# Survey questions

Q1 On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is extremely bad and 10 is extremely good, would you say it is generally bad or good for Britain’s economy that migrants come to Britain from other countries?

Q2 On a scale of 0 to 10, would you say that Britain’s cultural life is generally undermined or enriched by migrants coming to live here from other countries?

Q3 Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statement. 'Asylum seekers who have suffered persecution in their own country should be able to stay in Britain'

Q4 compared with other European countries of similar size, how many applications from asylum seekers do you think Britain receives?

Data Source: 2011 British Social Attitudes Survey <http://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=7237&type=Data%20catalogue>

# Combining Student and national data

### Table 1: Views of economic impact of immigration over last 10 years

*(British Social Attitudes 2011 and POLI10202 2013)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BSA 2011  All | *N*  *(weighted)* | BSA 2011  Graduates | N  *(weighted)* | POLI10202 | N |
| Very bad | 21% | *687* | 5% | *31* | 1% | 1 |
| Bad | 31% | *1,027* | 24% | *161* | 10% | 13 |
| Neither good nor bad | 18% | *597* | 17% | *114* | 7% | 10 |
| Good | 25% | *818* | 47% | *316* | 72% | 95 |
| Very good | 5% | *148* | 8% | *53* | 10% | 13 |
| *Total N* | *100%* | *3,277* | *100%* | *675* | 100% | 132 |

### Table 2: Views of cultural impact of immigration over last 10 years

*(British Social Attitudes 2011 and POLI10202 2013)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BSA 2011  All | *N*  *(weighted)* | BSA 2011  Graduates | N  *(weighted)* | POLI10202 | N |
| Very bad | 21% | *681* | 6% | *38* | 1% | 1 |
| Bad | 27% | *886* | 17% | *117* | 13% | 17 |
| Neither good nor bad | 18% | *576* | 15% | *102* | 6% | 8 |
| Good | 27% | *870* | 46% | *309* | 51% | 67 |
| Very good | 8% | *252* | 16% | *109* | 29% | 38 |
| *Total N* | *100%* | *3,265* | *100%* | *676* | 100% | 131 |

### Table 3: Asylum seekers who have suffered persecution in own country should be allowed to stay in Britain

*(British Social Attitudes 2011 and POLI10202 2013)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BSA 2011  All | *N*  *(weighted)* | BSA 2011  Graduates | N  *(weighted)* | POLI10202 | N |
| Agree strongly | 9% | *289* | 20% | *134* | 28% | 38 |
| Agree | 38% | *1,247* | 47% | *322* | 48% | 64 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 22% | *727* | 19% | *130* | 12% | 15 |
| Disagree | 22% | *720* | 10% | *68* | 9% | 12 |
| Disagree strongly | 9% | *293* | 3% | *23* | 2% | 2 |
| Don't know/refuse | 1% | *34* | 0% | *2* | 1% | 1 |
| *Total N* | *100%* | *3,311* | *100%* | *680* | 100% | 132 |

### Table 4: Does Britain take more or less asylum seekers than other European countries of similar size?

*(British Social Attitudes 2011 and POLI10202 2013)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BSA 2011  All | *N*  *(weighted)* | BSA 2011  Graduates | N  *(weighted)* | POLI10202 | N |
| A lot more | 60% | *1,977* | 43% | *295* | 30% | *40* |
| Somewhat more | 24% | *800* | 35% | *235* | 41% | *54* |
| About the same | 8% | *281* | 15% | *102* | 17% | *23* |
| Somewhat less | 2% | *69* | 3% | *23* | 7% | *9* |
| A lot less | 0.5% | *15* | 0.5% | *3* | 2% | *2* |
| Don't know/refused | 5% | *167* | 3% | *21* | 4% | *5* |
| *Total N* | *100%* | *3,311* | *100%* | *680* | 100% | *133* |

**(Some columns may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding)**

#### Note on recoding of 0-10 scale used for Q1 and Q2

0-1: very bad  
2-4: bad  
5 - neither  
6-8: good  
9-10: very good

# Possible tutorial themes

### Measuring attitudes in surveys

* What did you think of the questions? Easy to answer?
* The use of scales to rate attitudes (likert scales) does a 3 or a 5 or a 7 in Q1 and Q2 mean the same to all people?
* Any issues in recoding the 0-10 scale of original into descriptive categories of v good, good etc?
* concerns over pressure to give socially desirable answers (people don’t like being seen as racist), a tendency to clustering (on 5 in the BSA national survey) interviewer/mode effects – advantages of making it an anonymous web survey on such a sensitive topic
* Relate this to concepts of validity (does it measure what we want it to measure) and reliability (same answers in different contexts? e.g. if repeat survey via different mode of collection). Are attitudes stable? (consider influence of media representation of immigration in relation to when survey took place)

### Comparing across different populations

* These are samples from very different populations – issues around comparing UK wide pop (highly heterogeneous), UK graduates, and POLI10201 (much less heterogeneous)
* Making comparisons – counts v percentages. concern over %’s based on small numbers (as a short exercise could just give the raw counts for POLI10201 – get students to derive the %s and say why this needed to make meaningful comparison)

### Samples –are they representative of the target populations?

* BSA sample representative of UK population? Is the class sample representative of the class?
* Consider non-response and possible bias (what is response rate for the class? what does this do to representativeness of the data? would non-responders have different attitudes
* What about sample size - relationship between sample size and sampling error – estimates based on small numbers may not be reliable

## About this resource

‘Introduction to comparative politics: Comparing student and the British Publics attitudes towards immigration’ was developed by the ESSTED team in collaboration with Dr Rob Ford and Dr Nick Turnball from Politics at the University of Manchester.

**Authors:** Mark Brown, Rob Ford, Nick Turnball, Steph Thompson and Jen Buckley

**Date:** July 2014

ESSTED was funded through the ESRC Curriculum Innovation Initiative and ESRC Researcher Development Initiative. You can find details of the ESSTED project and others resources on the project website

<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/essted/>

ESSTED resources are released under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Please use and adapt as you need, but acknowledge the authors.

