15
 Not having enough money for day-to-day living 17
 Feeling looked down upon by other people 4
 Feeling a failure 6
 Lack of hope for the future 19
 Letting down your family 9
 None of these 58

Q.24b Are you personally or is anyone in your immediate family unemployed at the moment or have any of you been unemployed in the past 12 months? RECORD WHO AND WHEN

Respondent is now unemployed 14
 Head of household is now unemployed 8
 Other family member is now unemployed 9
 Respondent has been in last 12 months 2
 Head of household has been in last 12 months 2
 Other family member has been in last 12 months 5
 None unemployed and none been unemployed in last 12 months 66

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Q.25 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time.

Yes 23
 No 77

Q.26 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as Conservative, Labour, Liberal, Social Democrat, Nationalist, or what?

Conservative 30
 Labour 29
 Liberal 10
 SDP/Social Democrat 6
 Scottish Nationalist (SNP) 1
 Other 1
 None/Don't know 23

Q.27 I would like to ask you some questions about your income. It's important for the accuracy of our survey for us to know the amount of money people have coming in each week /month. Could you please tell me the current income from his/her job of the main wage earner, after tax and deductions? (REPEAT FOR ALL WAGE EARNERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD)

WRITE IN

Main wage earner
 Other wage earner
 Other wage earner

SHOWCARD J

Q.28 Which if any of these do you or does anyone living in this household receive?

A state pension 26
 A private pension e.g. from previous employer 18
 Unemployment benefit 10
 Sickness benefit 2
 Invalidity benefit 5
 Supplementary benefit 15
 Family income supplement 1
 Child benefit 44
 Other state benefit 3
 Maintenance payments 1
 Income from savings/investments 16
 Income from second job 3
 (26) Other income e.g. rent, shares, etc 3
 None of these 15 25/
 - GO TO Q.31

Q.29 How many people in this household receive..... (READ OUT EACH ITEM MENTIONED AT Q.28)

Base = 85%

	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three +</i>
A state pension	59	14	12	1
A private pension e.g. from previous employer	68	16	2	*
Unemployment benefit	75	9	1	*
Sickness benefit	83	2	*	0
Invalidity benefit	80	5	1	0
Supplementary benefit.....	70	13	1	1
Family income supplement	84	1	0	*
Child benefit	41	19	17	8
Other state benefit	82	3	0	*
Maintenance payments	84	1	*	*
Income from savings/investment	70	8	5	2
Income from second job	82	2	1	*

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Other income e.g. rent, shares,
etc 82 2 1 *

Q.30 In total, and after tax and other deductions, how much do people in this household receive each week from (READ OUT ITEMS MENTIONED AT Q.28)

Amount (WRITE IN)

- A state pension _____
- A private pension e.g. from previous
employer _____
- Unemployment benefit _____
- Sickness benefit _____
- Invalidity benefit _____
- Supplementary benefit _____
- Family income supplement _____
- Child benefit _____
- Other state benefit _____
- Maintenance payments _____
- Income from savings/investment _____
- Income from second job _____
- Other income e.g. rent, shares, etc _____

Q.31 How much do you pay in rent or mortgage payments each week /month? If you don't know the exact figure, what is it approximately? (WRITE IN)

.....

Q.32 And what do you pay in rates each month/year? Again if you don't know the exact figures, what is it approximately? (WRITE IN)

.....

QUESTIONS 33-35 TO BE ASKED ONLY OF THOSE RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT AT Q.28: OTHERS GO TO Q.36

SHOWCARD B AGAIN

Q.33 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service you get from your local DHSS office?

Base= 15%

- Very satisfied 3
- Fairly satisfied 6
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 1
- Fairly dissatisfied 1
- Very dissatisfied 3
- Don't know *

Q.34 Do you receive payment in the form of a giro cheque through the post every fortnight? IF YES: Does it arrive (READ OUT)

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	<i>Base = 15%</i>
Regularly on the correct day	4
Late occasionally	1
Often late	*
No, don't receive fortnightly giro cheques	8
Don't know	*

Q.35 When you claim supplementary benefit, how do you feel about it? Would you agree or disagree with these statements:

	<i>Base = 15%</i>		
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither/ D. K.</i>
a) It is a right which I am entitled to	13	1	*
b) I would rather not claim it, but have to because I need the money	13	1	*
c) I feel embarrassed about claiming it	6	8	*
d) I find it difficult to manage on the amount of benefit I receive	11	3	1
e) I would rather receive more money in supplementary benefit than have improved social services such as hospitals	4	7	2

ASK ALL

Q.36 And finally, I've been asking you all these questions for one of the ITV television companies. They'd be very interested in talking directly to some of the people who have helped in the survey. They do not at this stage want to ask to film you, just to talk to you. Would you be prepared to be contacted by the television company?

Yes	45
No	55

GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS