

# **Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain**

## **Questionnaire**

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FIRST UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE  
*eradication of poverty*  
(1997-2006)

**September 1999**

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**First Published 1999**

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### **Acknowledgements**

The Millennium Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey Questionnaire contains both modified and new questions as well as questions which have been asked in the best social surveys from around the World. The authors acknowledge the contribution made to this questionnaire from the following surveys:

Breadline Britain in the 1990's, British Crime Survey, British Household Panel Survey, British Social Attitudes, Canadian General Social Survey, Disability Discrimination Act Baseline Survey, Eurobarometer, European Community Household Panel Survey, EuroQol 5D, General Household Survey, GHQ12, Harmonised Question Set, Health Survey of England, Living in Ireland Survey, Living in Britain Survey, Lorraine Panel Survey, MORI Omnibus, Poor Wales, Poverty in the United Kingdom, Small Fortunes : National Survey of the Lifestyles and Living Standards of Children, Survey of English Housing and the Swedish Living Conditions Survey.

The *Breadline Britain in the 1990s* Survey was funded by London Weekend Television (LWT) with additional funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and was carried out by Marketing and Opinion Research International (MORI). It was conceived and designed by Joanna Mack and Stewart Lansley for Domino Films, with the help of Brian Gosschalk of MORI.

We would also like to thank Björn Halleröd of the University of Umeå, Tony Manners, Dave Elliot, Linda Murgatroyd and June Bowman at the Office for National Statistics, Richard Berthoud and Jonathan Gershuny at the University of Essex, Rick Davies of Swansea University and Michael Bitman at the University of New South Wales for their helpful advice. We would also like to thank Brian Gosschalk, Mark Speed and Sarah Birtles from MORI for their helpful comments and their work on the preparatory stages of this research.

Helen Anderson edited, typed and formatted this questionnaire.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has supported this project as part of its programme of research and innovative development projects, which it hopes will be of value to policy makers and practitioners. The facts presented and the views expressed in this report are, however, those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Foundation.

We would like to thank Barbara Ballard and Dominic Hurley from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for their advice, encouragement and support throughout this project.

# Survey of Living Standards in Britain 1999

## **Background and aims of the survey**

The current survey is an update of two Breadline Britain surveys carried out by MORI in 1983 and 1990. It is being undertaken by ONS on behalf of a consortium of experts in this field from the Universities of York, Bristol and Loughborough. It is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the UK's largest independent social research and development charity.

The Survey of Living Standards in Britain will follow-up 1998/9 GHS respondents to find out their circumstances and views on a number of issues relating to living standards. This study is the second part of work that ONS is carrying out for the consortium. The first part of the work was carried out on the June Omnibus, when a representative sample of the population was asked their views on what constitute the necessities of life in present-day Britain. The current survey will ask GHS respondents what items they have. The results of the Omnibus study will provide a list of items that are socially recognised as being 'necessities of life' against which the GHS respondents can be seen as having or not having the 'necessities of life'.

## **Why a follow-up to the GHS?**

Following up respondents to the 1998/9 GHS offers a cost-effective strategy as much of the relevant data, such as detailed information on household composition, incomes, pensions and consumer durables was collected during the GHS interview. This means that the current survey can concentrate on issues which were not covered by the GHS such as views of poverty, participation in social networks, views of the neighbourhood. One of the aims of the survey is to explore movement in and out of poverty. Following up GHS respondents at intervals varying from 6-18 months allows a measure of changes over time. You will be asked to update some information such as changes to the household composition and general changes in income since the last interview. Respondents will not be asked to give details about their income in the form of the GHS questions. The sample includes people with high and low income levels, although the sample has been weighted towards the lower income groups. A larger number of low income households are required to be able to measure the different concepts of poverty used in this survey.

## **Aims of the survey**

To update the Breadline Britain Surveys.

To estimate the size of groups of households in different circumstances.

To explore movement in and out of poverty.

To look at age and gender differences in experiences of and responses to poverty.

The division of the population into the 'poor' and the 'not poor' takes no account of the fact that some groups move in and out of poverty. People's circumstances change over time and this will affect people's status as 'poor' or 'not poor'. For example, loss of a wage earner in a household (by death or redundancy) may mean that a household who had never been poor in the past is currently poor.

### **Benefits of the Survey**

This survey is concerned with the experience of people living in Britain, but the questionnaire will in time also be used in Europe and Worldwide. Every country in the UN is committed to reducing poverty over the next 5-10 years. In Britain the Government is committed to produce an annual poverty audit. This survey will provide information that will be used to form policies to reduce poverty in Britain.

Seebohm Rowntree's work on poverty first questioned long-held perceptions of poverty that it was only due to laziness that a person was poor (i.e. the poor could work their way out of poverty if they really wanted to).

The Welfare State was developed by Beveridge on the basis of the findings of work by Rowntree in 1936. The basic tenets of the Welfare State are continued in the Income Support structure today.

This survey asks about children's experience of poverty. The questions asked about children were used in a survey called 'Small Fortunes'. The Small Fortunes survey found that children were poorer than was first thought. These findings were used to inform changes in benefits for children (for example Income Support was increased for under 11 year olds).

## **INITIAL QUESTIONS**

### **ASK IF DATA ACCESSED IN OFFICE**

[Area] *Area*

[Address] *Address*

[Hhold] *Household*

### **ASK ALWAYS**

[StartDat] *Enter date interview with this household was started.*

[DateChk] *Is this?*

- (1) the first time you've opened this questionnaire
- (2) or the second or later time
- (5) EMERGENCY CODE IF COMPUTER'S DATE IS WRONG AT LATER CHECK

[StartTim] *Start time*

- (1) Interviewing
- (2) Coding/administration

## CHANGES IN THE RESPONDENT'S CIRCUMSTANCES

**ASK ONLY IF RESPONDENT NAMED IN THE GHS INTERVIEW STILL LIVES IN THE HOUSEHOLD. INTERVIEW ONLY THE NAMED RESPONDENT.**

[LastTime] *This is who was in the household at the time of the GHS interview. Is it still the same?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**ASK IF 'NO' TO [LastTime]**

[Name] *Record the name (or a unique identifier) for HoH, then a name/identifier for each member of the household.*

[NewOld] *Was/has [Name]?*

- (1) In the household at time of GHS interview
- (2) Moved out since GHS interview
- (3) Moved in since the GHS interview

**ASK ALWAYS**

[HHPrem] *I would like to update some of the information you gave us when you were last interviewed.*

[GHSInfo] *At the time of the GHS interview, these details of the occupants of the household were recorded: Sex [Sex], date of birth [Birth], age [DVAge], marital status [Marstat], living together [LiveWith], householder [HHldr]. If any of these details are no longer correct, please state which ones and enter correct details for each [Name].*

- (1) Sex wrong
- (2) Date of Birth wrong
- (3) Age wrong
- (4) Marital status wrong
- (5) Living together status incorrect
- (6) Householder status incorrect
- (7) All details correct

**ASK IF RESPONDENT'S CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED**

[Sex]

- (1) Male
- (2) Female

[Birth] *What is your date of birth?*

**(IF NOT GIVEN, ENTER 15 FOR DATE AND 6 FOR MONTH)**

[AgeIf] *What was your age last birthday?*

**ASK IF AGE > 16**

[Marstat] *Are you?*

- (1) Single, that is, never married
- (2) Married and living with your husband/wife
- (3) Married and separated from your husband/wife
- (4) Divorced
- (5) Or widowed?

[LiveWith] *May I just check, are you living with someone in the household as a couple?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) SPONTANEOUS ONLY - same sex couple

[Hhldr] *In whose name is the accommodation owned or rented?*

- (1) This person alone
- (3) This person jointly
- (5) NOT owner/renter

[GHSHoH] *At the time of the GHS interview, [Name] was the HoH. Is this still correct?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**IF 'NO' TO [GHSHoH], ENTER PERSON NUMBER OF HOH**

[HoHnum] **(CODE [Name] 1 TO 16)**

[GHSPrtnr] *The spouse/partner of the HoH was [Name]. Is this still correct?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

IF 'NO' TO [GHSPrtnr], ENTER PERSON NUMBER OF SPOUSE/PARTNER OF HOH

[HoHprtnr] (CODE [Name] 1 TO 16, NO SPOUSE/PARTNER = 17)

IF HOH IS NOT RESPONDENT, ENTER PERSON NUMBER OF RESPONDENT

[Respndnt] (CODE [Name] 1 TO 16)

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### HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON

ASK ONLY IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN THE HOUSEHOLD

[HiHNum] *You have told me that...jointly own or rent the accommodation. Which of you/ who has the highest income (from earnings, benefits, pensions and any other sources)?*

(CODE [Name]s 1 TO 10, IF TWO OR MORE HAVE THE SAME INCOME, ENTER 11)

IF [HiHNum] = 11, ENTER PERSON NUMBER OF THE ELDEST JOINT HOUSEHOLDER FROM THOSE WITH THE SAME HIGHEST INCOME

[JntEldA] (CODE [Name] 1 TO 10)

IF [HiHNum] = DON'T KNOW OR REFUSAL, ENTER PERSON NUMBER OF THE ELDEST JOINT HOUSEHOLDER

[JntEldB] (CODE [Name] 1 TO 10)

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### ADDITIONAL CHANGES

Changes in the respondent's income and the income of the respondent's household (where the respondent lives with others) are recorded in this section.
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[BegInt] *This is the beginning of the respondent's interview.*

[IncPrm] *I would like to ask you about changes to your income since you were last interviewed.*

**ASK ALWAYS**

[LstInc] *Since you were last interviewed, has your OWN income?*

- (1) Increased
- (2) Decreased
- (3) Or stayed about the same?

**ASK ONLY IF INCOME HAS CHANGED**

[IncChng] *By how much has your income changed, since you were last interviewed?*

**(SHOWCARD A)**

**(CODE THE NUMBER ON CARD A THAT CORRESPONDS WITH AN AMOUNT)**

[CausChg] *Could you tell me whether the main cause for this change in your income was due to?*

- (1) Job loss
- (2) Changed job
- (3) Entering/Re-entering employment
- (4) Promotion
- (5) Pay rise
- (6) Retirement
- (7) Increased occupational pension
- (8) Change in interest rates
- (9) Other reason

**ASK IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN THE HOUSEHOLD**

[HldInc] *Since you were last interviewed, has the income of your HOUSEHOLD?*

- (1) Increased
- (2) Decreased
- (3) Or stayed about the same?

**ASK ONLY IF INCOME HAS CHANGED**



[HinChng] *By how much has your household's income changed, since you were last interviewed?*

**( SHOWCARD A )**

**( CODE THE NUMBER ON CARD A THAT CORRESPONDS WITH AN AMOUNT )**

[CsHChg] *Could you tell me whether the main cause for this change in your household's income was due to?*

- (1) Job loss
- (2) Changed job
- (3) Entering/Re-entering employment
- (4) Promotion
- (5) Pay rise
- (6) Retirement
- (7) Increased occupational pension
- (8) Change in interest rates
- (9) Other reason

**ASK ALWAYS**

[UnEmLn] *Looking back over the last ten years, for how long IN TOTAL have you been unemployed?*

- (1) Never
- (2) Less than 2 months (in total)
- (3) 2 to 6 months (in total)
- (4) 7 to 12 months (in total)
- (5) Over 12 months (in total)
- (6) Not relevant
- (7) Don't know

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## HOUSING

The quality of housing someone experiences is used as an indicator of poverty. Inadequate housing and housing of a poor standard are associated with other factors which affect a person's standard of living, such as health.

These questions ask the respondent to comment on the standard of their accommodation.

[HsngPr] *I would now like to ask you some questions about your accommodation*

[ChkTen] *Last time we spoke you said that you occupied your accommodation in the following way. Is this still correct?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**IF 'NO', CHECK IF THE RESPONDENT'S TENURE HAS REALLY CHANGED. THEN ASK THIS GHS QUESTION**

[NewTen] *In which of these ways do you occupy this accommodation?*

- (1) Own outright
- (2) Buying it with the help of a mortgage or loan
- (3) Pay part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership)
- (4) Rent it
- (5) Live here rent-free (including rent-free in relative's/friend's property; excluding squatting)
- (6) Squatting

[AccmSt] *How satisfied are you with this accommodation?*

- (1) Very satisfied
- (2) Fairly satisfied
- (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (4) Slightly dissatisfied
- (5) Very dissatisfied

**(SHOWCARD B)**

[Repair] *Would you describe the state of repair of your home as good, adequate or poor?*

- (1) Good
- (2) Adequate
- (3) Poor
- (4) Don't know

[AccPrb] *Do you have any of the following problems with your accommodation?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Shortage of space
- (2) Too dark, not enough light

- (3) Lack of adequate heating facilities
- (4) Leaky roof
- (5) Damp walls, floors, foundations, etc.
- (6) Rot in window frames or floors
- (7) Mould
- (8) No place to sit outside, e.g. a terrace or garden
- (9) Other
- (10) None of these problems with accommodation

**(SHOWCARD Ba)**

[HlthHs] *Has your health or the health of anyone in your household been made worse by your housing situation?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

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**HEALTH**

People can feel that they are isolated from or prevented from engaging in the normal activities of society. This section asks people to think about whether they feel that they are excluded from doing activities that people take for granted due to a health problem or disability.

There is increasing evidence of an association between poor mental health and experience of poverty and deprivation, both at the individual and at the neighbourhood level. The questions asking about depression and isolation are a shorthand way of measuring this. The essential elements of the questions are that we are interested in the respondent's own assessment of whether they are isolated or depressed, and that the depression or isolation is attributed to lack of money.

[HlthPr] *I would now like to ask some questions about your health*

[EvPain] *Which of the following statements best describes your own health state today?*

- (1) I have no pain or discomfort
- (2) I have moderate pain or discomfort
- (3) I have extreme pain or discomfort?

[LimtIl] *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?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**IF 'YES', ASK**

[ActLimt] *Does this illness or disability limit your activities in any way?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**IF 'YES', ASK [DifAct] AND [DfServ]**

[DifAct] *Over the last 12 months, have you wanted to do any of the things mentioned on the card, but had great difficulty or been unable to do them because of your health problem or disability?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Go to the cinema, theatre or concerts
- (2) Go to the library, art galleries or museums
- (3) Go shopping
- (4) Eat out in a restaurant or have a drink in a pub
- (5) Go to a football match or other sporting event
- (6) Other
- (7) Have had no great difficulty in doing these things

**(SHOWCARD C)**

[DfServ] *And over the past 12 months have you wanted to use any of the services mentioned on the card, but had great difficulty or been unable to use them because of your health problem or disability?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Arranging accommodation in a hotel or boarding house
- (2) Arranging insurance
- (3) Using a bank or building society
- (4) Using a public telephone

- (5) Other
- (6) Have had no great difficulty in using these services

**(SHOWCARD D)**

**IF YES TO [LimtI1] AND PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED IN [DifAct] AND/OR [DfServ], ASK**

[DfAccs] *Did you have any of the difficulties on Card E?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Difficulty getting information in a suitable form (e.g. braille, large print, text telephone, etc)
- (2) Difficulty getting there
- (3) Difficulty getting into the place
- (4) Difficulty getting around inside
- (5) Difficulty understanding, or making myself understood
- (6) Facilities lacking (e.g. parking spaces, special shopping trolleys, disabled toilet)
- (7) Refused entry
- (8) Refused service
- (9) Asked to leave
- (10) Other
- (11) None of these types of difficulties

**(SHOWCARD E)**

[IsoDep] *Have there been times in the past year when you've felt isolated and cut off from society or depressed, because of LACK OF MONEY?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Neither of these
- (2) Yes - Isolated
- (3) No - Not isolated
- (4) Yes - Depressed
- (5) No - Not depressed

**(SHOWCARD F)**

[IsoOth] *Have there been times in the past year when you have felt isolated and cut off from society for any of the reasons on this card?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Paid work
- (2) Childcare responsibilities
- (3) Other caring responsibilities
- (4) Lack of own transport
- (5) Irregular or expensive public transport
- (6) No friends
- (7) No family
- (8) Problems with physical access
- (9) Sexism
- (10) Racism
- (11) Homophobia - discrimination relating to homosexuality
- (12) Discrimination relating to disability
- (13) Other
- (14) None of these

**(SHOWCARD G)**

[Incldnt] *This card lists a number of things which may have happened to you. Could you tell me please which, if any, of these have happened to you in the past 12 months?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Death of a close relative or friend
- (2) Divorce, separation or break-up of an intimate relationship
- (3) Problems with parents or close relatives
- (4) A wage earner in your household losing their job
- (5) Changing your job
- (6) Having financial debts such as HP, mortgage, loans etc
- (7) Moving house
- (8) Problems with your children
- (9) Problems at work
- (10) Problem with neighbours
- (11) A road accident
- (12) An accident or injury around the home (such as a fall, scalding, electric shock, or something like that)
- (13) Having an accident or injury at work
- (14) An accident or injury in a public place (e.g. tripping over a pavement)
- (15) Food poisoning, e.g. salmonella
- (16) Other serious illness or injury to you
- (17) None of these

**(SHOWCARD H)**

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## TIME

One often hears people say " There aren't enough hours in the day" . Many people lead very busy lives today. Some people may not be able to do the things they want to do due to lack of time. These people are considered to be 'time poor'. This question asks the respondent if they feel pressured for time.

[TimePr] *I'd now like to ask you a question relating to time*

[DayHrs] *Which of the following would you agree with?*

### CODE ALL THAT APPLY

- (1) Do you plan to slow down in the coming year?
- (2) Do you consider yourself a workaholic?
- (3) When you need more time, do you tend to cut back on your sleep?
- (4) At the end of the day, do you often feel that you have not accomplished what you set out to do?
- (5) Do you worry that you don't spend enough time with your family and friends?
- (6) Do you feel that you're constantly under stress trying to accomplish more than you can handle?
- (7) Do you feel trapped in a daily routine?
- (8) Do you feel that you just don't have time for fun anymore?
- (9) Do you often feel under stress when you don't have enough time?
- (10) Would you like to spend more time alone?
- (11) None of these

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## SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SUPPORT

These questions are designed to measure the amount of social support available to respondents, the extent of their social networks and the frequency with which they see or speak to family and friends. For many people, when times are hard, family and friends will be the first source of help and support. The answers to these questions will also show whether respondents are prevented by circumstances, such as lack of money or lack of access to public transport, from seeing friends and family. They will also measure the level of help and support which they give and receive from family and friends.

[Family] *I now want to ask you about the contact you have with family and friends. By contact, I mean seeing, speaking to or writing to family and friends.*

[RelSee] *Are there any of the following members of your family (other than those you live with) who you see or speak to every day or nearly every day?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Mother/Father (including step and adoptive)
- (2) Sister/Brother (including step and adoptive)
- (3) Daughter/Son (including step and adoptive)
- (4) Granddaughter/grandson (including step and adoptive)
- (5) Grandmother/Grandfather (including step and adoptive)
- (6) Niece/Nephew (including step and adoptive)
- (7) Aunt/Uncle (including step and adoptive)
- (8) Other relative (including step and adoptive)
- (9) No contact daily/nearly every day
- (10) Never have contact with family

**(SHOWCARD I)**

**IF RESPONDENT HAS CONTACT, ASK**

[RelNum] *You said you see or speak to these family members every day or nearly every day. How many of these types of family members do you see or speak to every day or nearly every day?*

**CODE 0 TO 10 [FOR EACH TYPE OF FAMILY MEMBER IDENTIFIED AT RelSee]**

[RelNmSn] *The total number of relatives seen daily or nearly every day is [RelDly]. Is this correct?*

**IF HAS CONTACT AND [RelDly] IS < 3, ASK**

[RelWkly] *Excluding the people you said you see or speak to every day or nearly every day, are there any of the following who you see or speak to every week or nearly every week?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**



- (1) Mother/Father (including step and adoptive)
- (2) Sister/Brother (including step and adoptive)
- (3) Daughter/Son (including step and adoptive)
- (4) Granddaughter/grandson (including step and adoptive)
- (5) Grandmother/Grandfather (including step and adoptive)
- (6) Niece/Nephew (including step and adoptive)
- (7) Aunt/Uncle (including step and adoptive)
- (8) Other relative (including step and adoptive)
- (9) No contact weekly/nearly every week

[RelNmWk] *You said you see or speak to these family members every week or nearly every week. How many of these types of family members do you see or speak to every week or nearly every week?*

**CODE 0 TO 10 [FOR EACH TYPE OF FAMILY MEMBER IDENTIFIED AT [RelWkly]**

[RelWkCh] *The total number of relatives seen weekly or nearly every week is [RelWkSn]. Is this correct?*

[RelYrly] *Excluding the people you said you see or speak to daily and weekly, are there any of the following relatives you see or speak to less than once a week but at least a few times a year?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Mother/Father (including step and adoptive)
- (2) Sister/Brother (including step and adoptive)
- (3) Daughter/Son (including step and adoptive)
- (4) Granddaughter/grandson (including step and adoptive)
- (5) Grandmother/Grandfather (including step and adoptive)
- (6) Niece/Nephew (including step and adoptive)
- (7) Aunt/Uncle (including step and adoptive)
- (8) Other relative (including step and adoptive)
- (9) No contact yearly

**IF HAS CONTACT AND [RelWkSn] < 3 AND PARENT IN [RelYrly], ASK**

[RelNmYr] *You said you see or speak to these family members at least a few times a year. How many of these types of family members do you see or speak to at least a few times a year?*

**CODE 0 TO 10 [FOR EACH TYPE OF FAMILY MEMBER IDENTIFIED AT  
[RelYrly]**

[RelYrCh] *The total number of relatives seen or spoken to at least a few times a year is [RelYrSn]. Is this correct?*

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS NO CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND [RelDly = 0] AND [RelWksn = 0] AND [RelYrSn = 0], INTERVIEWER SHOULD CHECK THIS IS CORRECT. DO NOT ASK RESPONDENT.**

[NoFam] *Does this mean that the respondent has no family contacts?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Don't Know

[FrndPr] *I'd now like you to think about your close friends - not your spouse or partner, or family member - but other people you feel fairly close to.*

[ClosFr] *How many friends do you have who you see or speak to every day or nearly every day? I'm thinking of friends from work, neighbours and anyone else you think of as a friend.*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

[WklyFr] *Excluding the friends you see or speak to daily or almost every day, how many friends do you have who you see or speak to every week or nearly every week?*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

[YrlyFr] *Excluding the friends you see or speak to daily or weekly, how many friends do you have who you see or speak to less than weekly but at least a few times a year?*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS NO CONTACT WITH FRIENDS AND [ClosFr = 0] AND [WklyFr = 0] AND [YrlyFr = 0], INTERVIEWER SHOULD CHECK THIS IS CORRECT. DO NOT ASK RESPONDENT.**

[FrnNon] *Does this mean the respondent has no contact with any friends?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Don't Know

**IF RESPONDENT HAS CONTACT WITH FRIENDS, ASK [WorkFr] AND [Neighbr] AND [OthFrnd]**

[WorkFr] *Thinking of all of your friends, how many are people you work with now?*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

[Neighbr] *Thinking of all of your friends, how many are your close neighbours?*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

[OthFrnd] *Thinking of all of your friends, how many other friends do you have (excluding friends from work and neighbours)?*

**CODE 0 TO 30**

**IF RESPONDENT HAS CONTACT WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS, ASK**

[WhyNoSe] *What factors prevent you from meeting up with family or friends more often?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) I see them as often as I want to
- (2) Not interested
- (3) Can't afford to
- (4) Lack of time due to paid work
- (5) Lack of time due to childcare responsibilities
- (6) Lack of time due to other caring responsibilities
- (7) Can't go out because of caring responsibilities
- (8) No vehicle
- (9) Poor public transport
- (10) Problems with physical access
- (11) Too ill, sick or disabled

- (12) Too old
- (13) Fear of burglary or vandalism
- (14) Fear of personal attack
- (15) Too far away
- (16) None of these

**ALWAYS ASK**

[Supprt] *How much support would you get in the following situations? (Include support from people you live with, other family and friends and other means of support)*

**(SHOWCARD J)**

		<b>(1) A lot</b>	<b>(2) Some</b>	<b>(3) Not much</b>	<b>(4) None at all</b>
[HomeIll]	If you needed help around the home if you are in bed with flu/illness				
[HomeJob]	If you needed help with heavy household or gardening jobs that you cannot manage alone, e.g. moving furniture				
[Advice]	If you needed advice about an important change in your life, e.g. changing jobs, moving to another area				
[RelProb]	If you were upset because of problems with your spouse or partner				
[Talking]	If you were feeling a bit depressed and wanting someone to talk to				
[Caring]	If you needed someone to look after your children, an elderly or a disabled adult you care for				
[Things]	If you needed someone to look after your home or possessions when away				

## NECESSITIES

Respondents to the June Omnibus were given the set of cards which you will be using for this section and asked to say which items they felt were necessities and which were desirable but not necessary. In this way, it is possible to measure what people think is necessary for an acceptable standard of living in Britain at the end of the twentieth century. Having established from the Omnibus what is necessary, this section will enable us to see which sections of the population have these necessities, and which sections cannot afford them.

**These questions are designed to measure what the respondent has, NOT the household.**

Differences between men and women in activities that they pursue or items that they have were found in previous studies. For example, 'Going to the pub once a week' and 'A daily newspaper' have been shown to be good indicators of male social exclusion. 'A small amount of money to spend on yourself, not the family' is thought to be more appropriate to women than men.

[NoNcPr] *Now I'd like to show you a list of items that relate to our standard of living. Please tell me which item you have or do not have by placing the cards on the base card that applies to you. Please put the items into three piles A, B or C.*

### **INTERVIEWER PLACE CARDS A, B AND C DOWN AND GIVE RESPONDENT SET E (PINK CARDS)**

[HaveNec] *Now could you please put the items on card set E into three piles A, B and C? Pile A is for the items you have. Pile B is for items you do not have but don't want. Pile C is for items you do not have and can't afford.*

		A	B	C	Unallocat ed
	SET E (PINK) CARDS	Have	Do not have but don't want	Do not have and can't afford	Does not apply
		[Hvneed ]	[NoHvDW]	[NoHvCA]	[HaveNA]
(1)	Two meals a day				
(2)	Meat or fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day				
(3)	Heating to warm living areas of the home if its cold				

(4)	A dressing gown				
(5)	Two pairs of all weather shoes				
(6)	New, not second hand, clothes				
(7)	A television				
(8)	A roast joint or its vegetarian equivalent once a week				
(9)	Carpets in living rooms and bedrooms in the home				
(10)	Telephone				
(11)	Refrigerator				
(12)	Beds and bedding for everyone in the household				
(13)	Damp-free home				
(14)	A car				
(15)	A dictionary				
(16)	Presents for friends or family once a year				
(17)	A warm waterproof coat				
(18)	A washing machine				
(19)	A dishwasher				
(20)	Regular savings (of 10 pounds a month) for rainy days or retirement				
(21)	A video cassette recorder				
(22)	Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration				
(23)	Insurance of contents of dwelling				
(24)	Fresh fruit and vegetables every day				
(25)	A home computer				
(26)	An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings				
(27)	Microwave oven				
(28)	Mobile phone				
(29)	Tumble dryer				
(30)	Deep freezer or Fridge freezer				

(31) )	Satellite TV				
(32) )	CD Player				
(33) )	Replace any worn out furniture				
(34) )	Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine				
(35) )	Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews				
(36) )	All medicines prescribed by your doctor				
(37) )	Access to the Internet				
(38) )	A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family				
(39) )	Having a daily newspaper				
(40) )	No cards selected				

**INTERVIEWER - PICK UP CARDS A, B AND C. PLACE CARDS D, E AND F DOWN AND ASK RESPONDENT TO LOOK AT CARD SET F (GREEN CARDS)**

[DoNec] *Now I would like you to do the same thing for the activities on card set F. Please put the items on card set E into three piles D, E and F? Pile D is for the activities you do. Pile E is for the activities you don't do but don't want to do. Pile F is for the activities you don't do and can't afford.*

		D	E	F	Unallocated
	SET F (GREEN) CARDS	Do	Don't do but don't want to do	Don't do and can't afford	Does not apply
		[NoWOut]	[DntWnt]	[CntAff]	[DoesNA]
(1)	An evening out once a fortnight				
(2)	A hobby or leisure activity				
(3)	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not with relatives				
(4)	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas				

(5)	A meal in a restaurant or pub once a month				
(6)	Holidays abroad once a year				
(7)	Coach or train fares to visit family/friends in other parts of the country four times a year				
(8)	Friends or family round for a meal, snack or drink				
(9)	Visits to friends or family				
(10)	Going to the pub once a fortnight				
(11)	Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions				
(12)	Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions				
(13)	Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship				
(14)	Collect children from school				
(15)	Visits to school, for example, sports day, parents evening				
(16)	No cards selected				

**ASK IF THERE ARE ANSWERS IN BOXES E AND F**

[ImpFac] *Which of these factors is important in preventing you from doing these activities?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Not interested?
- (2) Can't afford to?
- (3) Fear of burglary or vandalism?
- (4) Fear of personal attack?
- (5) Lack of time due to childcare responsibilities?
- (6) Lack of time due to other caring responsibilities?
- (7) Can't go out due to other caring responsibilities?
- (8) Too old, ill, sick or disabled?
- (9) Lack of time due to paid work?
- (10) No vehicle/poor public transport?
- (11) No one to go out with (social)?
- (12) Problems with physical access?
- (13) Feel unwelcome (e.g. due to disability, ethnicity, gender, age etc.)?



(14) None of these

**(SHOWCARD K)**

**ASK NEXT QUESTIONS ONLY IF THE RESPONDENT HAS CHILDREN. THE RESPONDENT SHOULD THINK OF ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN TOGETHER.**

**INTERVIEWER - PLACE CARDS A, B AND C DOWN AND GIVE RESPONDENT CARD SET H (YELLOW CARDS)**

[ChHave] *Now I would like you to do the same thing for the items on card set H, but this time thinking of children. Please put the items on card set H into the three piles A, B and C again. Pile A is for the items you have. Pile B is for items you do not have but don't want. Pile C is for items you do not have and can't afford.*

	SET H (YELLOW) CARDS	A	B	C	Unallocat ed
		Have	Does not have but don't want	Does not have and can't afford	Does not apply
		[ChHvNd ]	[ChNHDW]	[CHNHCA]	[CHHVNA]
(1)	Three meals a day				
(2)	Toys (e.g. dolls, play figures, teddies, etc.)				
(3)	Leisure equipment (e.g. sports equipment or a bicycle)				
(4)	Enough bedrooms for every child over 10 of different sex to have his or her own bedroom				
(5)	Computer games				
(6)	A warm waterproof coat				
(7)	Books of her or his own				
(8)	A bike, new or second hand				
(9)	Construction toys such as Duplo or Lego				
(10)	Educational games				
(11)	New, properly fitted, shoes				
(12)	At least seven pairs of new underpants or knickers in good condition, bought new				
(13)	At least four jumpers,				

)	cardigans or sweatshirts				
(14)	All the school uniform required by the school				
(15)	At least four pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms				
(16)	At least 50 pence a week to spend on sweets				
(17)	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least twice a day				
(18)	Computer suitable for school work				
(19)	Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day				
(20)	A garden to play in				
(21)	Some new, not second-hand or handed-on clothes				
(22)	A carpet in their bedroom				
(23)	A bed and bedding to her/himself				
(24)	No cards selected				

**INTERVIEWER - PICK UP CARDS A, B AND C. PLACE CARDS D, E AND F DOWN AND ASK RESPONDENT TO LOOK AT CARD SET I (BLUE CARDS)**

[ChDoAc] *Now I would like you to do the same for the following children's activities on this set of cards - set I. Please put the items on card set I into the three piles D, E and F again. Pile D is for the activities you do. Pile E is for the activities you don't do but don't want to do. Pile F is for the activities you don't do and can't afford.*

		D	E	F	Unallocated
	SET I (BLUE) CARDS	Do	Don't do but don't want to do	Don't do and can't afford	Does not apply
		[ChNWot]	[ChDWnt]	[ChCtAf]	[CHDSNA]
(1)	A hobby or leisure activity				
(2)	Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays Christmas or other religious festivals				
(3)	Swimming at least once a				

	month				
(4)	Play group at least once a week for pre-school aged children				
(5)	A holiday away from home at least one week a year with his or her family				
(6)	Going on a school trip at least once a term for school aged children				
(7)	Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight				
(8)	No cards selected				

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## FINANCE AND DEBTS

These questions ask about any problems the respondent has had in paying bills and any loans from money lenders (EXCEPT banks and building societies) that they have taken out.

This will give us information about poverty over time. For example, respondents may not be poor now but over the last year have not been financially secure, because of problems with paying bills or needing to take out loans.

[DebtPr] *The next questions are about the types of bills you receive and other financial matters.*

[InDebt] *Have there been times during the past year when you were seriously behind in paying within the time allowed for any of these items?*

### CODE ALL THAT APPLY

- (1) None of these
- (2) Rent
- (3) Gas
- (4) Electricity
- (5) Water
- (6) Goods on hire purchase
- (7) Mortgage repayments
- (8) Council Tax
- (9) Credit card payments
- (10) Mail order catalogue payments
- (11) Telephone
- (12) Other loans
- (13) TV Licence

- (14) Road Tax
- (15) DSS Social Fund Loan
- (16) Child Support or Maintenance

**(SHOWCARD L)**

[Discon] *Have you ever been disconnected in relation to water, gas, electricity and the telephone because you couldn't afford it?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) None of these
- (2) Water
- (3) Gas
- (4) Electricity
- (5) Telephone

[UsedLs] *Have you ever used less than you needed to in relation to water, gas, electricity and the telephone because you couldn't afford it?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) None of these
- (2) Water
- (3) Gas
- (4) Electricity
- (5) Telephone

[Borrow] *And have there been times during the past year when you have had to borrow money from pawnbrokers or money lenders, excluding banks or building societies, or from friends and family in order to pay for your day-to-day needs?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) None of these
- (2) Pawnbroker
- (3) Money lender
- (4) Friend(s)
- (5) Family

**(SHOWCARD M)**

[BankAc] *Do you or your partner/spouse have a bank or building society current account?*

**CODE ONE ONLY**

- (1) Yes, respondent only
- (2) Yes partner only
- (3) Yes, both respondent and partner
- (4) No, neither respondent and partner
- (5) Don't know

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**INTRA-HOUSEHOLD POVERTY**

Previous research has shown that resources are not always equally distributed within households. Research on poverty has shown that not all members of households have equal access to resources. Women for example, are less likely than men to have access to the family car. Some men see money which their partner spends on the children as being the woman's personal spending money. When funds are short, it is often the woman who has the job of managing resources; conversely, when resources are less restrained, men often make the major purchasing decisions.

It is also the case that there is often a time lag between people moving in and out of poverty, and changing their standard of living. Those who suddenly become poor because, for example, they lose their job, can sometimes maintain their standard of living for a while. They may not need to buy new clothes or furniture for a while. Conversely, people who move out of poverty, for example by getting a job or a pay rise, may not be able to improve their standard of living immediately as it takes time to accumulate sufficient funds to buy, say, a new winter coat or a good pair of shoes.

The questions in this section will give insight into how resources are shared and managed in a household, and also show which aspects of people's standard of living are most likely to go first when funds are short.

**ASK ALL THOSE HOUSEHOLDS WITH A CAR**

[CarAcc] *Do you have access to the car when you personally need it?*

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

[InHsPr] *I am now going to ask you some questions about how you organise your household income.*

**ASK ONLY IF RESPONDENT LIVES WITH A PARTNER OR SPOUSE**

[HldFin] *People organise their household finances in different ways. Which of the methods on this card comes closest to way you organise yours? It doesn't have to fit exactly - just choose the nearest one. You can just tell me which one applies.*

**CODE ONE ONLY**

- (1) I look after the household money except my partner's personal spending money
- (2) My partner looks after the household's money except my personal spending money
- (3) I am given a housekeeping allowance. My partner looks after the rest of the money
- (4) My partner is given a housekeeping allowance. I look after the rest of the money.
- (5) We share and manage our household finances jointly
- (6) We keep our finances completely separate
- (7) Some other arrangement

**(SHOWCARD N)**

**ASK ALWAYS**

[GoneWot] *This card shows a list of things which adults have told us that they sometimes go without when money is tight. I'd like you to tell me which of these items you PERSONALLY have gone without in the last year because of shortage of money?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Clothes
- (2) Shoes
- (3) Food
- (4) Heating
- (5) Telephoning friends or family
- (6) Going out
- (7) Visits to the pub
- (8) A hobby or sport
- (9) A holiday
- (10) Never go without
- (11) Money never tight

**(SHOWCARD O)**

**ASK ONLY IF RESPONDENT LIVES WITH A PARTNER OR SPOUSE**

[PtGonWt] *And what about your partner, which of these items has he/she gone without in the last year because of shortage of money?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Clothes
- (2) Shoes
- (3) Food
- (4) Heating
- (5) Telephoning friends or family
- (6) Going out
- (7) Visits to the pub
- (8) A hobby or sport
- (9) A holiday
- (10) Never go without
- (11) Money never tight

**(SHOWCARD O AGAIN)**

**ASK ONLY IF THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD**

[ChldWO] *And what about your child(ren), which of the things on Card P has he/she/they gone without each of these things in the last year because of shortage of money?*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Clothes
- (2) Shoes
- (3) Food
- (4) A hobby or sport
- (5) A trip or holiday arranged by the school
- (6) A family holiday
- (7) Pocket money
- (8) Never go without
- (9) Money never tight

**(SHOWCARD P)**

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**POVERTY OVER TIME**

These questions ask about changes in the respondent's living standards over time. The respondent is asked to comment on whether he/she thinks him/herself to have been poor or in poverty and about any changes in these over time.

[PvTmPr] *I would now like to ask you about your living standards and about any changes in these over time.*

[GenPor] *Do you think you could genuinely say you are poor now...*

- (1) All the time
- (2) Sometimes
- (3) Never?

[LvInPv] *Looking back over your life, how often have there been times in your life when you think you have lived in poverty by the standards of that time?*

- (1) Never
- (2) Rarely
- (3) Occasionally
- (4) Often
- (5) Most of the time

[AnyImp] *Has anything happened recently (in the last two years) in your life which has...*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Improved your standard of living
- (2) Reduced your standard of living
- (3) Increased your income
- (4) Reduced your income
- (5) None of these?

[ExpImp] *Is there anything that you expect to happen in the near future (in the next two years) in your life which will...*

**CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

- (1) Improve your standard of living
- (2) Reduce your standard of living
- (3) Increase your income
- (4) Reduce your income
- (5) None of these

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### **ABSOLUTE AND OVERALL POVERTY**

The aim of this section is to ascertain respondents' views on the level of income which is needed to keep people above the



poverty line. Previous research has shown that this can vary with people's circumstances, with people on low incomes making lower estimates than those on higher incomes. Analysing the answers by income level will enable us to see if that is the case.

There are many different ways of measuring poverty. In this section, respondents will be shown two definitions, which are based on a declaration and programme of action adopted by a United Nations World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995.

**Absolute Poverty** means not having the basic necessities of life to keep body and soul together.

**Overall poverty** is not having those things that society thinks are basic necessities. Overall poverty also means not being able to do the things that most people take for granted (either because you can't afford to participate in usual activities or because you are discriminated against in other ways. What constitutes Overall poverty will vary between different societies and at different points in time.

[PvDfPr] *The next questions ask about the cost of living in Britain today.*

[WeekAm] *How many pounds a week, after tax, do you think are necessary to keep a household such as the one you live in, out of poverty?*

**TO NEAREST £ - CODE FOR REFUSAL AND DON'T KNOW**

[PovAbB] *How far above or below that level would you say your household is?*

- (1) A lot above that level of income
- (2) A little above
- (3) About the same
- (4) A little below
- (5) A lot below that level of income
- (6) Don't know

**(SHOWCARD Q)**

[Defntn] *Poverty can be defined in two ways: absolute poverty and overall poverty. The definitions of absolute and overall poverty are shown on these cards.*

**(SHOWCARDS R AND S)**