

Michael Parsons, The Sixties in Great Britain.

TABLE 1: HERE ARE SOME OF THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE 1960s

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
base for percentages	1,071	512	559	186	385	358	142	144	188	369	370	437	357	182
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Which one are you most pleased with?														
having TV throughout Britain	6	6	5	5	4	7	6	4	6	5	6	7	4	5
immigration of coloured people	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
higher family allowances	7	6	8	12	11	4	1	4	2	10	8	5	8	5
easier laws for homosexuality, divorce, abortion, etc	5	5	6	5	8	4	1	4	9	5	4	7	4	2
better old age pensions	51	46	55	35	42	58	77	44	42	48	61	52	52	56
schools going comprehensive	9	9	9	15	10	5	4	10	10	9	7	6	10	12
student unrest	1	2	1	2	1	1	—	1	3	1	1	1	2	1
rising standard of living	18	23	14	23	22	17	7	27	19	20	12	17	20	14
none of these	3	3	2	2	2	3	4	5	9	1	1	4	—	5
b. Which one do you most object to?														
having TV throughout Britain	1	1	1	3	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	1
immigration of coloured people	23	27	18	25	27	18	17	13	18	25	25	25	21	20
higher family allowances	9	7	11	6	6	12	12	8	11	8	9	10	8	12
easier laws for homosexuality, divorce, abortion, etc	26	24	29	23	22	29	35	30	20	26	29	24	29	23
better old age pensions	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
schools going comprehensive	6	5	6	7	10	3	1	14	10	5	2	9	2	7
student unrest	23	23	24	22	22	24	27	23	26	23	23	22	27	25
rising standard of living	7	7	8	8	6	9	6	7	6	7	8	8	7	9
none of these	5	6	3	6	6	4	2	4	7	5	3	2	4	3

The figures for the base are not repeated on other tables as they did not vary. Party affiliation totals are affected by the fact that only those of voting age now were asked to give them

TABLE 2: WHICH ONE OF THESE EVENTS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU PERSONALLY?

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
the 'Lady Chatterley' trial	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
the marriage of Princess Margaret	2	1	3	1	2	2	5	1	1	2	4	3	2	2
man going to outer space	39	46	32	48	43	38	19	42	46	39	33	37	39	41
the Profumo scandal	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
the death of Churchill	14	12	15	8	6	18	31	16	11	13	15	19	9	11
the success of the Beatles	1	2	1	4	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	—	1
the death of President Kennedy	29	25	33	29	34	24	25	24	25	32	29	24	35	34
none of these	10	10	11	9	10	11	11	14	10	9	11	13	8	7
don't know	4	2	4	—	3	5	6	1	4	2	4	3	4	3

TABLE 3: WHICH ONE OF THESE EVENTS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU PERSONALLY?

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
the Cuba crisis	3	5	2	2	5	3	1	4	3	4	3	4	2	8
the Vietnam war	13	11	14	21	11	10	11	16	8	12	14	15	9	9
devaluation of the £	37	38	36	30	42	36	37	43	43	39	30	44	29	54
Labour winning the election	22	23	22	15	22	27	22	17	18	21	27	15	39	10
race riots in America	3	3	2	6	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	3
Russia invading Czechoslovakia	8	9	7	10	7	6	9	6	12	6	7	8	6	5
don't know	14	11	17	16	11	16	18	10	12	16	17	12	13	11

TABLE 4: WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT BRITAIN?

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
freedom of the individual	47	54	41	49	52	47	32	59	55	49	37	48	46	52
the National Health Service	27	22	30	22	26	26	36	14	20	27	35	22	30	30
its traditions and history	5	4	5	7	3	5	7	6	5	4	5	7	3	3
the fact that it's an island	2	4	1	3	2	3	2	4	2	3	1	3	1	5
it's the centre of the Commonwealth	2	3	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	—
it has a Queen	11	6	15	10	9	13	15	8	9	10	14	14	11	7
none of these	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	—
don't know	5	6	5	3	4	3	6	6	4	4	5	3	5	3

TABLE 5: WOULD YOU PLEASE SAY WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THESE STATEMENTS?

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Young people spend too much on clothes														
agree	38	30	45	24	33	42	61	34	30	34	49	40	40	45
disagree	55	61	49	73	61	48	29	57	63	59	44	53	53	49
don't know	7	9	6	3	6	10	10	9	7	7	7	7	7	6
Old people are jealous of what the young are doing														
agree	32	35	29	48	36	27	13	34	31	34	30	27	33	40
disagree	58	54	61	39	54	62	79	56	59	55	60	63	57	54
don't know	10	11	10	13	10	11	8	11	10	11	10	10	10	6
There is too much publicity given to sex														
agree	77	70	84	59	73	85	84	80	70	76	82	82	76	84
disagree	19	25	14	38	23	11	5	16	26	21	16	15	20	15
don't know	4	5	2	3	4	4	1	4	4	3	2	3	4	1
Murderers ought to be hanged														
agree	71	73	69	66	67	73	80	64	61	71	78	77	66	68
disagree	19	20	18	26	22	16	8	29	25	18	13	13	22	26
don't know	10	7	13	9	11	11	12	7	14	11	9	10	12	7
There are too many coloured immigrants in the country now														
agree	73	74	73	73	76	72	70	68	70	77	73	78	69	71
disagree	19	19	18	21	17	20	17	21	23	14	20	14	23	22
don't know	8	7	9	6	7	8	13	11	7	9	7	8	8	7
There is still too much poverty in Britain														
agree	67	68	66	74	71	61	62	64	63	66	71	65	68	66
disagree	25	24	25	16	23	30	27	26	28	24	23	27	24	31
don't know	8	8	9	10	6	9	11	10	9	10	6	8	8	3

TABLE 6: WHICH FOUR OF THESE DO YOU THINK MOST NEED TO BE DONE IN THE 1970s?

	all	men	women	16/24	25/44	45/64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib & others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
build more motorways	16	22	12	16	17	19	8	23	19	16	12	19	13	16
keep prices down	60	52	67	56	58	61	71	52	64	59	63	62	59	59
keep unemployment down	52	51	53	58	48	53	52	44	40	58	56	47	56	43
build more houses	35	32	37	44	34	32	33	23	28	38	39	32	37	34
join the Common Market	9	12	6	13	10	7	5	12	11	9	7	7	12	7
preserve our countryside	19	18	19	15	17	22	23	24	21	18	16	21	13	26
give children better schooling	34	35	33	37	48	24	16	39	31	36	31	34	33	30
keep American business out of Britain	9	11	7	4	9	12	8	11	10	10	6	9	9	11
get the country's economy sound	52	55	49	45	54	51	57	69	61	46	46	60	49	53
outlaw unofficial strikes	38	38	38	32	38	41	39	45	43	35	35	39	36	51
make Britain respected in the world	24	32	22	24	33	35	24	28	27	31	31	29	26	26
keep incomes rising	11	12	10	12	12	12	6	6	11	14	11	9	14	9
provide more university places	7	7	6	12	8	4	3	13	11	6	3	6	6	9
spend more on the poor	24	22	26	31	19	22	32	15	20	20	33	18	27	24

NB: not all respondents gave four selections

From *New Society*
November 1969

Comment on the statistics in the above tables.

What do they tell us about perceptions of change in the 1960s?

Are the figures surprising? Is the sex, age, socio-economic category and party distribution as you would expect?