



GENERATION 2012

Optimism despite obstacles

British
Future...

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British Future...

GENERATION 2012

British Future is an independent, non-partisan thinktank seeking to involve people in an open conversation, which addresses people's hopes and fears about identity and integration, migration and opportunity, so that we feel confident about Britain's future.

Editor: Rachael Jolley
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NOTE: Numbers in this document do not always add up to 100% because of rounding. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,009 adults aged 18–24. Fieldwork was undertaken between 26th–28th June 2012. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted to be representative of all British adults aged 18–24.

Why Generation 2012 needs to be heard

When London invited the world to celebrate the Olympic Games in Britain, it did so in the voice of its next generation. Thirty schoolchildren from east London went with Sebastian Coe to Singapore in 2005, so that he could ask for the Games “on behalf of the youth of today, the athletes of tomorrow and the Olympians of the future”.

Those young Londoners embodied his message of confidence in London’s multi-ethnic future, and his promise that taking the Olympics to a rising east London would help to inspire and fulfil the potential of youth. The message tipped the balance, so that the knife-edge IOC vote was won, by just 54 votes to 50.

If we had not told that story to the world, we would be about to witness not London 2012, but Paris 2012.

Those schoolchildren of 2005 are young adults today.

And much more than that has changed across seven years, before banking crises and credit crunches, the spending squeeze and the Greek economy came to dominate the nightly news.

If almost everybody feels under pressure, then Generation 2012 could well find things toughest of all. There is record youth unemployment, with one in five unemployed. Those who study and get to university will leave with larger debts, while spiralling house prices make saving up for home ownership seem much more distant.

Yet young people have long found themselves asked to work unpaid, told that is how to get their face known in the most sought after professions. The practice is spreading in casual work too, with not just music festivals, but now supermarkets also offering the chance to gain experience of working, though not the experience of being paid for it.

Many feel betrayed by past promises broken. Disillusioned by the feeling that their voices won’t count, they turn away from voting, and so reduce even further the power that they have.

How could we prevent a generation to whom so much was promised from becoming a lost generation instead?

Switch on the radio, and you will not be short of people offering answers. Some want to enlist the young into a generation clash against the baby boomers who have “stolen their future” and should give it back. Those who have long campaigned against immigration now point to the graduate jobs crisis as their latest urgent reason to cut numbers much more drastically than the current government plans.

Those are public arguments that we will need to thrash out. But is it fair to ask those who claim to speak out for the interests of young people to show that they have spoken with them first? What is so often missing are the voices and views of Generation 2012 themselves. We talk about them but do not listen to them.

Given a small windfall, most would save up or pay off debts, not go on a spending spree

Perhaps that’s why so much of the discussion trades in caricatures: the “NEETs” without qualifications are dismissed as work-shy chavs, not prepared to get out of bed to turn up for a job that somebody else will cross half a continent for, or rioting hoodies given half a chance.

Meanwhile, those who have studied are accused of being silver spoon graduates, with an excessive sense of entitlement.

British Future’s poll of 18–24 year olds shows how far those stereotypes are far from representative of this generation. They are more liberal than their parents – strongly against the death penalty – but they take a robust line on gangs or those who turn down the chance of a job. They are comfortable with diversity – with seven in ten having friends from ethnic minorities – and, though concerned about immigration, are half as likely to think it a pressing issue as older voters. Given a small windfall, most would save up or pay off debts, not go on a spending spree.



That real world pragmatism reflects a generation feeling the squeeze. Six in ten graduates living with their parents want to move out, but can't afford to. More than half of this generation say that money will mean starting a family later than they would have wanted to.

Despite that sober awareness of the challenges they face, most of Generation 2012 are strikingly determined to maintain their sense of personal optimism, their common sense liberalism, combined with a sense of responsibility too.

So they may prove wary of false friends if they seem more motivated by offering them scapegoats - whether pensioners or Poles - than credible solutions to their own priorities or, even better, helping to increase their voice and power to demand change themselves.

Our poll shows Generation 2012 asking for a fair chance, not a grievance politics of young versus old. If they can't get a fair deal, it will scar British society. It will hurt individuals who experience long periods out of work when young. It would also change who we are, undermining the chance of securing belief in a Britain which can be proud to be fair, tolerant and outward-looking.

The London Olympics can be seen as, in part, a legacy which this next generation helped to secure for Britain. Generation 2012 will now ask what opportunities to contribute their country will offer to them.

As the Olympic flame flickers into life, how seriously will we take its reminder that we have promises to keep?

Sunder Katwala is director of British Future.

PHOTO:
Dancers from East London perform a flash dance near Westfield Stratford, to launch the annual Big Dance Festival
© Padmayogini / Shutterstock.com



“My name is Danny, one of the 21%”

In today's Great Britain there are more than one million young people unemployed, that's around 21%. My name's Danny and I'm part of that 21%, says Danny Antoine.



Currently I'm training at City Gateway to gain more skills for the work environment. By the end I'm hoping to have achieved a business skills level 2 which will help my CV stand out. I've been looking for an apprenticeship for about a year but I haven't been successful, with most employers telling me that I lack work experience. Sometimes it's hard just to find vacancies to apply for.

I believe there are many causes why there are so many young people unemployed. One of the main reasons is the lack of qualifications young people have, so most do not even have a chance of getting a job interview. This may be because teenagers

are not interested enough in school due to the sort of subjects being taught, and due to their own bad attitude. They also have many distractions such as selling or using drugs and broken families which lead them astray and down the wrong path, maybe even to a criminal record. The attitude of some of today's youth contributes to the high number of young people unemployed. They know that they can just claim benefits and therefore see this as an easy way out.

However you cannot just blame today's youth. The government has also contributed to the high numbers of youth unemployment. Spending cuts have had a major impact on

the younger generation. This has meant that there are fewer jobs being created which lowers the chances of young, inexperienced people finding employment. The recession has meant businesses are cutting jobs and are not willing to expand to create new positions for trainees. All of these are features of youth unemployment, and create the same result.

The government needs to work with businesses to provide more job opportunities for inexperienced young people, and find ways of persuading young people to find work rather than be on benefits

To help the situation, more apprenticeships could be created for people with fewer qualifications and experience. When I have been to interviews for apprenticeships the feedback I generally get is that I don't have enough experience. I don't really understand why this is a reason not to be accepted because the purpose of an apprenticeship to train someone with hardly any experience. Yet, companies are turning people like me away because we are seen as a risk and as costing too much to train. Businesses need to know the value of taking apprentices on, and have the support to do so.

The job centre should also provide more help with finding employment. I originally signed up for the job centre not to claim benefits but to gain some extra help in finding a job. Schools could also provide more skills that could be used within the work environment. When leaving school young people still don't have enough experience to go straight into work. If more work experience and skills were available to young people while at school, then we would have more chance of gaining employability afterwards.

If youth unemployment is not sorted soon then it will impact generations to come. For example, crime rates could rise as young people turn to drugs to make money and pass time. Young people could also get stuck on benefits and lose any skills that they have.

At the moment, the government and the attitude of the youth of today both contribute to youth unemployment and both need to be tackled to ultimately solve the situation. The government needs to work with businesses to provide more job opportunities for inexperienced young people, and find ways of persuading young people to find work rather than be on benefits. Additionally, some young people need to change their attitudes towards working and make more of an effort to become employed by attending training and being willing to accept any job that comes their way.

Danny Antoine, 19, is from east London, and is the winner of a City Gateway/British Future competition to write about Generation 2012.

Generation 2012: The figures

- In 2011, 64% of men and 46% of women aged 20 lived with their parents.
- Claimant count for those aged 18–24 was 466,800 in May 2012.
- Rate of unemployment for 16–17 year olds – currently 36.7%. For 18–24 year olds – currently 19.9%.
- 56% of all 18–24 year olds were employed in April 2012, whereas only 14% were unemployed, though 30% were economically inactive.
- Of 15–24s, two thirds have a smart phone and a quarter watch iPlayer at least once a week.
- Figures for 16–24 year olds are 50%, 14% and 36%.
- For February to April 2012: The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 70.6%, up 0.3 on the quarter.
- Total university applications from the UK fell by 8.7 per cent for entry in autumn 2012.
- The average 18–19 year old has £2,254 worth of unsecured debt. For those who have an overdraft the average amount owed is £671, and those who have a personal loan have an average of £2,610 in debt. Credit card debt for young people stands at an average of £898.
- Further research by price comparison website uSwitch found that it takes an average of 11 years for graduates to pay off student debt.
- Less than half of 18–24 year olds believe they will be able to meet outstanding payments.

Sources: ONS, The Guardian

Was it easier for our parents' generation?

Generation 2012 faces increasing pressure to add more qualifications, Ellie Brodie says.



The challenges faced by any generation can be broken down into several key areas of change: economic, social, political and some extraordinary challenges.

I face the prospect of joining an economy where people leave education and training for a jobs market that doesn't have enough jobs for them. I hope I will graduate next year with a good degree but to stand out from the crowd, I feel I will need more education, something no generation before us has faced. The cost of a degree to the student has ballooned in recent history, first to £3000 then £9000. I now feel that I am paying a lot of money for something that doesn't seem much of a leg up. When I compare this to my parents, who obtained degrees with help from government funding that they didn't have to pay back.

All generations will struggle through some hard times. So despite the current generation's economy downturn, ageing population and added stresses, when compared to attitudes of the past, I feel we've come a long way

However, my parents faced hard times following the 80s economic crash, which left many people with no jobs leading to massive amounts of rioting and bleak outlooks. They also were faced with the possibility of nuclear war – although this is something that is still possible, the stress and worry caused back then was more intense because it was a 'new' thing.

Obviously we are privileged to grow up during the information age. Apart from having more than just five TV channels to entertain us, technology can really assist

peoples' lives. For example, dyslexia software has been developed for people with learning difficulties, helping them get by, but people in similar circumstances in earlier generations would not have had that opportunity.

But there are other changes. Children are more easily able to communicate with parents now about issues like sex, drugs and alcohol. Parents no longer shy away from sensitive subjects like they did in the past.

Although we have more openness and access to so much information, we have fewer pressures to be married before sex, face less prejudice over race and sexuality and have better medical care, stress is higher. There is more pressure to be the best, despite still living in an unequal opportunities Britain. As a result of the economy we are unable to save for homes, so we live with our parents longer which is looking more likely now too with the government scheme of scrapping housing benefits to people under the age of 25. So currently while younger people struggle to get onto the market of life, the ageing population is already affecting the generation coming through. People are claiming pensions at 60–70 drawing it out of the economy – when they are expected to be living much longer now, should we be working to an age based on when we're expected to die, so as to not drain the economy?

All generations will struggle through some hard times. So despite the current generation's economy downturn, ageing population and added stresses, when compared to attitudes of the past, I feel we've come a long way. I mean, we aren't there yet – I doubt we ever will be, but personally I'd like to think times are always moving forward. Society is more accepting and supportive, which is something I hope will always improve over decades.

Ellie Brodie is an undergraduate student at the University of Surrey.



PHOTO:
In Richard's dad's youth few jobs were open to him other than farming and labouring

Richard Miranda says his parents faced tough times too.

Lingering economic uncertainty and high levels of youth unemployment in the UK mean that this might be the first time in recent memory that young people have fewer opportunities than their parents did. This might be true for some, but when comparing my own specific experiences to those of my parents, there is no doubt that despite having struggled to find work at times, the scope of career choices and opportunities I have had are significantly better than they had growing up.

My mom grew up in east London and stayed at school until she was 18. Although she did apply to art college, she never really considered university as an option for her once she left. Living in London meant that finding work was relatively easy for her, though the range of jobs available to her was limited by not having been to university and not being a man. A friend convinced her to apply to a casino because it was well-paid, had the chance of travelling and preferred female dealers. She stayed in London while she trained as a blackjack dealer and eventually moved to South Africa with the opening of the luxury casino Sun City at the age of 22, the same age that I graduated from university.

My dad grew up in drastically different conditions on a farm in a tiny village in Galicia, a rural province in the north-west of Spain. Galicia has its own dialect and customs, which were actively suppressed during my dad's childhood under Franco's regime.

Although Spain on the whole was doing relatively well economically when my dad was in his teens, Galicia had very little work

to offer other than farming, or fishing if you lived near the coast. Even today it is no hub of enterprise and it has been hit hard by Spain's recession, with an unemployment rate of nearly 25% at the moment. Because of its lack of opportunities and long history of emigration, migration was a common choice for young Galician men. As an unskilled worker with very little education, my dad had limited options other than labouring or working in the service industry. He chose the latter and at the age of 18 left Galicia for Madrid. There he worked and took English courses, before moving to Southampton to work as a busboy at a hotel.

Unlike both my parents, at age 18 I went to university rather than to work. Since graduating I have worked in bars, been travelling for six months, worked full-time in London and as a freelancer from my parents' house. This has largely been made possible by not only having a university degree and living near the UK's largest city, but having the luxury to be able to move back home in between jobs. Without any, or all, of these things my situation would likely be very different.

From what I've heard about those who graduated five or even ten years before me, it has definitely been less straightforward for me to find work. But despite a three-year long recession and more rejections than my parents ever thought were possible, I have had more freedom and opportunities than both of them ever did.

Richard Miranda is 25, and lives in Hertford.



Graduating class 2012: What do they think are the challenges ahead?

Being a graduate in the class of 2012, it seems apt to reflect upon what this important year means to myself and my fellow classmates, says Binita Mehta.



This Olympic year is significant for me in many ways. I am completing my formal education after 17 years, I am starting my new job and with it life in the working world; and I am moving back home after three years living at university.

Having been lucky enough to secure employment straight from university, I feel optimistic, though aware that my ideal career path may be harder to pave than for generations past.

My classmates, on the whole, are also optimistic about 2012 and the opportunities it brings, despite a saturated labour market.

Rebecca Gray, 21, a fellow PPE graduate from Warwick University, told me: "It is highly likely that we as a generation will be worse off than those before us, but I am optimistic! Unemployment is cyclical and it is unfortunate, daunting and frustrating that we as 2012 graduates are in the wrong place at the wrong time, but it won't be forever. Spending our twenties being careful with our money and pushing to be successful will leave us with values that set us up for later life. We shouldn't be bitter about the economy we are entering, but thankful for our education. We have to remember that it is an investment and over time, it will pay off."

John McNamara, 22, a student at BPP Law School, said: "The market is flooded with graduates and fields like law are very competitive. I am embarking upon another professional qualification next year which costs £17,000. I received an email from one chambers saying they had 800 applications for two pupillage places, but I've got one interview from 13 applications so my fingers are still crossed."

My group of graduates had varying views about the baby boomers. Joe Mortimer, 21, a graduate from University of Birmingham, said: "We have it slightly easier in some

respects, with graduate schemes being offered across many fields." He suggested that in other ways the boomers had more chances with "a lower requirement for qualifications and less competition vying for the same job".

Despite these positive attitudes, there were notes of caution, concern and uncertainty.

There are prospects available, so it is important for Generation 2012 to sharpen their skills and be prepared for entry into the job market

Carl Andrew, 22, a politics graduate from Warwick University, added: "Having been unable to get the jobs I wanted when I left uni, I am now still applying for the 'ideal job' while working at Iceland. At the moment it's so hard to pursue the career you want. But I think it will get better soon." Roshni Hirani, 21, an art student at University of East London, said: "2012 will be a year of opportunity."

In my view, competitiveness and attitude are key. The days of moving into a career straight after a degree are past as employers are recruiting from a multi-skilled, international workforce. But there are prospects available, so it is important for Generation 2012 to sharpen their skills and be prepared for entry into the job market with a view of advancing or attaining the 'ideal' later on in life.

Binita Mehta, 21, graduates from the University of Warwick this summer.

No clash of generations

We get labelled the ‘lost generation’ and politicians like to suggest we are competing with other generations, but young and old need to work together.

We need to reach out more to those in our society who are also losing out because of the system, whether they are old or young. There shouldn't be pointless artificial divisions between age groups.

Many of my friends have been out of work for over a year, some of whom spent tens of thousands on their higher education. Others are kept out of developing their skills because they didn't get the right qualifications in school or in college. We need to break down these arbitrary linear routes in and out of education and allow young people to truly flourish by choosing their own path, whether academic or vocational.

My parents both did what we would often call non-traditional routes in education. My dad trained as an apprentice, then became a teacher and then a care worker. He loved all these professions but for different reasons and he taught me that all education was of value. But things are stacked against us now. My brother needed a degree in order to do an apprenticeship. It just doesn't make sense.

The year ahead brings challenges for us all, those lucky enough to be in education or work, and those who aren't. Those among the 1 million currently unemployed, the 50% of young black men out of work, the parents under 25 having their welfare stolen out of their hands.

Citizenship education is being cut, possibly scrapped all together, yet people moan at us for not ‘participating’ and for being apathetic. When politicians do little to engage with young people, certainly often not having the ability to even relate to many of National Union of Student's members, what do people expect? And when we have MPs sign a pledge, a promise at election time, and then to break that promise, why should we put our trust in Westminster?

While this government is cutting education, other countries are investing in it. We have a student loan system that is a ticking time-bomb, adding to the deficit not cutting it and securing an entire generation's futures are saddled upon a mountain of debt.

We see unpaid internships, illegal by law, and something the government has said are clearly a breach of minimum wage legislation. Yet companies still get away with exploiting graduates and learners by promising them a future, only if they work for a few months, even years, for free.

We need a new kind of politics that empowers local communities, particularly in educational institutions like schools, colleges and students' unions. One that bridges divides between communities and develops a culture of organising for change. If politicians won't deliver the changes we want to see, then I think we just have to go and work together to do it ourselves through the power of organising.

Danielle Grufferty, 26, is vice president (society and citizenship) at the NUS. She was previously president of Liverpool University students' union.



PHOTO:
There shouldn't be divisions between the young and old



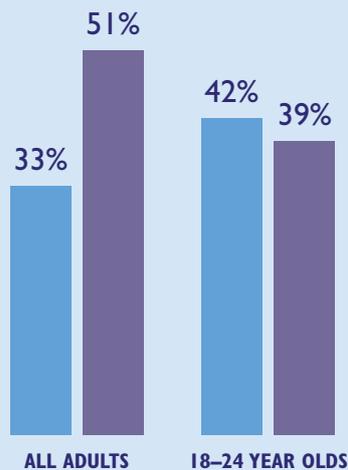
All Adults v Generation 2012: How do their views compare?

Thinking about teenagers today, do you think they will find it **easier** or **harder** than their parents to do each of the following:

■ Easier ■ Harder

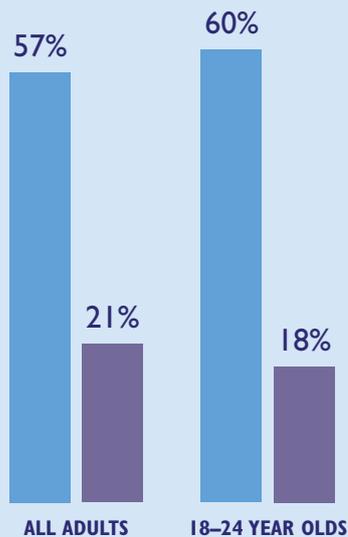
61% of graduates who are living with their parents would much rather move out, but can't afford to. But that falls to 40% across all 18-24 year olds living at home, while 49% of those living with their parents like the home comforts, and are in no hurry to go.

Go to university



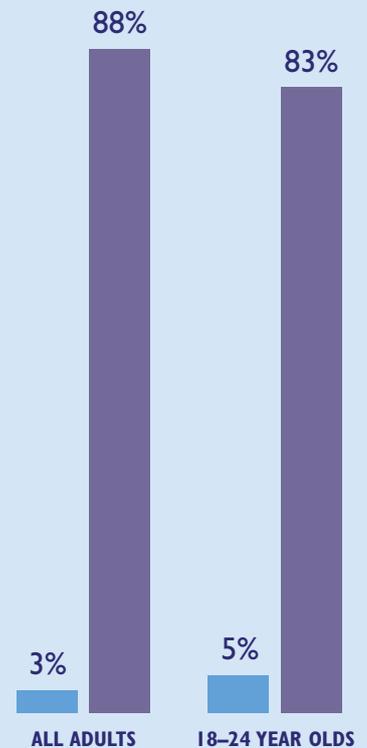
Despite widespread opposition to the £9,000 tuition fees among young adults, Generation 2012 are more optimistic than older voters about the chances that today's teenagers will go to university. On balance, by 42-39, they say it will be easier, while the population as a whole thinks it will, on balance, get harder, by 51-33.

Travel abroad



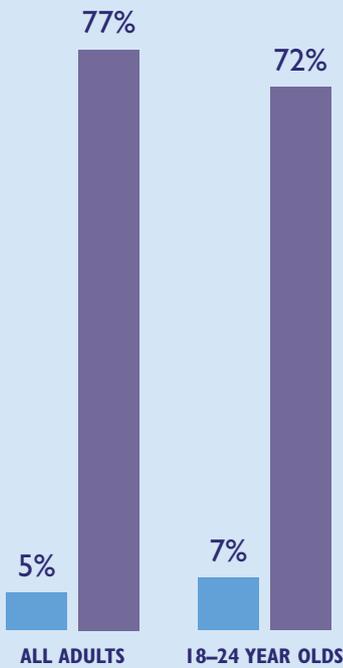
Generation 2012 currently in education are a bit more likely to think travel abroad is easier than those not in work. 54% of those in work, but not education, and 56% of those neither in work or education, say this, compared to 61% of those in education and work, and 69% of those in education and not working.

Buy a home

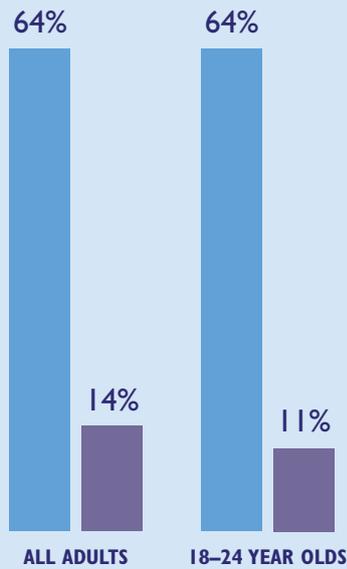


Those in Generation 2012 with lower educational qualifications are less optimistic about living longer. 75% of those still in education think this will be easier for today's teenagers than their parents to live to 80. There was less confidence among those who left education after 19 (65%) or under 18 (54%).

Get a good job



Live until they are at least 80



Enjoy a reasonable standard of living



Young graduates are feeling as much pressure on jobs, housing and a good standard of living, and perhaps just a little more, than those in Generation 2012 who did not go to university. 88% of graduates think it will get harder to get a house, compared to 83% of all 18-24s, and 75% of those with a degree say it will be harder to get a good job, compared to 72% of all 18-24s.

Generation 2012's view that they face tough challenges on housing, jobs and a good standard of living are widely shared across all groups in society. If anything, older voters take a marginally more sober view of most of these challenges facing Generation 2012 than young adults do themselves, with net optimism/pessimism scores of -72 and -85 on jobs and housing (compared to -65 and -78 among 18-24 year olds themselves).

Don't lose this generation

Our young people are our talent of the future, says Elizabeth Berridge.



Their ideas and drive, their enthusiasm and creativity will support our businesses, provide new talent for our third sector and spark our entrepreneurs.

For those reasons, we don't want the young people of Generation 2012, those who are entering or have just left education in this Olympic year, to fall by the wayside, their talents wasted, or for our struggling economy not to benefit from an injection of this new talent.

They have been branded as "the lost generation" by some, but clearly Britain cannot afford to lose the talent and energy of thousands.

From those who just finished an NCVQ to post graduates signing off a PhD, the country needs the vitality of this generation to be put to best use.

Some analysts fear that business and the wider British economy will suffer if that injection of new blood every year does not arrive. Others, from parents to academics to economists, worry about the impact on Generation 2012 themselves if they spend years failing to get jobs that make use of their qualifications, or any jobs at all.

Well-educated graduates talk of sending off hundreds of applications and hearing from no one, others worry about how the jobs their parents depended on have disappeared.

While politicians and Westminster folk pose possible solutions to help the 18–24 year

olds move on and move into employment, who speaks for Generation 2012 themselves? We need to do more speaking with them, rather than about them.

However, new British Future polling, taken just weeks before the Olympics start, shows that this age group is far more optimistic than their parents might guess, with 67% broadly optimistic about their future, and 33% broadly pessimistic.

New British Future polling shows that this age group is far more optimistic than their parents might guess, with 67% broadly optimistic about their future, and 33% broadly pessimistic

They are also less likely than others might think to blame the baby boom generation, which includes many of their parents, for having it easier or causing the problems the country is suffering. When asked if the government should take away winter fuel allowance and state pensions from the older generation paying higher rate tax and use that money to help others, 18–24s were less likely to agree (32%) than adults generally (43%).

The 'lost generation' tag doesn't suit them, they are still a broadly hopeful generation making great plans for the future, so let's not disappoint them.

Rather than writing them off with a label that just suggests a dark horizon, let's find out what the 18 to 24s think needs to be done to sort out their future, and so ensure a better future for Britain.

Baroness Berridge is the youngest female member of the House of Lords, and is a Conservative peer.



Top of the polling – data in detail

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,009 adults aged 18–24. Fieldwork was undertaken between 26th–28th June 2012. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted to be representative of all British adults aged 18–24.

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*Adults surveyed between June 18–19th

**Adults surveyed between July 2–4th

†Adults surveyed between Jan 12–21th

††Adults surveyed between Jan 29–30th

Headline voting intention

[Excluding Don't knows and Wouldn't votes]

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Con	23
Lab	47
Lib Dem	11
Other	18

Other parties voting intention

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Green	6
SNP / PCY	5
UKIP	4
BNP	1
Respect	0
Other	2
Non Voters	
Would Not Vote	12
Don't know	20

Six months ago, were you...

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
At school / sixth form college	13
At university / further education or higher education college	44
In a training/apprenticeship scheme	2
None of these	41

Six months ago, were you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Working full time	26
Working part-time	22
Not working but actively seeking employment	11
Not working but not actively seeking employment	40

At the moment are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
At school / sixth form college	6
At university / further education or higher education college	35
In a training/apprenticeship scheme	1
None of these	57

At the moment are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Working full time	30
Working part-time	19
Not working but actively seeking employment	21
Not working but not actively seeking employment	29

Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? Please tick up to three.

	ALL ADULTS*	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
The economy	80	73
Tax	14	26
Education	13	26
Health	24	25
Europe	31	25
Immigration & Asylum	44	21
The environment	7	14
Crime	16	12
Family life & childcare	11	11
Pensions	25	10
Transport	2	6
Afghanistan	6	4
None of these	0	1
Don't know	2	6

And which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing you and your friends? Please tick up to three.*

	ALL ADULTS	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
The economy	68	62
Education	15	38
Tax	25	28
Health	34	22
Transport	8	17
Family life & childcare	18	13
Crime	11	13
The environment	8	9
Europe	12	9
Pensions	36	8
Immigration & Asylum	13	8
Afghanistan	1	1
None of these	2	3
Don't know	2	9

*Asked to GB adults sample as: And which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing you and your family?

At the moment are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
In debt	43
Not in debt	57

At the moment are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Broadly optimistic about your own future	67
Broadly pessimistic about your own future	33

Are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Straight (heterosexual)	82
Bisexual	6
Gay/ lesbian	5
Other	2
Prefer not to say	5

At the moment are you...

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Living with your parent(s)	63
Not living with your parent(s)	37

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

[Only asked to those living with their parents. N=602]

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
I am happy living with my parent(s) and am in no hurry to move away	49
I would much rather live away from my parents but can't afford to do so	40
I would much rather live away from my parents but can't, for reason(s) other than money	10

What is your best guess as to when you will live away from your parent(s)?

[Only asked to those living with their parents. N=602]

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Within the next year or two	45
In 3-5 years' time	33
In 6-10 years' time	6
After more than ten years	1
Not while my parent(s) is/are alive	2
No idea	12

Thinking about teenagers today, do you think they will find it easier or harder than their parents' generation to do each of the following:

	ALL ADULTS**	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
<i>Go to university</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	14	17
Slightly easier	19	25
TOTAL EASIER	33	42
About the same	13	15
Slightly harder	24	18
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	27	21
TOTAL HARDER	51	39
No idea	3	5
<i>Travel abroad</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	33	31
Slightly easier	24	29
TOTAL EASIER	57	60
About the same	19	15
Slightly harder	13	11
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	8	7
TOTAL HARDER	21	18
No idea	3	7
<i>Buy a home</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	1	2
Slightly easier	2	3
TOTAL EASIER	3	5
About the same	7	6
Slightly harder	21	25
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	67	58
TOTAL HARDER	88	83
No idea	2	6

<i>Get a good job</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	1	2
Slightly easier	4	5
TOTAL EASIER	5	7
About the same	16	16
Slightly harder	31	38
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	46	34
TOTAL HARDER	77	72
No idea	3	5
<i>Live until they are at least 80</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	29	27
Slightly easier	35	37
TOTAL EASIER	64	64
About the same	16	16
Slightly harder	7	6
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	7	5
TOTAL HARDER	14	11
No idea	7	9
<i>Enjoy a reasonable standard of living</i>		
Today's teenagers will find it much easier	6	7
Slightly easier	14	19
TOTAL EASIER	20	26
About the same	20	26
Slightly harder	31	28
Today's teenagers will find it much harder	25	14
TOTAL HARDER	56	42
No idea	3	6

It is sometimes said that people who are now in their fifties and sixties are the 'lucky generation', in that all their education was free, jobs were usually plentiful, housing was more affordable and their pension age was held down. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?

	ALL ADULTS	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
'In general, people in their fifties and sixties worked hard for their benefits and deserve their good fortune'	50	35
'In general, people in their fifties and sixties have rigged the system in their favour – their good fortune has come partly at the expense of the next generation, who are having to pick up the bill'	16	30
'It's not true that people in their fifties and sixties are a lucky generation – their fortunes have generally been no better than those of any other generation alive today'	25	14
Don't know	9	22

Thinking about better-off pensioners who pay higher-rate tax, which of these views comes closer to your own?

	ALL ADULTS††	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
‘Given today’s economic problems, the Government can’t afford to help everybody; it should stop paying the state pension and winter fuel allowance to pensioners paying higher-rate tax, and use the money instead to provide more help to people who need the money more’	43	32
‘Pensioners have spent their working lives paying for their state retirement benefits through the national insurance system. It would be wrong to withdraw their state pension and winter fuel allowance, however well-off they are.’	48	47
Don’t know	10	21

Did your parents attend university after leaving school?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Yes, both attended university at that stage	20
One did, the other did not	22
No, neither did at that stage	58

Which two or three of these concerns about your own life, if any, worry you most personally?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Getting/keeping a decent job	58
Being able to afford to buy/rent a decent home	46
My health /the health of my parent(s) and/or other close relatives	32
Getting good grades/marks/results at my school/college/university	32
Finding/keeping a partner	30
Going into debt/staying in debt	30
Suffering discrimination (e.g. on account of your gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality etc.)	6
The threat(s) from local gangs/criminals in my area/at my school/college	5
None of these	7

At what age, if at all, do you expect to be able to own your own home, either on your own or with someone else?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
By the time I’m 30	38
By the time I’m 35	20
By the time I’m 40	9
By the time I’m 45	2
By the time I’m 50	2
When I’m older than 50	1
I do not ever expect to be able to own my own home	9
Not applicable, I already own a home	4
Don’t know	15

Do you currently have any children?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Yes, I do	6
No, I do not	94

Might economic difficulties (e.g. getting or keeping a decent job, or having to put off buying a home) affect your decision to start a family?

[Excluding those who have children. N=958]

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Yes, such difficulties would probably cause me to start a family EARLIER than otherwise	2
Yes, such difficulties would probably cause me to start a family LATER than otherwise	55
No, such difficulties would NOT affect my plans to start a family	22
Not sure	21

Would you be prepared to move to another part of Britain to take a job?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
I am currently looking to move to another part of Britain to take a job	8
I would consider doing this in the next few years but am not currently looking	35
I may consider this at some point later in life	38
I would never move to another part of Britain to take a job	8
Don't know	11

And would you be prepared to move to another country to take a job?

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
I am currently looking to move to another country to take a job	6
I would consider doing this in the next few years but am not currently looking	25
I may consider this at some point later in life	42
I would never move to another country to take a job	15
Don't know	11

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	18–24 YEAR OLDS
	%
<i>'When unemployed people are offered a job within reach of their home, they should be required to take it or lose their job-seeker's allowance'</i>	
Strongly agree	29
Tend to agree	39
TOTAL AGREE	68
Tend to disagree	15
Strongly disagree	5
TOTAL DISAGREE	20
Neither / don't know	12

'People found guilty of assault or robbery should be given much longer prison sentences if their crime as part of a gang'	
Strongly agree	16
Tend to agree	27
TOTAL AGREE	43
Tend to disagree	23
Strongly disagree	7
TOTAL DISAGREE	30
Neither / don't know	27
'People found guilty of assault or robbery should be given shorter prison sentences if they are under 25 and act alone'	
Strongly agree	3
Tend to agree	12
TOTAL AGREE	15
Tend to disagree	34
Strongly disagree	32
TOTAL DISAGREE	66
Neither / don't know	18

How would you vote in a referendum to...

	ALL ADULTS [†]	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%	
<i>Withdraw the UK from the EU</i>		
Withdraw from EU	50	25
Remain in EU	36	48
Don't know / would not vote	14	27
<i>Restore the death penalty for murdering a police officer</i>		
Restore death penalty	44	22
Not restore death penalty	42	61
Don't know / would not vote	14	18
<i>Reduce net immigration to zero, so that the number of immigrants settling in Britain each year is no more than the number of Britons leaving this country to settle abroad</i>		
Reduce net immigration to zero	69	45
Not reduce net immigration to zero	21	34
Don't know / would not vote	9	21
<i>Make it legal to use and own small quantities of 'soft' drugs such as cannabis</i>		
Make it legal	32	43
Keep it illegal	54	41
Don't know / would not vote	14	16
<i>Set a legal maximum earnings level of £1 million a year including bonuses</i>		
Set a maximum pay level of £1 million a year	49	30
Not set a maximum pay level	36	49
Don't know / would not vote	15	20

Suppose you suddenly received £1,000 on condition that you did one of these things with it, which would you choose?

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Open/add to an ISA account	34
Pay off part or all of a loan (e.g. student loan)	21
Go on holiday	16
Use it towards buying a car	10
Buy new computer/iPad/Tablet	7
Buy clothes / fashion accessories	4
Don't know	7

When thinking about your own friendships with people, would you say you have many, some or no friends from ethnic minority backgrounds?

	18-24 YEAR OLDS
	%
Many	15
Some	56
None	22
Don't know	7

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Generation 2012 speaks with an age group who have been dubbed by some the “lost generation” but turn out to be more optimistic than their parents, despite the bumpiness of the recession.

In this report, published just days before the London 2012 Olympics kicks off, British Future has worked with YouGov to conduct a rare poll of the 18-24 age group, to find out more about how these young people feel and what they see as their biggest challenges in this challenging economic climate.

As they seek to find employment, education or training, Generation 2012 isn't having the easiest immersion into adulthood, despite this they are mostly upbeat about what they want, and are still hoping to, achieve.

In this report, we include articles by a range of young writers, each with their own story about today. They all have ideas about what could be done by the government and others to help Generation 2012. Ideas range from job

centres offering more help with employment and interviews, increasing apprenticeships and helping young people improve their attitude to work. From Danny who is struggling to find an apprenticeship to Binita who has just graduated, they are all hopeful about their futures.

Conservative peer Elizabeth Berridge writes about the need to work with Generation 2012 so they and Britain don't lose out, and British Future director Sunder Katwala points out this is a sensible generation, taking sensible decisions. They choose to save not spend, don't blame others and want to help find solutions to the economic circumstances.

This report shows Generation 2012 want a fair deal, and are prepared to work for it, they want to be heard, not ignored, and have much to contribute. The Olympic year is a historic one for Britain, and it is not only the athletes in the stadium who represent the future potential of this country.

**British
Future...**

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