

Consultation questionnaire on ethnic group, national identity, religion and language for the 2011 Census in England and Wales

Please fill in this questionnaire by checking the boxes with your mouse or typing in the shaded sections. The shaded sections expand as you type so your answer can be as long or short as you wish. Save this document when you have finished and email it back to ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk. (If you have any questions please contact us at ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk.)

Your comments will help to inform the development of the 2011 Census. Your answers may be made public and attributed to you/your organisation.

Please leave blank any sections that are not relevant to you/your organisation.

About you/your organisation

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Q1. In which of these topics do you or your organisation have an interest? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Ethnic group
2. National identity
3. Religion
4. Language
5. None of these

Q2. What roles or responsibilities does your organisation have with respect to the areas you have ticked above (at Q1)? *Please describe.*

Market research on these topics; use of these topics in geodemographic classifications and market analysis. We make similar use of all other topics collected in the census, therefore it's important to us that the optimal balance is achieved, across all topics, between space taken up on the census form and benefits realised from the results.

Q3. Which of the following sources of information on ethnic group, national identity, language and/or religion do you use? *Tick all that apply.*

1. Census

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2. Government social surveys
(such as the Labour Force Survey or British Crime Survey)
3. Surveys or information collected by/on behalf of your own organisation *Please describe:* MRS members conducting surveys on behalf of clients
4. Information collected by other public authorities (e.g. NHS, Local Authorities) *Please describe:*
5. Other information on these topics *Please describe:*

Q4. For which UK countries/geographies do you need this information? *Tick all that apply.*

1. England
2. Wales
3. Scotland
4. Northern Ireland
5. Great Britain
6. United Kingdom
7. Other *Please describe:*

Your views on ethnicity

A question on ethnic group has been included in previous censuses (1991 and 2001). This provides information on the self-identified ethnic group of the population.

The 2007 Census Test questionnaire contains some new ethnic group categories. But there may not be space to include these in the 2011 Census. Alternative options include repeating the 2001 ethnic group question or having a multiple-response question for ethnic group.

Q5. Do you need ethnic group information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes → go to next question
2. No → go to Q20

Q6. Which of these do you require? *Tick all that apply.*

1. General information on the ethnic composition of the population
2. Information on specific ethnic groups *Please describe:* e.g. East Europeans and new as well as established ethnic communities

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- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. Information on combinations of ethnic groups (e.g. the total ethnic minority population; the Asian population; etc) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i> Black, Asian, East European etc |
| 4. Other information on ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i> |

Q7. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

Market and social researchers need this in order to help clients understand these communities and develop products, services and marketing that meets their needs

Q8. Do you require information on any of the following concepts? (See the accompanying consultation document for definitions.) *Tick all that apply.*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Visible minority population | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Non-White population | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Ancestry | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Race | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Any other concepts related to ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please describe:</i> |

Q9. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

Market and social researchers - to help clients understand these communities and develop products, services and marketing that meets their needs

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:

1. White English (in England)
2. White Welsh (in Wales)
3. Other White British
4. White Irish
5. Other White background
6. Mixed: White and Black Caribbean
7. Mixed: White and Black African
8. Mixed: White and Asian
9. Mixed: Other Mixed background
10. Indian
11. Pakistani
12. Bangladeshi

Combined ethnic group categories:

1. White (categories 1 to 4)
2. Mixed (categories 5 to 9)
3. Asian or Asian British (categories 10 to 14)
4. Black or Black British (categories 15 to 17)
5. Other ethnic groups (categories 18 to 20)

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Single ethnic group categories:

13. Chinese
14. Other Asian background
15. Black Caribbean
16. Black African
17. Other Black background
18. Arab
19. Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller
20. Other Ethnic Group

Combined ethnic group categories:

(Note: information on the 'other' ethnic categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q10. Would the categories for **single** ethnic groups listed above provide the information you require?

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to Q12 |
| 2. No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |
| 3. Partially | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |

Q11. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i> we require comparable results across all geographical areas, which breaks down if the questions are different between countries within the UK</p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q12. Would the **combined** ethnic group categories (White; Mixed; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; or Other ethnic groups) provide the information you require?

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | → go to Q14 |
| 2. No | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |
| 3. Partially | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |

Q13. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i> we require comparable results across all geographical areas, which breaks down if the questions are different between countries within the UK</p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

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Q14. Will you need to compare the information on **single** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes
2. No

→ go to next question
 → go to Q16

Q15. If yes, please state for what purposes.

Comparability at detailed level is not important to market and social research.

Q16. Will you need to compare the information on **combined** ethnic groups in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

1. Yes
2. No

→ go to next question
 → go to Q18

Q17. If yes, please state for what purposes.

Comparability at broad ethnic group level is desirable but not crucial.

Comparability over time and across the UK

Q18. Any changes to the ethnic group categories in 2011 may reduce the comparability with information collected in 2001. The degree to which comparability is reduced will depend on the extent of any changes.

Changes may also affect comparability across the UK. The ethnic group classifications in Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2001 were different from that in England and Wales, due to differences in the ethnic minority populations in each country. The Registrars General of the respective countries are committed to working towards consistent UK Census outputs, but it is possible that the differences between the ethnic group classifications in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may increase if there are different needs for information in each area.

What would be the effect of a **small** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a few of the single ethnic group categories are not comparable, but comparisons between the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group could still be made.)
Please describe for each aspect of comparability.

Comparability with 2001: of less importance to market and social research

Comparability across UK or GB: comparability across the UK is very important to market and social research, it's important that the questions are the same in all parts of

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the UK

Q19. What would be the effect of a **large** loss of comparability on your use of ethnic group information? (For example if a majority of the single ethnic group categories and the combined categories White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic group are not fully comparable.)

Please describe for each aspect of comparability.

Comparability with 2001: effect would not be serious

Comparability across UK or GB: would make it difficult/impossible to use the information in geodemographic classifications that cover all areas of UK or GB. This would have a serious impact on a large number of market and social research studies.

Your views on the acceptability of ethnic group terms

Q20. Ethnic identity and the terms used to describe it can change over time. Sometimes terms that were initially perceived as acceptable come to be seen as unacceptable (for example out-of-date or derogatory), and vice versa. ONS aims to use terminology that is clear, understandable and acceptable to respondents and we welcome comments on the terminology used.

For each of the following terms, do you find them acceptable for use in an ethnic group question? *Tick 'yes' or 'no' for each term.*

	Yes	No
1. White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mixed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Black or Black British	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Asian or Asian British	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other ethnic groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q21. Please give reasons for your answers to Q20.

Q22. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the terms listed in Q20?

none

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Q23. Do you find any of the names used to describe the single ethnic group categories **unacceptable** for use in an ethnic group question? (The single ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

1. Yes

Please describe:

2. No

Q24. Please give reasons for your answer to Q23.

n/a

Q25. What alternatives or improvements (if any) would you like to see to any of the ethnic group category names? (The ethnic group category names are listed after Q9.)

n/a

Your views on multiple response ethnic group information

Ethnic group information from previous UK censuses has been based on asking people to tick one box only. Specific categories were introduced in 2001 to record people with mixed ethnicity (see list after Q9, categories 6 to 9). As the proportion of people with mixed ethnicity is likely to increase, ONS proposes to test whether a multiple-response ethnic group question, based on asking people to tick all categories that apply, would allow people to record their ethnic group more efficiently/accurately. (Note that in the 2001 Census in England and Wales around 2 per cent of respondents ticked more than one answer to the ethnic group question, despite the instruction to tick only one box. They were re-allocated to a single ethnic category during the data processing stage.)

The information from a multiple response ethnic group question would be reported in two different ways.

- A count of all **individuals** (with people who tick a single response recorded as being of this ethnic group and people who tick more than one response recorded as 'Mixed: X and Y' according to the combination of their responses)
- A count of all **responses** (e.g. the total number of people who ticked each ethnic group, whether singly or in combination with other responses)

The majority of outputs and reporting would use a count of all individuals. This would contain the ethnic group categories listed in the question, with additional 'Mixed' categories for the most common multiple responses.

Since 2000 several other countries, including USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, have provided multiple-response information on ethnicity or related topics in

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their censuses. However, changing to multiple-response ethnic categories will reduce the comparability with the single-response information from previous UK censuses.

- Q26. What would be the effect of changing to multiple-response ethnic group on your use of the information? *Please describe.*

It would reduce comparability with the 2001 Census, and we believe that broad comparability should be retained.

- Q27. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of multiple-response ethnic group information?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	More opportunity for people to classify themselves, as they see themselves, rather than opting for an approximation
Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i>	Loss of comparability with 2001 Census

Comparison with Scottish test categories

The 2006 Census Test in Scotland used a different ethnic group classification to the one proposed for the 2007 Census Test in England and Wales. The main difference is that it replaces the term 'White' with 'European' and the term 'Black' with 'African or Caribbean'. It also contains a larger number of tick-box categories. If the 2006 Scottish ethnic group question was used in 2011 it would provide information for the following categories:

Single ethnic group categories:

Combined ethnic group categories:

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Single ethnic group categories:

1. Scottish
2. English
3. Welsh
4. British
5. Northern Irish
6. Irish
7. Other European
8. Multiple ethnic groups
9. Pakistani
10. Indian
11. Sikh
12. Chinese
13. Bangladeshi
14. Other Asian
15. Middle East
16. North African Arab
17. Other Arab
18. North African
19. East African
20. Southern African
21. West African
22. Central African
23. Caribbean
24. Other African or Caribbean
25. Gypsy/Traveller
26. Jewish
27. Other ethnic group

Combined ethnic group categories:

1. European (categories 1 to 7)
2. Multiple ethnic groups (category 8)
3. Asian (categories 9 to 14)
4. Arab (categories 15 to 17)
5. African or Caribbean (categories 18 to 24)
6. Other ethnic groups (categories 25 to 27)

More information on the 2006 Census Test in Scotland is available here:

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/index.html

Q28. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of the Scottish 2006 test classification (above) compared with the England and Wales 2007 test classification (shown after Q9)?

Advantages <i>Please describe</i>	none
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<p>Disadvantages <i>Please describe</i></p>	<p>if Scotland adopts a different classification for the 2011 Census from England & Wales, then it would be difficult/impossible to use ethnic group in geodemographic classification systems across the UK or GB which would be highly detrimental to a large number of market and social research studies.</p>
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Other comments on ethnicity

Q29. If you have any other comments on ethnic group in the census please record below.

none

Your views on national identity

A question on national identity has not been included in previous censuses, though it has been asked in surveys such as the Labour Force Survey since 2001. National identity is subjective and self-perceived, unlike objective information such as country of citizenship. It records (for example) English, Welsh and Scottish national identities separately from an overall British identity and independently from ethnic group. It also allows recording of national identities from outside the UK. Testing of the national identity question showed that British-born people from ethnic minority groups preferred answering the ethnic group question if they were asked to record their national identity first.

Q30. Do you need national identity information from the 2011 Census?

1. Yes

→ go to next question

2. No

→ go to Q34

Q31. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

Market and social researchers need the information in order to help clients understand how these communities perceive their identity.

Information will be used in geodemographic systems and market analysis.

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following national identity categories:

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1. English
2. Welsh
3. Scottish
4. Northern Irish
5. British
6. Irish
7. Other national identities

National identity is a multiple response question, so it would also provide information for different combinations of national identities. (Note: information on the 'other' national identity categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q32. Would the proposed categories for national identity provide the information you require?

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> → go to Q34 |
| 2. No | <input type="checkbox"/> → go to next question |
| 3. Partially | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> → go to next question |

Q33. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

Reasons why: fails to capture other national identities of interest to market research agencies.

Additional information needed: other national identity would need to have a write in section (for market and social researchers).

Reasons needed:

Q34. If you have any other comments on national identity in the census please record below.

none

Your views on religion

A voluntary question on religion was asked for the first time in England and Wales in 2001. The question in England and Wales gathers information on religious identity or affiliation, rather than observance or practice. It differs from the religion questions used in the Scottish and Northern Irish censuses.

Q35. Do you need religion information from the 2011 Census?

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> → go to next question |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

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2. No

→ go to Q41

Q36. For what purposes do you/your organisation need this information? *Please describe.*

to better help define culture and ethnicity;
information is used in geodemographics and market analysis.

If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following religion categories in England and Wales:

1. No religion
2. Christian
3. Buddhist
4. Hindu
5. Jewish
6. Muslim
7. Sikh
8. Other religions

(Note: information on the 'other' religious categories, based on respondents' written answers, is likely to be available in a limited number of tables but not in standard outputs.)

Q37. Would the proposed categories for religion provide the information you require?

1. Yes

→ go to Q41

2. No

→ go to next question

3. Partially

→ go to next question

Q38. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

Reasons why:

Additional information needed:

Reasons needed:

Q39. Will you need to compare the information on religion in 2011 with the information from the 2001 Census?

3. Yes

→ go to next question

4. No

→ go to Q41

Q40. If yes, please state for what purposes.

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Q41. If you have any other comments on religion in the census please record below.

2001 questions were seriously inconsistent between Scotland vs. England & Wales, therefore results could not be compared across GB - particularly for Christians and 'No religion'. Fixing this in 2011 is much more important than preserving comparability with 2001.

Your views on language

A question on Welsh language proficiency has been included in previous censuses in Wales. ONS proposes to continue to measure Welsh language proficiency in Wales in 2011.

Proficiency in other languages has **not** been recorded in previous censuses in England or Wales, and will only be included in 2011 if there is space for four pages of individual questions per person. But we are aiming to get a better understanding of users' requirements for language information. If there is a strong requirement for language information it may be possible to collect it using another survey, subject to funding.

Language ability can be difficult to measure using a self-completion form, and there are many different aspects of language. Please use the section below to record your requirements on this topic.

Q42. Do you need language information?

1. Yes
2. No

→ go to next question
 → go to Q50

Q43. Which languages are you particularly interested in, if any? *Please write in.*

some market and social researchers are interested in languages that include indian subcontinent e.g. hinid, punjabee, urdu, gujaratee, arabic, east european and african languages

Q44. For what purposes do you/your organisation need language information?

market and social researchers use this information to recruit respondents who can all speak the same language in a group/ depth interview; for use in geodemographics and market analysis

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If the question proposed for the 2007 Census Test questionnaire was used in 2011, it would provide information for the following **new** aspects of language ability in England and Wales:

1. Ability to understand spoken English
2. Ability to speak English
3. Ability to read English
4. Ability to write in English
5. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (new for population in England)
6. Ability to speak Welsh (new for population in England)
7. Ability to read Welsh (new for population in England)
8. Ability to write in Welsh (new for population in England)
9. Ability to understand British Sign Language (BSL)
10. Ability to sign in BSL
11. Other languages understood
12. Other languages spoken/signed
13. Other languages read
14. Other languages written

Q45. Would the proposed categories for language ability provide the information you require?

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | → go to Q47 |
| 2. No | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |
| 3. Partially | <input type="checkbox"/> | → go to next question |

Q46. If no or partially, please state why, describing what additional information you need and the reasons you need it.

<p><i>Reasons why:</i></p> <p><i>Additional information needed:</i></p> <p><i>Reasons needed:</i></p>

Q47. To what extent would information on the number of people who do not speak English, and the languages spoken by those who do not, be useful to you?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Very useful | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Useful | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Not useful | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q48. There are many aspects of language ability. Which of the following aspects of language ability do you need to know about, and to what extent? *Tick the relevant box in each row.*

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	Very important	Quite important	Do not need
1. Ability to understand spoken English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ability to speak English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ability to read English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Ability to write in English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Which languages are understood, other than English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Which languages are spoken, other than English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Which languages are read, other than English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Which languages are written, other than English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to understand spoken Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Ability to speak Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Ability to read Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Ability to write in Welsh (among population in England)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Frequency of speaking Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Frequency of speaking other languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. Mother tongue or first language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Main language(s) spoken at home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Preferred spoken language for communicating with public authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Preferred written language for communicating with public authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Other aspects of language ability, please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q49. If only **one** piece of language information could be collected, what would be the most useful to you/your organisation?

Choose one aspect from Q48 above and write in the number below, or describe in your own words.

Piece of information required	First language spoken
Specific language (if applicable)	English or others

Q50. If you have any other comments on language please record below.

set of questions on language should be cut down to the minimum that's essential, given presence of ethnicity and national identity and space constraints on the census

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form

Prioritising your requirements

The eventual questions used in 2011 will have to balance the requirements for information with the constraints on questionnaire length.

- Q51. Please rank these four topics in order, based on how important each piece of information is to you/your organisation.
Number each topic from 1 to 4, where 1 is the most important topic and 4 is the least important.

Ethnic group	1
National identity	4
Religion	2
Language	3

- Q52. Of all the requirements you have mentioned in this questionnaire, which are the most important to you/your organisation? *List up to three.*

1. Robust ethnic group information, consistent throughout UK at Output Area level
2. Top-line information on religion, language and national identity, however not at the expense of economic activity questions on the census form
3.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Q53. Use the space below for any other comments you want to add.

The CGG could support a radical simplification of this section of the form, without major impact on our interests.
Users of small area data need to know more about output proposals and UK consistency before endorsing any proposals on question topics at this stage.

Thank you for contributing your views. Please return this form to:
ethnicity&identity@ons.gov.uk

Emailed forms are preferred. We can also be contacted at:

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