**A picture containing object

Description automatically generated**

**The University of Birmingham**

**Prospective Undergraduate Theology Survey**

17th June 2021

**Background and Methodology**

The University of Birmingham have commissioned TSR Insight to conduct an online survey with prospective undergraduate members of The Student Room community in Years 11-13 to understand attitudes towards the study of Theology and Religion.

Respondents will be sourced from the Student Room’s online community via targeted emails to relevant community members. Screening questions within the survey will identify eligible respondents and screen out those who are ineligible.

\*Compulsory questions

**Quantitative Survey**

Survey title: Course choice survey

### Page 1

Thank you for taking an interest in our survey.

**We’re conducting some research into subject perceptions for a UK university. If you’re planning to go to university in the future we’d like to hear from you.**

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. As a thank you for your time, you can enter into a prize draw at the end of the survey to win **one of two £50 Amazon vouchers**.

In this survey we will questions about your personal background so our client can understand how this may impact perceptions of the subjects. Your email address for the optional prize draw entry will be collected separately so it cannot be linked back to your survey responses.

TSR Insight follow the MRS Code of Conduct and the General Data Protection Regulation, and no identifiable information will be shared with our client. Please see our Privacy Notice for more information.

This survey was created in Survey Monkey. Please refer to the Survey Monkey legal pages for more information by clicking either [here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/mp/legal/) or at the foot of the page.

If you have any questions about this survey or require more information about this study, please email us at: [hello@tsrinsight.com](mailto:hello@tsrinsight.com)

1. **Taking into consideration the information we’ve shared,** **do you agree to take part in this survey?\***

*Base: Ask to all*

* 1. Yes
  2. No **(THANK AND CLOSE)**

### Page 2

1. **How old are you?\***

*Base: Ask to all*

* 1. 15 or under **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
  2. 16
  3. 17
  4. 18
  5. 19
  6. 20
  7. 21 or over
  8. Prefer not to say **(THANK AND CLOSE)**

### Page 3

1. **Which of the following best describes your MOST RECENT year of study?** *Please select one of the following options***\***

*Base: Ask to all*

* 1. Year 11 (England, Wales) / S4 (Scotland) / Year 12 (Northern Ireland)
  2. Year 12 (England, Wales) / S5 (Scotland) / Year 13 (Northern Ireland)
  3. Year 13 (England, Wales)/ S6 (Scotland) / Year 14 (Northern Ireland)
  4. I am currently on a gap year **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
  5. I am currently on an undergraduate / HE college course **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
  6. I am in full-time employment **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
  7. I am unemployed (**THANK AND CLOSE)**
  8. Other **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
  9. Prefer not to say **(THANK AND CLOSE)**

### Page 4

1. **Are you considering or planning to go to university in the future?\***

*Base: Ask to all*

* + - 1. Yes, definitely
      2. Yes, probably
      3. I haven’t ruled it out
      4. No, definitely not **(THANK AND CLOSE)**
      5. Prefer not to say **(THANK AND CLOSE)**

***QUESTION BLOCK 1***

### Page 5

We’re now going to ask some questions about different subjects. For each subject please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the statement

1. For each subject please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the statement

**‘I have a good understanding of what this subject involves’?** *Grid question*

*Base: Ask all*

***Columns***

1. *Strongly agree [1]*
2. *Agree [2]*
3. *Neither/Nor [3]*
4. *Disagree [4]*
5. *Strongly disagree [5]*
6. *Prefer not to say [0]*

***Rows*** *(randomised)*

* 1. Philosophy
  2. Sociology
  3. Psychology
  4. History
  5. Ethics
  6. Theology
  7. Religious Studies
  8. Politics
  9. English
  10. Math
  11. Computer Science
  12. Business

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Philosophy | Sociology | Psychology | History | Ethics | Theology | Religious Studies | Politics | English | Math | Computer Science | Business |
| Strongly Agree | 85 | 102 | 227 | 265 | 78 | 51 [ | 158 | 115 | **320** | **414** | 146 | 147 |
| Agree | 266 | 262 | 358 | 411 | 239 | 153 | 400 | 295 | 407 | 360 | 270 | 308 |
| Neither / nor | 217 | 196 | 144 | 111 | 198 | 135 | 154 | 191 | 109 | 71 | 162 | 189 |
| Disagree | 224 | 256 | 138 | 91 | 277 | 272 | 138 | 236 | 61 | 46 | 205 | 200 |
| Strongly Disagree | 129 | 109 | 61 | 53 | 134 | **313** | 79 | 90 | 29 | 39 | 146 | 84 |
| Total | 921 | 925 | 928 | 931 | 926 | 924 | 929 | 927 | 926 | 930 | 929 | 928 |
| Combined agrees | 351 | 364 | **585** | **676** | 317 | 204 | **558** | **410** | **727** | **774** | **416** | **455** |
| Combined disagree | 353 | 365 | 199 | 144 | **411** | **585** | 217 | 326 | 90 | 85 | 351 | 284 |

### Page 6

1. For each subject please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the statement

**‘I would be interested in studying this subject at University?’** *Grid question*

*Base: Ask all*

***Columns***

1. *Strongly agree*
2. *Agree*
3. *Neither/Nor*
4. *Disagree*
5. *Strongly disagree*
6. *Prefer not to say*

***Rows*** *(randomised)*

* 1. Philosophy
  2. Sociology
  3. Psychology
  4. History
  5. Ethics
  6. Theology
  7. Religious Studies
  8. Politics
  9. English
  10. Math
  11. Computer Science
  12. Business

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Philosophy | Sociology | Psychology | History | Ethics | Theology | Religious Studies | Politics | English | Math | Computer Science | Business |
| Strongly Agree | 67 | 56 | 139 | 101 | 31 | 24 [8] | 31 [10] | 85 | 105 | 135 | 89 | 79 |
| Agree | 177 | 200 | 267 | 149 | 141 | 83 [37] | 85 [41] | 137 | 162 | 165 | 125 | 175 |
| Neither / nor | 137 | 149 | 129 | 99 | 161 | **161 [88]** | 110 [34] | 123 | 100 | 98 | 78 | 127 |
| Disagree | 229 | 238 | 198 | 223 | 271 | 261 [123] | 267 [136] | 220 | 218 | 175 | 196 | 225 |
| Strongly Disagree | 315 | 283 | 194 | 354 | 323 | 390 [195] | **433 [237]** | 362 | 343 | 353 | 439 | 325 |
| Total | 925 | 926 | 927 | 926 | 927 | 919 | 926 | 927 | 928 | 926 | 927 | 931 |
| Combined agrees | 244 | 256 | **406** | 250 | 172 | 107 | 116 | 222 | 267 | 300 | 214 | 254 |
| Combined disagree | **544** | **521** | 392 | **577** | **594** | **651** | **700** | **582** | **561** | **528** | **635** | **550** |

(numbers in brackets represent non-religious subset of overall data, n=458 - 49%)

### Page 7

1. **For each subject please rate from 1 to 5 where 1 represents** 'Good employability prospects’ and 5 represents ‘Poor employability prospects’

**‘This subject has…?’** *Grid question*

*Base: Ask all*

***Columns***

1. *1 – Good employability prospects*
2. *2*
3. *3*
4. *4*
5. *5 – Poor employability prospects*
6. *Prefer not to say*

***Rows*** *(randomised)*

* 1. Philosophy
  2. Sociology
  3. Psychology
  4. History
  5. Ethics
  6. Theology
  7. Religious Studies
  8. Politics
  9. English
  10. Math
  11. Computer Science
  12. Business

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Philosophy | Sociology | Psychology | History | Ethics | Theology | Religious Studies | Politics | English | Math | Computer Science | Business |
| 1 | 16 | 51 | 196 | 83 | 18 | 11 [3] | 16 [4] | 176 | 169 | 582 | 662 | 472 |
| 2 | 86 | 189 | 321 | 204 | 80 | 45 [20] | 64 [23] | 337 | 252 | 232 | 161 | 295 |
| 3 | 276 | 366 | 280 | 351 | 290 | 266 [108] | 251 [107] | 293 | 313 | 78 | 62 | 112 |
| 4 | 345 | 200 | 76 | 195 | 312 | 321 [184] | 343 [190] | 81 | 137 | 18 | 22 | 31 |
| 5 | **171** | 93 | 35 | 75 | **189** | **215 [111]** | **229 [125]** | 24 | 46 | 13 | 14 | 14 |
| Total | 894 | 899 | 908 | 908 | 889 | 858 | 903 | 911 | 917 | 923 | 921 | 924 |
| Combined 1-2 | 102 | 240 | **517** | 287 | 98 | 56 [23] | 80 [27] | **513** | **421** | **814** | **823** | **767** |
| Combined 4-5 | **516** | **293** | **111** | 270 | **501** | **536 [295]** | **572 [315]** | 105 | 183 | 31 | 36 | 45 |

***QUESTION BLOCK 2a (questions presented in random order)***

### Page 8

1. **Thinking about Theology, please select an option on the scale from 1 to 5 which best represents your opinion**

*Base: Ask all*

1. 1 - Theology is a subject for religious people - 43 (5%)
2. 2 - 69 (8%)
3. 3 - 213 (25%)
4. 4 - 105 (12%)
5. 5 - Theology is a subject for religious and non-religious people - 416 (49%)
6. Prefer not to say

### Page 9

1. **Thinking about Religion, please select an option on the scale from 1 to 5 which best represents your opinion**

*Base: Ask all*

1. 1 – Religion is a subject for religious people - 71 (8%)
2. 2 - 84 (9%)
3. 3 - 143 (16%)
4. 4 - 97 (11%)
5. 5 – Religion is a subject for religious and non-religious people - 520 (57%)
6. Prefer not to say

### Page 10

1. **I think that a theology degree would include...** *(multiple choice, randomised)*

*Please select all that apply*

*Base: Ask all*

1. Psychology - 26%
2. Arts - 18%
3. Sociology - 37%
4. Politics - 24%
5. History - 48%
6. Philosophy - 74%
7. Ethics - 70%
8. Archaeology - 18%
9. Textual studies - 40%
10. Literature - 42%
11. Law - 20%
12. Economics - 4%
13. Science - 13%
14. Prefer not to say - **12%**

### Page 11

1. **I think that a religious studies degree would include...** *(multiple choice, randomised)*

*Please select all that apply*

*Base: Ask all*

1. Psychology - 22%
2. Arts - 17%
3. Sociology - 42%
4. Politics - 34%
5. History - **67%**
6. Philosophy - **81%**
7. Ethics - **84%**
8. Archaeology - 16%
9. Textual studies - **47%**
10. Literature - **43%**
11. Law - 26%
12. Economics - 4%
13. Science - 15%
14. Prefer not to say - 2%

***QUESTION BLOCK 2b***

### Page 12

1. **I think that a philosophy degree would include...** *(multiple choice, randomised)*

*Please select all that apply*

*Base: Ask all*

1. Politics - 41%
2. History - 57%
3. Ethics - **82%**
4. Theology - **75%**
5. Religion - **74%**
6. Law - 35%
7. Economics - 9%
8. Maths - 11%
9. Logic - **66%**
10. Prefer not to say - 4%

***QUESTION BLOCK 3***

### Page 13

1. **Are you currently studying A level Religious Studies, or intending to?**

*Base: Ask all*

1. Yes - 62 [26]
2. No - 864 [428]
3. Prefer not to say - 5 [1]
4. **Are you studying / did you previously study GCSE Religious Studies?**

*Base: Ask all*

1. Yes - 493 [199]
2. No - 432 [254]
3. Prefer not to say - 5 [1]

Page 14

1. **Which of the following led to you studying GCSE Religious Studies?** *(multiple choice)*

*Please select all that apply*

*Base: Ask if studied GCSE Religious Studies*

1. I wanted to study it - 156
2. My parents wanted me to study it - 15 total, 8 (exclusive to a), 7 overlapping with (a)
3. It was compulsory at my school - 364 total, (overlapping with a for 35)
4. Prefer not to say - 3

Page 15

**And finally, some questions about you.**

These questions will help our client to understand more about the profile of people who have completed the survey so they can better understand perceptions of these subjects. You have the option to select ‘Prefer not to say’ if you wish.

1. **I identify my gender as…**

*Base: Ask all*

* + - 1. Male - 218
      2. Female - 680
      3. I identify my gender in another way - 24
      4. Prefer not to say - 10

.

For the next two questions, you can read why we’re using particular language [here.](https://www.dropbox.com/s/v82q60fxsybv7ow/Survey%20Question%20Explainations.pdf?dl=0)

1. **What is your ethnic group?**

*Base: Ask all*

1. Arab - 12
2. Asian / Asian British - Indian - 93
3. Asian / Asian British - Pakistani - 65
4. Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi - 38
5. Asian / Asian British - Chinese - 22
6. Asian / Asian British - Any other Asian background - 33
7. Black / Black British - African - 61
8. Black / Black British - Caribbean - 7
9. Black / Black British - Any other Black background - 8
10. Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups – White and Black Caribbean - 12
11. Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups – White and Black African - 4
12. Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups – White and Asian - 14
13. Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other Mixed / Multiple Ethnic background - 13
14. White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British - 451
15. White - Irish - 15
16. White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
17. White - Any other White Background - 53
18. Other Ethnic group, please describe: 9

Anglo Persian

Asian- Chinese

Kurdish

Latin American

Lithuanian

Mauritian

Mixed

Nepali

Turkish

1. Prefer not to say - 20
2. **What is your religion?**

*Choose one you feel represents your religious affiliation best***.**

*Base: Ask all*

1. Agnostic - 108
2. Atheist - 167
3. Baha'i - 0
4. Buddhist - 7
5. **Christian - 220**
6. Confucian - 1
7. Jain - 1
8. Jewish - 8
9. Hindu - 35
10. Indigenous Traditional Religious - 0
11. Muslim - 146
12. Pagan - 7
13. Shinto - 1
14. Sikh - 16
15. Spiritual but not religious - 30
16. Zoroastrian - 2
17. No religion - 138
18. Prefer not to say - 27
19. Other (please specify) - 14

Agnostic Jewish

Apatheistic

Believe in something - not sure what - governed by morals.

Catholic

Catholic

I’m not sure.

J

Non practicing agnostic Catholic

Pastafarian

Raised Catholic but don’t believe in organised religion

Roman Catholic

Roman Catholic

Similar values to Christians but I don’t believe in the religion. God could be real

Theist