

Monthly tracker - November 2024

Seventh data set. Tracking questions first asked between 25th - 27th October 2024.

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Age groups

Summary

Question 1

Younger populations were more likely to have a stronger 'spiritual' attachment to their faith - scoring highest in prompts such as 'My faith has helped me find purpose in the last four weeks' and 'Faith and religion are generally a force for good in society'. Despite this, younger participants were also most likely to avoid speaking about their faith, and least likely to believe the UK is a place where they feel completely free to practise their religious beliefs. All age groups showed relatively high support for the idea that someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister.

Question 2

The prompt on religious extremism drew out the widest range of responses in this question, where younger people were considerably less likely than average to believe religious extremism poses a threat to British society, with agreement increasing as the age of the participants increased. Older participants showed greater aversion to talking about their faith in the workplace. Younger participants were more likely to encourage British politicians talking about their faith, and the idea that British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues, potentially pointing towards the youth being warmer to the idea of an integration of faith into social and political life.

Question 3

Younger participants continue to be more likely to be critical of media coverage, scoring highest in the prompts on whether the media portrays some religions more negatively than others and the media portraying all religions negatively. In contrast, older participants showed an above average desire to see less religion in the media. Less than one third of all age groups were content with the way their religion was portrayed in the media, and less than one fourth of all age groups found that the way the media has portrayed different religions in the last four weeks is generally balanced.

Detailed analysis

1. Question one

- a. In the last four weeks, I have avoided telling people about my faith

Younger participants were more likely to agree with the prompt, where 18% of 18-24s and 27% of 25-34s showed an above average agreement (4% and 13%, respectively). In contrast, only 8% of 65+s agreed with the prompt, with a spread of 19%. It is possible to observe a clear trend in the data, where there was a decline in support for the prompt as age increased.

- b. My faith has helped me find purpose in the last four weeks

18-24s were 30% more likely than the national average to agree with this prompt (71%). Meanwhile, the 55+s were 13% less likely than the national average in showing agreement with the prompt (27%). Once again, it is possible to see an age-based correlation in the data, where younger participants feel more strongly about faith helping them find purpose in the last four weeks. There was a difference of 44% between the 18-24s and 55+s in this question, which is the greatest age-based variation in this month's tracker.

- c. The UK is a place where I feel completely free to practise my religious beliefs without fear or intimidation

65+s were the only group that showed above average support for this prompt, scoring 11% higher than the national average of 66%. Remaining age groups' responses varied between 59% (18-24s) and 65% (34-44s). Apart from the oldest group scoring the highest and the youngest group scoring the lowest, there was no observable trend amongst the different age groups.

- d. Faith and religion are generally a force for good in society

There was no observable trend with respect to age in this question. 18-24s (57%), 25-34s (42%) and 65+s (44%) were the three age groups to score higher than the national average of 33%. The remaining 'middle' groups scored between 31% and 29%, showing marginal differences.

- e. Someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister

All groups scored higher than 60% for this question, through once again, only the youngest group - 18-24s, and the oldest group - 65+s scored higher than the national average of 66% at 71% and 73% respectively. There was marginal variation amongst other age groups, ranging from 62% to 63%.

2. Question two

- a. People should not talk about religion in the workplace

As participants' age increased, their likelihood of agreeing with the prompt broadly increased, where the 18-24s showed the least agreement at 22% compared to 65+s at 44%. 18-24s scored 14% lower than the national average of 36%, while 65+s scored 8% higher. The greatest difference between consecutive age groups was between 18-24s (22%) and 25-34s (34%) at 12%.

- b. British politicians talking about their faith is a positive thing

Younger participants were more likely to agree with this statement, where 18-24s and 25-34s were 15% and 3% higher than the national average of 39% respectively. 45+s all scored marginally lower than the national average, with the lowest score being from the 55-64s at 34%. Once again, it is possible to observe a general trend that a decline in age can indicate a greater likelihood of agreeing with the prompt.

- c. British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues

Responses to this prompt showed the lowest distribution amongst all the prompts in this question at 12%. While there was no observable trend between age and responses, the greatest variation from the national average was +7% from the 18-24s, followed by -5% for 25-34s.

- d. Religious extremism poses a significant threat to British society

There was a clear trend amongst responses for this prompt, where likelihood of agreeing with the prompt increased proportionally to the age of participants. This prompt also had the widest range of responses, with a variation of 37% between the 18-24s and 65+s, who scored 50% and 87% respectively. 18-34s

scored 25%, 8%, and 6% lower than the national average, compared to 55-65+s who scored 11% and 12% higher than the national average.

3. Question three

- a. The way the media has portrayed different religions in the last four weeks is generally balanced

There was no observable trend in responses to this prompt, where there was only 7% variation. The lowest response (35-44s), 16%, was only 4% lower than the national average, while the highest response (18-34s), 23%, was only 3% higher than the national average.

- b. The media have appeared to present some religions more negatively than others in the last four weeks

There was a marginal decline in agreement with age in this question. While the 18-24 group showed the highest agreement at 50%, scoring 17% higher than the national average, the 45-54 group showed the lowest agreement at 32%, which is 5% lower than the national average.

- c. The media in the last four weeks has generally portrayed all religions negatively

Younger participants were more likely to agree with this prompt, where an increase in age indicated a decrease in agreement. 18-24s scored the highest at 24% - 9% higher than the national average, followed by 25-34s at 18%. 45+s all scored marginally lower than the national average, ranging from 14% (45-54s) to 11% (55-65+s).

- d. I would like to see less religion in the media

Older participants were most likely to agree with this prompt, where agreement was proportional to participants' age. Interestingly, 18-24s scored 17% lower than the national average - the greatest variation from the national average amongst other prompts in this question for this age group. 55-64s scored the highest at 56%.

e. I am content with the way my religion tends to be portrayed in the media

There was no observable trend between age and responses to this question. 65+s were most likely to agree at 28%, which is 5% higher than the national average, followed closely by 18-24s at 25%, 2% higher than the national average. 35-44s were the least likely to agree at 19%. The range of responses to this question varied by 9%.

Social grade

Summary

1. Question one

It is possible to observe a linear trend amongst social grade groups in their approach to faith, where the AB group scored highest in prompts on faith helping them find purpose, being free to practise their faith in the UK, faith and religion being a force for good in society, and someone of any faith being Prime Minister, compared to the DE group, which consistently scored the lowest.

2. Question two

The greatest variation in any prompt for this question was only 10%, indicating a general consensus. AB group responses were consistently higher than the national average, while DE responses were consistently lower than the national average. There was no trend between the C1 and C2 groups. The highest agreement was for the prompt on religious extremism, where all groups scored at least 70%.

3. Question three

Once again, the spread for prompts in this question was not higher than 10%, showing that there is marginal variation between social groups' responses. The AB group continues to score higher than the national average, compared to the DE group, which apart from one prompt (wanting to see less religion in the media), scored lower than the national average.

Detailed analysis

1. Question one

- a. In the last four weeks, I have avoided telling people about my faith

The spread for this prompt was only 4%, where the highest score belonged to the C2 group (16%), and the lowest was the DE group (12%). There was no observable trend amongst social groups for responses to this question.

- b. My faith has helped me find purpose in the last four weeks

AB and C1 groups scored 5% and 2% higher than the national average at 45% and 42% respectively. In comparison, C2 and DE groups scored lower than the national average by 3% and 4% respectively.

- c. The UK is a place where I feel completely free to practise my religious beliefs without fear or intimidation

The only social group to show a considerable deviation from the national average, was the AB group, scoring 7% higher at 73%. The C2 and DE groups both scored below the national average at 64% and 61% respectively.

- d. Faith and religion are generally a force for good in society

The distribution of responses to this prompt was low at 5%. There was a marginal difference in responses amongst C1, C2, and DE groups, while the AB group scored 4% higher than the national average at 42%.

- e. Someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister

This prompt had the widest range of responses, where the difference between the highest scorers (AB group, 75%) and the lowest scorers (DE group, 58%), was 17. AB and C1 groups scored 9% and 3% higher than the national average, while C2 and DE scored 5% and 8% lower than the national average.

2. Question two

- a. People should not talk about their faith in the workplace

There was a marginal difference between responses from AB, C2 and DE groups, where they all scored within 3% of the national average. The only group scoring

lower than the national average was the C1 group, scoring 32% - 4% lower than the national average. Variation in responses was 7%.

- b. British politicians talking about their faith is a positive thing

AB showed the highest agreement to this question at 44%, followed by C2 at 40%. The C1 and DE groups scored lower than the national average at 38% and 36% respectively. The distribution for this question was 8%.

- c. British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues

AB showed the highest agreement on this question at 51%, followed by C1 at 46%, and C2 and DE at 41%. AB and C1 were the two groups to score higher than the national average. The variation in responses to this prompt was 10%.

- d. Religious extremism poses a significant threat to British society.

All social groups showed at least 70% agreement to the prompt, indicating a level of consensus. C2 scored the highest at 80%, followed closely by AB at 78% - where both these groups scored above the national average of 75%. C1 and DE scored 71% and 70% respectively.

3. Question three

- a. The way the media has portrayed different religions in the last four weeks is generally balanced

There was marginal variation from the national average in responses to this question. AB scored the highest at 23% - 3% higher than the national average, while DE scored the lowest at 15% - 5% lower than national average. C1 and C2 scored 21% and 20% respectively.

- b. The media have appeared to present some religions more negatively than others in the last four weeks

AB scored the highest at 42%, being the only group to score higher than the national average. They are followed by C2 at 37%, C1 at 36% and DE at 32%. The distribution of responses was within 10%.

- c. The media in the last four weeks has generally portrayed all religion negatively

This question showed the highest agreement between social grades with a distribution of 2%. AB and C2 showed the highest agreement at 16%, followed by C1 and DE at 15% and 14% respectively.

- d. I would like to see less religion in the media

C2 showed the highest agreement at 51%, followed by AB and DE at 47%. C1 was the only one to score less than the national average (by 5%), scoring 41%.

- e. I am content with the way my religion tends to be portrayed in the media

AB was the most likely to agree with the prompt at 26%, followed by C2 at 24% - the two being the only groups to score above the national average. C1 scores were at the same level as the national average (23%), while DE scored the lowest with 19%.

Regions

Summary

1. Question one

There are few noticeable patterns amongst responses from different regions to this question, where respondents from London showed considerably higher levels of agreement, and respondents from the East Midlands showed generally lower than average agreement to the prompts. Amongst the three questions in this month's analysis, this question had the widest range of responses, with distributions exceeding 30% on two occasions.

2. Question two

This set of questions focused on the outward depictions of faith in the social and political sphere, and once again, while it wasn't possible to discern a trend amongst regions, certain regions stand out in their tendency to show agreement with the prompts. For instance, where London and Northern Ireland are more likely to agree with the prompts, East Midlands and Yorkshire are less likely to agree with the prompts.

3. Question three

There were no discernible patterns in this set of prompts.

Detailed analysis

1. Question one

- a. In the last four weeks I have avoided telling people about my faith

The spread for this question was 18%, where respondents from London were the most likely to agree with the prompt at 22%, and respondents from Wales were the least likely to agree at 4%. Apart from London and Wales, other responses did not deviate from the national average by more than 6%.

- b. My faith has helped me find purpose in the last four weeks

The spread for this question was considerably high at 33%. Once again, London showed the highest agreement rate at 61% - 21% above the national average, while Yorkshire had the lowest agreement at 28% - 12% below the national average. The responses from London appear to be an outlier, as the second highest score was in the North West at 44% - only 14% higher than Yorkshire and 4% higher than the national average.

- c. The UK is a place where I feel completely free to practise my religious beliefs without fear or intimidation

The distribution for this question was 19%, where the South East and Wales had the highest score at 74%, followed by London and Scotland at 70%. The lowest responses were in Northern Ireland at 55% and Yorkshire at 57%.

- d. Faith and religion are generally a force for good in society

The spread for this question was 31%, though this is partly due to outliers in Northern Ireland (57%) and Scotland (26%). The remaining regions apart from London (54%) are all within 7% of the national average, and have a distribution of 10%.

- e. Someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister

The spread for this question was 22%. Northern Ireland scored the highest at 79% followed by London at 71%. Eastern scored the lowest at 57% followed by 59%. Responses for the remaining regions fluctuated between 63% and 69%.

2. Question two

- a. People should not talk about their faith in the workplace

The spread for this question was 17%, where Northern Ireland scored the highest at 47% - 11% higher than the national average, and the North West scored the lowest at 31% - 5% lower than the national average.

- b. British politicians talking about their faith is a positive thing

Northern Ireland had an above average likelihood of agreeing with the prompt, scoring 15% higher than the national average of 39%. Meanwhile, Scotland and Eastern scored the lowest at 32% - 7% lower than the national average. The spread for this question was 22%.

- c. British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues

Participants from London were the most likely to agree with this prompt at 58%, followed closely by Northern Ireland at 54% - scoring 14% and 9% higher than the national average respectively. The lowest score was in Scotland and Yorkshire at 38% - 7% lower than the national average. The spread for this question was 20%.

- d. Religious extremism poses a significant threat to British society.

This prompt had the lowest spread at 13%, where the South West (81%) followed by Northern Ireland and the North East (79%) had the highest agreement. The lowest agreement was in the West Midlands (68%). Apart from the West Midlands, respondents in all regions scored higher than 70%.

3. Question three

- a. The way the media has portrayed different religions in the last four weeks is generally balanced

The spread for this question was 13%, although the only two regions that scored higher than the national average were London (28%) and the North West (22%). The remaining regions showed a variance of 5% from the national average at most - in this case in the West Midlands, which scored 15%.

- b. The media have appeared to present some religions more negatively than others in the last four weeks

The highest agreement for this prompt was from respondents in London who scored 45% - 8% higher than the national average. The lowest score was in Northern Ireland, which scored 25% - 16% lower than the national average. The spread for this question was 20%.

- c. The media in the last four weeks has generally portrayed all religion negatively

Apart from the two highest scorers, London and the North East, which scored 23% and 21%, the remaining regions only showed a variance of 5% from the national average of 10%. The lowest score was in the South West with 10%. The overall spread for the prompt was 13%.

- d. I would like to see less religion in the media

The spread for this question was 23%, where 4 regions scored higher than 50%. The highest score was in Scotland at 55%, which is 9% higher than the national average, followed by Yorkshire at 54%. The lowest score was in Northern Ireland at 32% - 14% lower than the national average, followed by Wales at 37%.

- e. I am content with the way my religion tends to be portrayed in the media

This question had the lowest spread in terms of region for this month's tracker at 10%. The North West and North East had the highest scores at 28%, compared to 18% in Scotland and 20% in Eastern.

Faith groups

Summary

1. Question one

Hindus were most likely to avoid telling people about their faiths, to find the UK to be a place they feel completely free to practise their religious beliefs without fear or intimidation, and to believe someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister. They were, however, least likely to find faith and religion to be a force for good in society, and that their faith had helped them find purpose in the last four weeks.

Muslims were most likely to agree with prompts highlighting the positive contribution of faith into their personal and social lives, in addition to showing above average support for the view that someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister. Muslims were least likely to find the UK to be a place they could practise their religion freely.

Christians were least likely to avoid telling people about their faith, as well as least likely to believe faith and religion are generally a force for good in society. Christians scored above average in prompts on the UK being a safe place to practise religious beliefs, and someone of any faith being Prime Minister.

2. Question two

Hindus were least likely to believe people should not talk about their faith in the workplace, despite also being the least likely to perceive British politicians talking about their faith as a positive thing. Hindus were also less concerned about religious extremism as a threat to society.

Muslims were most likely to welcome British politicians talking about their faith, and for them to listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues. Muslims were least likely to find religious extremism to be a significant threat to British society, and showed a below average tendency of avoiding talking about their faith in the workspace.

Christians were the most likely to believe people should not talk about their faith in the work place, and that religious extremism poses a significant threat to

British society. Christians were least likely to believe British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues, showcasing a preference for a separation of religion from society and politics.

3. Question three

Hindus were least likely to want to see less religion in the media, and to find the media have appeared to present some religions more negatively than others in the last four weeks. They were less critical of the media in general, and most content with the way their religion was portrayed in the media.

Muslims were most critical of the media, as they were most likely to find the media to have portrayed some religions more negatively than others, and that all religions were portrayed negatively. Muslims were also least content with the way their religion tends to be portrayed in the media.

Christians were the most likely to want to see less religion in the media, and the least likely to believe the media has portrayed all religion negatively. They showed an above average level of content with the way their religion tends to be portrayed in the media.

Detailed analysis

1. Question one

- a. In the last four weeks I have avoided telling people about my faith

Hindus were most likely to agree with the statement, scoring 12% higher than the national average, whilst Christians were least likely, scoring 2% lower than the national average. Muslims scored exactly on average, and the spread for this question was 14%.

- b. My faith has helped me find purpose in the last four weeks

Muslims were the only faith group to score higher than the national average in response to this question, with 51% agreeing with the prompt. Christians and Hindus both scored 36%, which is 4% lower than the national average.

- c. The UK is a place where I feel completely free to practise my religious beliefs without fear or intimidation

Hindus were the most likely to agree with this prompt, scoring 82%, followed by Christians at 69%- scoring 16% and 3% higher than the national average respectively. Muslims scored 18% lower than the national average. The spread at 34% was the largest for the prompts within this question.

- d. Faith and religion are generally a force for good in society

All faith groups scored higher than the national average of 38% in response to this prompt, where Muslims were most likely to agree at 69%, followed by Christians at 55%, and Hindus at 45%. The spread for this question was 24%, with Hindus being the only group to score below 50%.

- e. Someone of any faith should be able to be Prime Minister

Once again, all faith groups showed an above average agreement with this prompt, all scoring higher than the national average of 66%. Hindus were most likely to agree at 80%, while Christians were least likely at 68% - 14% and 2% higher than the national average respectively.

2. Question two

- a. People should not talk about their faith in the workplace

The spread for this question was only 7%, indicating a level of agreement within the different faith groups. Christians were most likely to agree with the prompt at 35%, followed by Muslims at 29% and Hindus at 28%. All three groups scored below the national average of 36%.

- b. British politicians talking about their faith is a positive thing

Hindus were the least likely to support their statement, scoring 31%, which made them the only faith group to score below the national average by 8%. Muslims were most likely to agree with the prompt at 64%, followed by Christians at 51%. There was a wide variety in responses to this prompt as the spread was 33%.

- c. British politicians should listen to what faith leaders have to say on social and political issues

All three faith groups scored higher than the national average for this prompt, and the 7% spread shows there is a degree of agreement between the faith groups for this issue. All groups scored higher than 50%, where Muslims were most likely at 61%, followed by Hindus at 58% and Christians at 54%. The lowest group (Christians) was 9% higher than the national average.

- d. Religious extremism poses a significant threat to British society.

Compared to 46% agreement from Muslims and 52% agreement from Hindus, Christians showed a significant degree of support for this prompt, scoring 79%. Christians were the only faith group to score higher than the national average of 75%. The spread for this question was 33%.

3. Question three

- a. The way the media has portrayed different religions in the last four weeks is generally balanced

All three faith groups scored higher than the national average for this question, though Muslims were most likely to agree with the prompt at 33%, followed by Hindus at 23% and Christians at 22% - 13%, 3% and 2% higher than the national average.

- b. The media have appeared to present some religions more negatively than others in the last four weeks

The spread for this question was the greatest in this month's survey in terms of religious crossbreaks at 35%. 64% of Muslims - 27% higher than the national average- agreed with the prompt, making them most likely to believe some religions have been presented more negatively than others. Muslims were followed by Christians at 38%, and Hindus at 29%.

- c. The media in the last four weeks has generally portrayed all religion negatively

All three faith groups scored higher than the national average in response to this question. Muslims were most likely to agree at 43%, followed by Hindus at 33% - 28% and 18% higher than the national average respectively. Christians were the least likely at 16%.

- d. I would like to see less religion in the media

40% of Christians agreed with the prompt compared to only 13% of Hindus. All three faith groups scored lower than the national average, though the spread of 27% shows an above average level of disagreement between the faith groups. Muslims scored 34%.

- e. I am content with the way my religion tends to be portrayed in the media

Muslims were the only group that scored below the national average in response to this prompt at 20%. Hindus were the most likely to agree, with 48%, followed by Christians at 39%, - 25% and 16% higher than the national average respectively.