

Response to Topic Consultation and Potential New Questions for 2007 Test

Action for Advisory Groups

Advisory Group members are invited to provide comment on the:

1. Response to topic consultation;
2. Process for developing questions;
3. Possible new or updated questions for the 2007 Test.

Background

1. Between May and August 2005 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) ran a public consultation on the content of the 2011 Census questionnaire for England and Wales. Overall, a higher than anticipated response was received with approximately 2,000 submissions from nearly 500 organisations or individuals across central and local government, academia, business, other groups and the general public.

Response to topic consultation

2. The consultation exercise supported the need for almost all information collected in the 2001 Census. However, strong cases were also made for new topics:
 - Income - needed by central and local government to improve identification and understanding of areas of deprivation.
 - Language - required to monitor equality legislation and improve service provision to minority groups.
 - Sexual orientation - for use in monitoring equality legislation and improving service provision to the lesbian, gay and bisexual community.
 - Second homes - needed to help housing and transport planning and also to improve the accuracy of population estimation.
3. A clear requirement for additional information on ethnicity and national identity has also been identified, with particular interest in Wales in the collection of information on Welsh identity.
4. The responses were evaluated using the criteria outlined in the original consultation document to provide an assessment of user requirement. Topics have also been provisionally evaluated in terms of other factors that will influence the final content of the questionnaire, such as data quality, public acceptability and respondent burden. This has resulted in the allocation of each topic to one of three categories:

- 1) Topics likely to be collected in the 2011 Census;
 - 2) Topics where further work is required before a decision is made on whether to collect information on them in the 2011 Census; or
 - 3) Topics which will not be included in the 2011 Census.
5. The ONS view remains that a sexual orientation question is not suitable for the 2011 Census. There are significant concerns surrounding the issues of privacy, acceptability, accuracy, conceptual definitions and the effect that such a question could have on the overall response to the Census. However, the increasing demand for information is clear and a programme of work is in the process of being established to determine the most suitable way to meet this need.
 6. The response to the consultation was published on 8 March and is available on the National Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp This was accompanied by press briefings in London and Cardiff as well as press releases in England and Wales. Summaries of user requirements for each topic were also published the same day and the individual responses to the consultation a week later. One television interview and five radio interviews were conducted as a result of the publication and the main newspapers covered the story.
 7. Unfortunately, the BBC website mis-reported ONS and indicated that tick boxes for national identity would include Scottish, Welsh and British but not English. This generated many phone calls and e-mails from disgruntled members of the public. The BBC website was updated reasonably quickly but queries were still generated. Apart from this, the reaction to the publication was generally as expected with concerns about the inclusion of an income question and some disappointment about sexual orientation still being excluded.

Content of 2007 Test

8. In March 2006, the ONS Census Project Board approved the use of four (rather than three) pages of individual questions for the 2007 Test in order to maximise the opportunity to test new questions. Therefore, the content of the Test will not necessarily reflect the content of the 2011 Census. It should be noted that there is still a working assumption of three pages of individual questions for the 2011 Census.
9. Even with four pages of individual questions for the 2007 Test, it will not be possible to accommodate all category 2 topics on the questionnaire. Therefore, difficult decisions will still need to be made by the UK Census Questionnaire Design Working Group (UKCQDWG) on the content of the 2007 Test questionnaire in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There will have to be trade-offs between the number of topics, the size of questions and the general layout of the questionnaire.

Process for developing questions

10. During 2005, topic groups were established to evaluate the user requirements for each topic in detail, evaluate alternative data sources and conduct more detailed

user consultation as required. The groups are also responsible for the development and testing of questions to meet user needs. The five topic groups currently underway are:

- Population definitions and bases
- Ethnicity, identity, language and religion
- Labour market, NS-SEC and qualifications
- Income
- Health and care

11. During 2006, three more topic groups will be established to cover:

- Migration
- Basic demographics
- Housing

The population definitions and bases topic group will also consider the topic of travel from June onwards.

12. The topic groups include staff from ONS, GROS, NISRA and WAG with expertise in the Census and the specific topics covered by each group. The groups also include staff with expertise in question development and testing, and harmonisation of questions and concepts. The labour market, NS-SEC and qualifications topic group also includes a representative from DfES providing expertise in qualifications.

13. Within ONS, question testing work has been carried out by Data Collection Methodology (DCM). For the existing topic groups, questions were developed and tested between April 2005 and February 2006 using qualitative methods such as cognitive and in-depth interviewing. DCM have prepared recommendations on questions which have been discussed by the topic groups. Topic groups then prepared recommendations on questions for the 2007 Test. The Annex contains some of the possible new or updated questions for the 2007 Test.

14. The topic group recommendations and a DCM summary of recommendations will be considered by the UKCQDWG during May at a two-day meeting. UKCQDWG will reach agreement on the topics to be included in the 2007 Test questionnaire and the questions that can be fitted on to the questionnaire. These decisions will be ratified by the ONS 2011 Census Project Board later in the month.

15. DCM will carry out whole questionnaire testing over June and July and agreement will be reached on the questionnaire for the 2007 Test in August by UKCQDWG and the ONS 2011 Census Project Board. DCM will also carry out further question testing for the new topic groups later in the year.

Elizabeth McLaren
ONS
May 2006

Annex: Possible new or updated questions for 2007 Test

Outlined below are some of the new or updated questions which may possibly be included in the 2007 Test. However, it should be noted that there may not be sufficient space to include all of these and compromises may have to be made in terms of the length or layout of the question.

Income

38 Tick as many boxes as you need to show all the sources of income you had in the 12 months that ended on 31st March 2007.

- Earnings, wages, salary, bonuses
- Income from self-employment
- Occupational pensions, state retirement pensions
- State benefits such as incapacity benefit, child benefit, or tax credits
- Interest from savings or investments
- Rent from property
- Other income (for example, maintenance payments, grants)
- No source of income during that time

39 From all the sources of income you ticked in question 38, what is your total income?

- ◆ ✓ the box for the range into which your income falls.
- ◆ Count all income you received in the 12 months that ended on 31st March 2007.
- ◆ Do not deduct Tax, National Insurance, Health Insurance payments, or your contributions to occupational pension schemes.
- ◆ Do not count loans because they are not income.
- ◆ For joint income, provide the share that each person receives.

Per week		Per year
Nil or loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nil or loss
£1 to £79	<input type="checkbox"/>	£1 to £3,999
£80 to £149	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4,000 to £7,999
£150 to £229	<input type="checkbox"/>	£8,000 to £11,999
£230 to £329	<input type="checkbox"/>	£12,000 to £16,999
£330 to £459	<input type="checkbox"/>	£17,000 to £23,999
£460 to £709	<input type="checkbox"/>	£24,000 to £ 36,999
£710 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>	£37,000 or more

Language (three possible options for consideration)

8 What languages can you understand, speak, read or write?

◆ ✓ all boxes that apply

	Understand	Speak/Sign	Read	Write
English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
British Sign Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other language, please write in	<input type="text"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other language, please write in	<input type="text"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other language, please write in	<input type="text"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9 In which language(s) could you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things?

◆ ✓ all boxes that apply
 ◆ Remember to ✓ 'English' if you can have a conversation in English

English

Welsh

British Sign Language

Other languages, please write in below

OR

None (e.g. too young to talk)



Which languages can you understand, speak, read or write?

◆ please ✓ all boxes that apply

English

- Understand spoken English
- Speak English
- Read English
- Write English

Welsh

- Understand spoken Welsh
- Speak Welsh
- Read Welsh
- Write Welsh

British Sign Language (BSL)

- Understand signed BSL
- Sign BSL

Other language, please write in

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- Understand spoken other language
- Speak other language
- Read other language
- Write other language

Other language, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- Understand spoken other language
- Speak other language
- Read other language
- Write other language

Other language, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- Understand spoken other language
- Speak other language
- Read other language
- Write other language

National identity and ethnicity

1 What do you consider your national identity to be?

◆ ✓ all the boxes that apply.

- English
- Welsh
- Scottish
- Northern Irish
- Irish
- British
- Other, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5 What is your ethnic group?

◆ Choose one section from A to E, then ✓ the option to show your ethnic group.

A White

- British
- Any Other White Background, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any Other Mixed background, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

C Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any Other Asian background, please write in

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D Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Any Other Black background, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller
- Any Other, please write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Marital/civil partnership status



What is your legal marital or same-sex civil partnership status (on 13th May 2007)?

- Never married and never formed a civil partnership
- Married
- Separated but still legally married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- In a civil partnership
- Separated but still legally in a civil partnership
- Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Surviving partner from a civil partnership

Qualifications

35 Which of these qualifications do you have?

- ◆ ✓ all of the boxes that apply if you have any of the qualifications listed
- ◆ If your qualification is not listed, ✓ the box that contains its nearest equivalent
- ◆ If you have qualifications you gained abroad, ✓ the 'Foreign qualifications' box
- 1+ O levels/CSEs/GCSEs (any grades), Basic Skills
- NVQ Level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- 5+ O levels (any grade)/CSEs (grade 1)/GCSEs (grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1+ A levels/AS levels/VCEs
- NVQ Level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma
- Apprenticeship
- 2+ A levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School Certificate
- NVQ Level 3, Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
- First degree (eg BA, BSc), Higher degree (eg MA, PhD, PGCE)
- NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level
- Professional qualifications (eg teaching, nursing, accountancy)
- Other vocational/work related qualifications
- Foreign qualifications
- No qualifications

Visitors

Visitor 1

a What is your name and usual address?

First name

Last name

Address

Postcode

Overseas, please write in country below

No usual address → Include yourself in **H5**

b What is your sex?

Male

Female

c What is your date of birth?

Day

Month

Year