

4 Statistics – Answer Key

Text: How to Be an Alien (p. 19: task 8), from: David Beal, *Britain in Europe*, Viewfinder Topics New Edition plus (München: Langenscheidt, 2010).

A STATISTICS BY IPSOS MORI

** The mistake is the genitive form in the title:

see: singular: child plural: children genitive: **children's !!**

B WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BRITISH

Examine the figures in the tables and find out:

1 How many people got the date of St George's Day right?

62 (which is the majority)

2 How many people weren't able to say what the British national dish is?

1

3 How does wine rank in the categories "favourite drink" and "Britain's national drink"?

favourite drink: 1: tea 2: beer/lager/coffee 3: wine

national drink: 1: tea 2: beer/ lager 3: coffee 4: wine

4 People aged 15 and over had to give three answers to sample citizenship test questions. What did the poll find out?

While almost half (48%) were only able to give one correct answer, only 4% were able to give three correct answers. What's more, as many as 23% weren't able to answer any of the questions correctly!

5 Why are the respondents “proud to be British”?

The survey found that more people (45%) are proud to be British on account of the country's history than they are because of the Royal Family (28%). And more people cite the NHS (37%) and the armed forces (36%) as a source of pride than they do the Royals. British sports teams come in at a lowly 10%. Bringing up the bottom of the table is British business, with only 4%.

Slightly adapted from: <http://www.channel4.com/info/press/news/britons-are-prouder-of-their-history-nhs-and-army-than-of-the-royals>

6 Sum up the findings shown in tables Q5 and Q6 in about 4 sentences.

The survey found that a 'good sense of humour' (45%) topped the poll when people were asked what were the best characteristics of British people, followed by friendly (34%) and tolerant to all sections of society (30%).

But while being funny may be the best British characteristic, of those surveyed, half (50%) said the worst was drinking too much. Ignorance of other cultures (33%) and complaining too much (23%) were also cited. And a fifth of respondents thought the worst characteristic was being lazy (20%).

Slightly adapted from: <http://www.channel4.com/info/press/news/britons-are-prouder-of-their-history-nhs-and-army-than-of-the-royals>

7 Look at diagram Q10.**- What is the diagram about?**

The diagram is about classification according to terms of different ethnic backgrounds, generations, sexuality, and religious beliefs.

- What is the most obvious statement?

Mixing socially with people from another ethnic background outside of work or school seems to be absolutely normal in Britain as half of the respondents (29% and 21%) said that they meet such people daily or less than daily but at least weekly.

8 Look at diagram Q11.

- **What is the most obvious statement?**

It becomes evident that 70% of all respondents think that there are too many immigrants in Britain. Nevertheless, the British are not so sure whether immigration is responsible for an increase in crime rates in Britain (agree: 49%/ disagree: 47%).

- **Are there any conclusions or messages?**

Seven in 10 Britons say that there are too many immigrants in the UK, 36% even state that they **strongly** agree with the statement from the questionnaire. However, the British don't seem to be afraid of their negative influence on their country as they don't think that immigration increases crime rates. Moreover, 55% state that they would NOT rather live in an area where most people are from the same ethnic background. Yet they do have problems when describing people from ethnic minorities (54% agree).

9 Imagine you are a Londoner and have to write about the findings of the poll in a newspaper article. Devise a headline and a summarising introductory sentence.

Headlines:

- There are Too Many Migrants in the UK (sensationalist, maybe for a tabloid newspaper)
- What It Means To Be British (maybe for a broadsheet newspaper)

Introductory sentence:

A new Ipsos Mori poll about the British people, British food and drink, and British values and characteristics reveals that we are humorous and love tea but also that we drink too much. It shows that while we think that we are tolerant, we also feel that there are too many immigrants.

(Daniela Pröls)