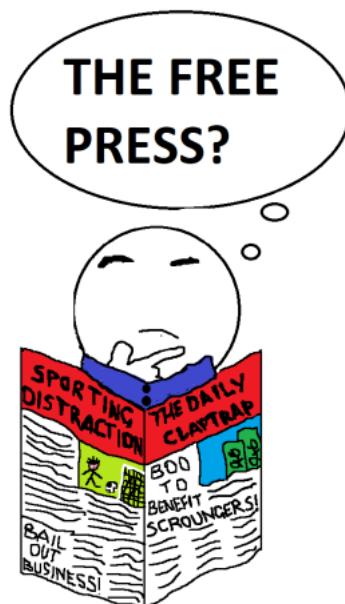


A Report into Elite/Wealth

Selection Bias on BBC

Question Time





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Abstract

We surveyed 10 consecutive BBC Question Time episodes from 28/5/2020 to 15/10/2020 (inclusive of summer break). In this period a total of 60 panellists appeared on the show (some individuals making multiple appearances).

We found that:

47/60 panellists (78%) had a **verifiable annual income of over £68,000**
(*in contrast to 10% of population as a whole*)

36/60 panellists (60%) attended **private school and/or an Oxbridge/Ivy League university**

(*in contrast to 8% of population as a whole*)

11/60 panellists (18%) were **verified millionaires**

Question Time is the BBC's leading panel debate show. Arguably, it is the most influential panel debate show in Britain. Every week on Question Time issues relating to unemployment, poverty, the National Health Service and/or education are debated.

The fact that a hugely disproportionate number of panellists are among the top 10% of earners in the UK, did not attend state schools and have elite affiliations is problematic given that the panel lead discussion of issues that primarily impact low earners and those reliant on state schooling and healthcare.

The BBC have taken steps to banish the days of all-white panels discussing issues of race, or all-male panels discussing women's rights. We call on the BBC to publish details of how they will take steps to ensure that future Question Time panels are more representative of modern Britain in terms of wealth and background.



Introduction

In step with perception and criticism of the rest of the media, discussion around Question Time guest selection usually revolves around whether it has a “right wing” or “left wing” bias. These accusations are relatively comfortable for the BBC as they can resort to the classic defence of “well, we’re getting flak from both sides so must be somewhere in the middle!”

Left and right is also allowed for in the official statement of the BBC on QT guest selection: “Question Time aims to select a panel with a broad range of views, knowledge and experience” according to the programme’s [official website](#).

What this statement doesn’t allow for, in terms of a “range of views, knowledge and experience”, is that the overwhelming majority of QT guests appear to represent the elite of Britain, which hugely limits the range of views, knowledge and experience present.

An embarrassing example of this occurred on another BBC political show, Politics Live, on 8/10/20. The programme opened with a discussion of BBC Director General Tim Davie’s announcement that the corporation would seek to diversify recruitment to correct the overabundance of Oxbridge graduates within its ranks.

The show’s presenter Adam Fleming, who attended Oxford, jokingly stated that he would stay out of the discussion. However, it turned out that both his studio guests, Tim Stanley and Stephen Bush, also graduated from Oxbridge!

BBC viewers were, therefore, expected to listen to a panel of Oxbridge graduates discussing whether the BBC should continue to recruit from Oxbridge.

According to [i newspaper](#) Davie “told a virtual Ofcom conference that reflecting “socio-economic diversity, different types of people, different voices” was a “big issue” for the BBC.”

Presumably he will be equally interested in tackling this issue when it comes to Question Time...



What Do We Mean By “Elite”?

Elite is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “a group or class of people seen as having the most power and influence in a society, especially on account of their wealth or privilege.”

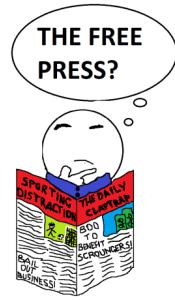
There is a millionaire on most editions of Question Time, either a representative of the business community or a politician (the current salary for an MP is £81,932 and most have business interests beyond this). The majority of other guests earn significantly more than the average 2020 UK income of £26,520 (source [ONS](#)).

We classify elite annual income as £68,000 per year or above, the median income listed by the [Office of National Statistics](#) for the wealthiest 10% in the UK. It seems reasonable to conclude that individuals with this level of income (which correlates, according to ONS, with an even greater discrepancy in *overall wealth* courtesy of the property and share interests of this group) will have notably different concerns and priorities to those who earn around the £26,520 average or below. They may, for instance, be less likely to favour taxes that target wealth, such as the mansion tax, than those to whom such taxes would not apply.

In addition to this, other features which mark QT panellists as elite recur. For instance, we observe that a disproportionately high number of guests have attended educational institutions which indicate a privileged background such as private schools, Oxford and Cambridge. We predict that many will be Lords or will have other honours or titles bestowed on them by unelected bodies.

Is it accurate to suggest that a panel consisting almost exclusively of individuals in the wealthiest 10% of the UK, many of whom attended educational institutions beyond the reach of ordinary Britons, represent a “broad range of views, knowledge and experience”?

It seems unlikely. But first we must accurately address whether Question Time does have an elite selection bias.



Method

We developed a scoring system to apply to Question Time guests to gain a sense of how elite each weekly panel selection is. We scored each guest either 0 (Non-Elite) or 1 (Elite) in five categories: Income, Education, Connections, Honours/Titles, Political/Economic Views.

The specific criteria for allocating an individual 0 or 1 in each category is outlined on the example scorecard in **Appendix A**.

To ensure rigour in the study we accepted that the burden of proof must lie on us to *demonstrate* that an individual meets the criteria to be awarded a 1 (Elite). If doubt was present they were awarded a 0 (Non-Elite) in that category.

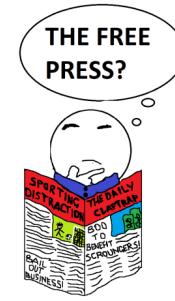
Based on their scores for the five categories each panellist was awarded an elite rating out of 5. This was added to the scores of the other guests then divided by the number of guests to provide an overall rating for that week's panel.

An example of this process can be seen in the below **summary scorecard from Episode 1**.

| QUESTION TIME 28/05/2020 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Panel Member | INCOME | | EDUCATION | | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| | Income | Score | Education | Score | | | | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | | Oxford (1) | | Husband CEO (1) | | 0 | 0 |
| Helen Whately | £81932 (1) | | private school/Oxford (1) | | Wealthy donors (1) | | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) |
| Ian Murray | £81932 (1) | | | | Wealthy donors (1) | | 0 | 0 |
| John Swinney | £94821 (1) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Dr Layla McCay | can't verify (0) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Alex Massie | can't verify (0) | | private school (1) | | Father journalist (1) | | 0 | Editor at right-wing Spectator (1) |
| | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | 13 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 0 | | | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 4 | | | | | | | |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | | | | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Total score/no. of guests (11/6) = | 2.17 |
| | | | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| | | | | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 2 - QUITE ELITE |
| | | | | | | | | |

The 1s and 0s awarded to individuals in each category were tallied at the end of the 10-show survey to calculate how many panellists, in total, were elite in specific categories (e.g. 47 out of 60 panellists were marked Elite [1] for the Income category as they met its criteria - earned more than £68,000 per year or were a verified millionaire).

These tallies are summarised in our **Results** section.



Fiona Bruce, the presenter of Question Time, is a key figure in terms of directing debate, challenging panellists and allocating speaking time. She was, therefore, included in the calculation for each show in which she appeared (so Fiona was scored 10 times in total).

Donna Kinnair and Nadhim Zahawi also appeared multiple times over the ten shows (twice each) and were scored each time.

The full scorecards (example in **Appendix A**, links to all ten scorecards in **Appendix B**) contain links to sources for any claims deemed controversial or requiring substantiation - e.g. links to official sources pronouncing a panellist as a millionaire. Sources are not provided for less contentious statements such as the school or university a panellist is said to have attended. These have been double-checked wherever possible but some sources have been accepted without corroboration on the basis that there is limited motive for panellists/biographers to mislead. We will happily amend any errors that are brought to our attention.



Results / Discussion

Appendix B contains images of all 10 summary scorecards from the surveyed episodes and links to PDFs of the full scorecards.

The tallies of all categories scored are listed below along with relevant discussion.

Total number of panellists in the ten episodes = 60

Fiona Bruce scored for each episode so accounts for 10

Nadhim Zahawi and Donna Kinnair appeared twice so account for 2 each

****Fiona Bruce does not put forward arguments but plays a key role in guiding the discussion, challenging claims by participants and allocating speaking time. She was scored for each episode because of the significant role she plays on each. She may, for example act to bind debate within certain parameters or close off avenues with which she is uncomfortable (based on her elite rating of 3 out of 5)*

Category 1: Income > £68,000 (or verified millionaire) = 47

47 of the 60 panellists (78%) had a verified income of more than £68,000, placing them in the top 10% of earners in the UK

****These figures provide strong support to our proposition that Question Time has an elite/wealth selection bias. The vast majority of panellists earn significantly more than the average Britain – 78% of panellists are in the top 10% of UK earners.*

Significantly, it is likely that an even higher number of panellists belong in this category but the income of professors, artists, etc are more challenging to verify than politicians/businesspeople and when unable to verify we marked these panellists as Non-Elite (0) in this category.

It is likely that close to 100% of guests on Question Time are in the top 10% of UK earners or within that region of wealth



Category 2: Attended private school and/or a university in top ten of Times

Higher Education Rankings = 36

36 of the 60 panellists (60%) were marked as elite in this category with Oxford and Cambridge by far the most common universities attended.

****These findings are broadly consistent with those of the [Elitist Britain Parliamentary Report](#), which found that “59 per cent of the Cabinet, 57 per cent of Permanent Secretaries, 50 per cent of diplomats, 47 per cent of newspaper columnists, 44 per cent of public body chairs, 38 per cent of members of the House of Lords, 33 per cent of BBC executives, 33 per cent of the Shadow Cabinet, 24 percent of MPs and 12 per cent of the Sunday Times Rich List attended Oxbridge.”*

Significantly, the report highlights that only 1% of the British population as a whole attended Oxbridge, while 7% attended private/independent schools

According to our findings Question Time panels therefore overrepresent by a factor of 7.5 (60% / 8%) privately/elite educated individuals in Britain.

Category 3: Honours holder = 13

13 of the 60 (21.7%) panellists on Question Time possess titles/honours such as MBEs for their services to the British establishment

****This figure is somewhat lower than we anticipated but it remains notable that over 20% of panellists possess honours/titles that no more than 1% of the British population hold*

We postulate that the figure is lower than anticipated due to an increasing trend towards younger MPs and cabinet ministers. Were we to review this study in a few decades we expect that many of the figures scored 0 in this category (including Fiona Bruce) will by then have achieved Honours.



Category 4: Connections = 39

39 of 60 panellists (65%) had at least one significant connection to a highly influential individual in their own field (someone likely to have paved the way for them to “follow in their footsteps”) or a close contact in a profession they should be independent from – e.g. a journalist with a close contact in politics, a politician with ties to business.

****Close connections are challenging to identify and verify. We accept that there is an element of “hearsay” or speculation to this category.*

Nonetheless, the fact that potentially compromising or nepotistic connections were documented in almost two-thirds of panellists is further evidence of an “Establishment” (to borrow Owen Jones’ term) that forms an interconnected ruling class of sorts. We are particularly interested in connections between journalists, politicians and businesspeople, which, in our opinion, threaten core functions of democracy.

How can a journalist hold politicians to account if they are friends with them? How can a politician make economic decisions that are correct for the country as a whole without being swayed by family members who work in finance?

In this respect it is notable that several of the panellists, e.g. Nadhim Zahawi and Grant Shapps, currently work in one sphere (politics) but previously worked in another (business). The potential for personal connections (even unconscious bias) from the world of business to impact their political decisions is an issue worthy of consideration.

Category 5: Economic/Political Views = 21

21 of 60 panellists (35%) expressed economic views we could clearly categorise as “right-wing”

****These findings indicate that the BBC is taking care to try and balance “right” and “left” wing views – if around a third of views are clearly to the “right” this would leave room for a third to be “centre” and a third to be “left”.*

It is, however, one thing to be able to document overt statements/voting patterns that indicate adherence to free market, low tax, small state views, quite another to document less overt biases towards the economic status quo that are likely to be held by those on significant incomes.



Confirmed millionaires = 11

In addition to the five categories on the scorecard we also noted the number of millionaires to appear on the show that we could verify through reputable online sources.

11 of 60 panellists (18%) were **verified millionaires** (links to sources provided within full scorecards)

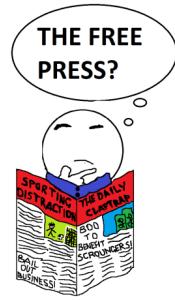
****This was one of our most striking findings – that a fifth of the voices the public hear discussing issues of the day on Question Time represent extreme wealth.*

However, this number is likely a major underestimate. A [2010 study](#) found that 23/29 of the Conservative cabinet of the time were millionaires. Presuming a similar ratio exists in the current Conservative cabinet then several Ministerial guests on QT (beyond those we could verify) are likely to be millionaires.

In addition, many of the guests earning more than £68,000 will have enjoyed this level of income for several years. Income on this scale correlates with property ownership and shareholdings. As such, it would be surprising if the total assets of at least another 11 panellists didn't exceed one million pounds.

Significantly, the millionaires we could verify were distributed across the shows. Episodes 2-10 all had at least one millionaire – meaning no less than nine consecutive shows featured the voice of a millionaire.

It is almost as if the BBC were determined to push forward the voice of wealth. Significantly, we note no such determination to push forward the voice of trade union representatives, charity workers who run foodbanks or other prominent figures who could speak for those at the opposite end of the income spectrum.



Conclusion

The most significant findings of our report can be summarised as follows:

47/60 QT panellists (78%) had a verifiable annual income of over £68,000, placing them in the top 10% of UK earners

11/60 QT panellists (18%) were verified millionaires

Private school and/or an Oxbridge/Ivy League university graduates were over-represented on the show by a factor of 7.5

These results confirm that Question Time doesn't so much select a panel with "a range of views, knowledge and experience" as a panel with "range of *elite* views, knowledge and experience."

The preponderance of wealthy panellists is particularly invidious when so many of the issues discussed on Question Time relate to socio-economic problems. Is it a good look for the BBC to line up millionaires and top ten percent earners to discuss poverty and joblessness every week?

Indeed, the very format of Question Time - a panel, raised on a platform, facing an audience who are allowed to ask questions or make fleeting contributions - could be seen to naturalise or advance a two-tiered democracy (or elitocracy), where elite groups lead, advance and set the limits on discussions, and the general public are confined to a role in the margins.

We therefore welcome Tim Davie's commitment to improving "socio-economic diversity" on the BBC and argue that it is urgently required on Question Time.

How can it be done?

- Community activists, trade unionists and representatives of charities which care for those at the lower end of the economic spectrum are obvious choices to diversify debate. None appeared in the ten episodes we surveyed (though, as we have noted, 11 millionaires did).
- Whenever a businessperson appears on the show a trade unionist *must* appear as balance. If the voice of employers is represented, the voice of employees must be too.
- There is little the BBC can do about the high salary MPs and certain other guests enjoy. The public should, however, be made aware of the economic status of guests when issues like poverty are discussed. Information could be presented on screen or online highlighting the income/educational background of panellists or Fiona Bruce could challenge guests more rigorously when these issues are discussed. FB prefacing

Elite Selection Bias on BBC Question Time



questions on socio-economic issues with a “disclaimer” regarding the level of wealth on the panel (including her own) is an option.

Doubtless there are many other adaptations the programme could make if it wishes to represent a wider range of perspectives and counter the prevailing elite/wealth bias.

Until these amendments arrive Question Time will continue to act as a mirror of our current political and media culture: the public reduced to token contributions as the elite hold court.

Steven McCracken, Sean Rankin

<https://the-free-press.co.uk/>



Appendix A

Question Time Scorecard – 1/10/2020





INCOME

Income is the most powerful indicator of elitism. Those with wealth have a wider range of options than those without and a vested interest (conscious or otherwise) in sustaining the economic framework that generates their affluence

| Classification | 0 (Non-Elite) | 1 (Elite) |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Criteria | Yearly salary < £68,000 | Yearly salary > £68,000 OR Verified millionaire |
| Panel | | <p><i>Fiona Bruce scores 1</i> <i>BBC Salary for 17/18 listed as</i> <i>£259,9990</i></p> |
| | | <p><i>Grant Shapps scores 1</i> <i>Member of Parliament (Salary</i> <i>£81,932)</i> <i>Held a <u>second job</u> as a “multimillion-</i> <i>dollar web marketer” under the</i> <i>pseudonym Michael Green for at</i> <i>least a year after he first became an</i> <i>MP.</i> <i><u>Verified millionaire.</u></i></p> |
| | | <p><i>Alison McGovern scores 1</i> <i>Member of Parliament (Salary</i> <i>£81,932)</i></p> |
| | | <p><i>David Linden scores 1</i></p> |



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p><i>Member of Parliament (Salary £81,932)</i></p> |
| | | <p><i>Helen Stokes-Lampard scores 1</i> <i>As a GP partner (<u>average salary £110,000</u>) and Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners there is sufficient evidence to class her as a >£68,000 earner</i></p> |
| | | <p><i>Stuart Rose scores 1</i> <i><u>Verified millionaire</u> with an estimated net worth in the region of £50 million</i></p> |



EDUCATION

The Sutton Trust reported in 2016 that Oxford and Cambridge recruit more students from eight independent/highly competitive schools (such as Eton) than almost 3,000 UK state schools put together. A [linked government report](#) stated that “Our examination of who gets the top jobs in Britain today found elitism so stark that it could be called ‘Social Engineering’”, with independent schools and Oxbridge a key component in this social selection.

| Classification | 0 (Non-Elite) | 1 (Elite) |
|----------------|--|---|
| Criteria | State school attendee Non-Oxbridge higher education | Attended a private/independent school OR Attended Oxford, Cambridge or equivalent elite overseas university in top ten of Times Higher Education Rankings |
| Panel | | <i>Fiona Bruce scores 1</i> <i>Attended Hertford College, Oxford</i> |
| | | <i>Grant Shapps scores 1</i> <i>Attended selective Watford Grammar School for boys</i> |
| | <i>Alison McGovern scores 0</i> <i>Meets criteria</i> | |
| | <i>David Linden scores 0</i> | |



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <i>Meets criteria</i> | |
| | <i>Helen Stokes-Lampard scores 0</i> <i>Meets criteria</i> | |
| | | <i>Stuart Rose scores 1</i> <i>Attended independent Bootham School</i> |



CONNECTIONS

It's not what you know, it's who you know shouldn't apply in a democracy...but most would agree that it does. Many high-ranking politicians and journalists (e.g. The Millibands, the Dimblebys) are embedded in the elite through family ties or are members of private clubs whose “exclusive” status marks them out as networking hubs for the elite. Moreover, if QT guests count as friends/kin people who occupy positions of power throughout politics, business and the media this again makes them less likely to reflect common opinion or present an unbiased view of institutions in which a loved one, confidante or network acquaintance plays a key role.

| Classification | 0 (Non-Elite) | 1 (Elite) |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Criteria | No close family, friendship or networking ties to high-ranking figures in politics, business, the media or other powerful institutions | One or more close family, friendship or networking ties to high-ranking figures in politics, business, the media or other powerful institutions |
| Panel | | <p><i>Fiona Bruce scores 1</i></p> <p><i>Father a high ranking businessman, regional managing director of Unilever (2017 turnover 53.7 billion euros) (source)</i></p> <p><i>Husband Nigel Sharrocks a high-ranking businessman, CEO of the marketing company Aegis Group Northern Europe which represents companies with cumulative turnover of £500 billion (source 1) (source 2)</i></p> |
| | | <i>Grant Shapps scores 1</i> |



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p><i>His Parliamentary Register of Member's Financial Interests shows donations from wealthy individuals and businesses, affirming his links to business and wealth from his days as “Michael Green”</i></p> |
| | | <p><i>Alison McGovern scores 1</i> <i>Married to economist Ashwin Kumar, formerly a senior civil servant in the Department for Work and Pensions and Passenger Director at Passenger Focus</i></p> |
| | <p><i>David Linden scores 0</i> <i>Meets criteria</i></p> | |
| | <p><i>Helen Stokes-Lampard scores 0</i> <i>Meets criteria</i></p> | |
| | | <p><i>Stuart Rose scores 1</i> <i>Connections with Kate Reardon, editor of Tatler magazine, and a Conservative life peer</i></p> |



HONOURS/TITLES

It seems fair to assume that those vested with hereditary titles such as Earl, Duke, Baronet, etc can be classed as elite. Prestigious titles bestowed by unelected bodies, such as OBEs, membership of the House of Lords and Church titles like Bishop and Archbishop, are often awarded regardless of background (e.g. OBEs to sports stars from poor backgrounds) but nonetheless suggest elite approval of these individuals – they are “vetted by the elite”.

| Classification | 0 (Non-Elite) | 1 (Elite) |
|----------------|---|--|
| Criteria | No high-ranking hereditary title No high-ranking honour/title bestowed by an unelected body | Possesses a high-ranking hereditary title OR Possesses a high-ranking honour/title bestowed by an unelected body |
| Panel | <i>Fiona Bruce scores 0</i> <i>She does not have high-ranking title...yet!</i> | |
| | | <i>Grant Shapps scores 1</i> <i>Member of the Privy Council, a high office elected by the PM/Queen rather than voters</i> |
| | <i>Alison McGovern scores 0</i> <i>Only title is a democratic one:</i> <i>Member of Parliament.</i> | |



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p><i>David Linden scores 0</i> <i>Only title is a democratic one:</i> <i>Member of Parliament.</i></p> | |
| | <p><i>Helen Stokes-Lampard scores 0</i> <i>Meets criteria</i></p> | |
| | | <p><i>Stuart Rose scores 1</i> <i>Baron Rose of Moneweeney since 2014</i></p> |



POLITICAL/ECONOMIC VIEWS

It isn't entirely fair to classify someone as financially elite because they are wealthy. There are examples of financially privileged individuals who have campaigned for redistribution of wealth. Therefore, we take into account economic and political viewpoints expressed verbally or through voting patterns

| Classification | 0 (Non-Elite) | 1 (Elite) |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Criteria | Political outlook prioritises what we might call “public wealth” – redistribution of wealth, living wage, wage rises in line with or above inflation, protection or investment in public services, union and worker’s rights, nationalisation of industries | Political outlook prioritises what we might call “private wealth” – low tax rates, downsizing of state, privatisation of state services, benefit freezes or cuts, public sector pay freezes, limitation of trade union powers |
| Panel | <p><i>Fiona Bruce scores 0</i></p> <p><i>As a journalist she does not express strong views in this area*</i></p> | |
| | | <p><i>Grant Shapps scores 1</i></p> <p><i>As per <u>They Work for You</u>:</i></p> <p><i>Consistently voted against raising welfare benefits at least in line with prices and almost always voted for a reduction in spending on welfare benefits BUT Generally voted against a banker’s bonus tax and generally voted against an annual tax on the value of expensive homes</i></p> |



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | <p>Alison McGovern scores 0</p> <p>As per <u>They Work for You</u>:</p> <p><i>consistently voted against a reduction in spending on welfare benefits BUT Generally voted for a banker's bonus tax and a mansion tax</i></p> | |
| | <p>David Linden scores 0</p> <p>Limited voting record as per <u>They Work for You</u> but “Consistently voted for higher taxes on banks”</p> | |
| | <p>Helen Stokes-Lampard scores 0</p> <p><i>A health professional whose economic/political views are not clear enough to classify</i></p> | |
| | | <p>Stuart Rose scores 1</p> <p><i>Businessman whose economic priorities are made clear by <u>this piece</u> in the Daily Mail in which he passionately argues for workers to go back to offices to benefit business</i></p> |



* We accept that the burden of proof for making an “elite” judgment lies with us. Therefore, when sufficiently clear evidence to classify a panellist as elite cannot be found they will be classed non-elite in that category as a default. We may, for example, strongly suspect that someone has an income above £68,000 or influential contacts but if we can’t access information that suggests this beyond reasonable doubt we will classify them as non-elite for these categories.

Overall elite ratings (for guests and the panel as a whole):

| Total Score | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------|------------|---------------------|
| Corresponding Status | Not Elite | A Little Elite | Quite Elite | Elite | Very Elite | Exceptionally Elite |

Fiona Bruce scores three out of five – she is Elite

Grant Shapps scores five out of five – he is Exceptionally Elite

Alison McGovern scores two out of five – she is Quite Elite

David Linden scores one out of five – he is A Little Elite

Helen Stokes-Lampard scores one out of five – she is A Little Elite

Stuart Rose scores five out of five – he is Exceptionally Elite

Combined score of panel = $3 + 4 + 2 + 5 + 2 + 1 = 17$

*Divided by no. of panellists (6) = 3.4, rounded to closest no.
= 3*



OVERALL ELITE RATING FOR THIS EDITION OF QUESTION TIME IS:

3 – ELITE



Appendix 2

Scorecards and Links for all 10 Episodes

Episode 10 – 15/10/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 15/10/2020 | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| | | | | | | 0 indicates NON-ELITE in that category, 1 indicates ELITE in that category |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Douglas Ross | £81932 (1) | 0 | Carlton Club (1) | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 3 |
| Seema Malhotra | £81932 (1) | 0 | Husband financier (1) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Kate Forbes | > £68,000 (1) | Cambridge (1) | 0 | 0 | Cabinet Secretary for Finance (1) | 3 |
| Miriam Brett | can't verify (0) | 0 | SNP links (1) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mark Walport | > £68,000 (1) | Cambridge (1) | Fellow Royal Society (1) | Knight Bachelor (1) | 0 | 4 |
| Ian Wood | millionaire (1) | private school (1) | 0 | GBE (1) | Billionaire (1) | 4 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | 20 |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 6 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (20/7) = | 2.85 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 4 | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 2 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 3 – ELITE |



Episode 9 – 8/10/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 08/10/2020 | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|--|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | O indicates NON-ELITE in that category, 1 indicates ELITE in that category | | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| | | | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Gillian Keegan | £81932 (1) | 0 | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 3 |
| Andy Burnham | £110,000 (1) | Cambridge (1) | Big Pharma connections (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Michael Portillo | millionaire (1) | Cambridge (1) | Æ Systems, Kerr McGee (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Donna Kinnair | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | DBE (1) | 0 | 1 |
| Yanis Varoufakis | > £68,000 (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 14 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,0000 earners on show | 5 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (14/6) = | 2.33 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 1 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 2 – QUITE ELITE |



Episode 8 – 1/10/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 1/10/2020 | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS | Total ELITE score |
| | | | | | | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Grant Shapps | MP salary/millionaire (1) | Selective school (1) | Millionaire donors (1) | Privy Council (1) | right-wing voting record (1) | 5 |
| Alison McGovern | £81932 (1) | 0 | Married to Ashwin Kumar (1) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| David Linden | £81932 (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Helen Stokes-Lampard | GP and Chair (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stuart Rose | Millionaire (1) | Independent school (1) | Conservative Peer (1) | Baron (1) | Businessman (1) | 5 |
| | | | | | | 17 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 2 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 6 | | | | | |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | | Total score/no. of guests (17/6) = | 2.83 |
| | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| | | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 3 – ELITE |



Episode 7 – 24/9/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Alok Sharma | £81932 (1) | independent schools (1) | Millionaire donors (1) | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 4 |
| Louise Haigh | £81932 (1) | independent school (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Ed Davey | £81932 (1) | Oxford (1) | Wealthy donors (1) | "Sir" Ed Davey (1) | right-wing voting record (1) | 5 |
| Peter Borg-Neal | millionaire (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | businessman (1) | 2 |
| Devi Sridhar | can't verify (0) | Oxford (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 17 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 5 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (17/5) = | 3.4 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 5 | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 1 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 3 – ELITE |



Episode 6 – 17/9/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 17/09/2020 | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS | | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS | Total ELITE score |
| | | | | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS | | | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 3 |
| Nadhim Zahawi | £81932 (1) | 2 private schools (1) | Millionaire donors (1) | 0 | 0 | | 4 |
| Jon Ashworth | £81932 (1) | 0 | Gordon Brown (1) | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| Sunetra Gupta | can't verify (0) | Princeton (1) | Ex-husband director of Jenner Institute (1) | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| Nicci Gerrard | can't verify (0) | Oxford (1) | Married to journalist Sean French (1) | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| John Caudwell | millionaire (1) | 0 | Major Conservative donor (1) | 0 | 0 | wealthy businessman (1) | 3 |
| | | | | | | | 16 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | Total score/no. of guests (16/6) | 2.67 |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 4 | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 4 | | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 0 | | | | | 3 – ELITE | |

***Correction to above scorecard – TWO verified millionaires on show (Nadhim Zahawi is also a [verified millionaire](#))



Episode 5 – 25/6/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 25/06/2020 | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Panel Member | Score of 0 indicates NON-ELITE in that category, Score of 1 indicates ELITE in that category | | | | | |
| | INCOME score | EDUCATION score | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| Fiona Bruce | £259,000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Steve Barclay | £81,932 (1) | Cambridge (1) | Millionaire donor (1) | 0 | Neocon voting record (1) | 4 |
| Jess Phillips | £81,932 (1) | 0 | Lord Ashcroft (1) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Iona Bain | 0 | Oxford (1) | 0 | 0 | Investment Trust association (1) | 2 |
| Theo Paphitis | millionaire (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dragon's Den (1) | 2 |
| George the Poet | 0 | Cambridge (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 14 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,0000 earners on show | 4 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (14/6) = | 2.33 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 4 | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 0 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 2 - QUITE ELITE |



Episode 4 – 18/6/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| Panel Member | INCOME score | EDUCATION score | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS | s | Total | ELITE score |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|---|------------|--|
| Fiona Bruce | £259,000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 3 |
| Lisa Nandy | £81,932 (1) | | 0 Grandfather was MP (1) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 2 |
| Munira Wilson | £81,932 (1) | Cambridge (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 2 |
| James Cleverly | £81,932 (1) | Private school (1) | Millionaire donors (1) | 0 | Neocon voting record (1) | | 0 | 4 |
| Steve Parish | millionaire (1) | Private school (1) | Billionaire partners (1) | 0 | Pushed for Project Restart (1) | | 0 | 4 |
| Jed Mercurio | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | 15 | |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 5 | | | | | | 2.5 | |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 4 | | | | | | | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Total score/no. of guests (15/6) | | | |
| | | | | | | | | rounded to nearest no. (0.5 rounded down) |
| | | | | | | | | Overall panel rating for show = 2 - QUITE ELITE |



Episode 3 – 14/9/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 11/06/2020 | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Score of 0 indicates NON-ELITE in that category, Score of 1 indicates ELITE in that category | | | | | | | |
| Panel Member | INCOME score | EDUCATION score | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Robert Buckland | £81932 (1) | Private school (1) | United and Cecil Club (1) | Lord Chancellor (1) | Right-wing voting record (1) | 5 | |
| Liz Saville-Roberts | £67,649 + expenses (1) | 0 | 0 | Privy Council (1) | 0 | 2 | |
| Vaughan Gething | £81932 (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Bernardina Evaristo | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | MBE (1) | 0 | 1 | |
| Rocco Forte | millionaire (1) | Oxford (1) | Boris Johnson (1) | Knight Bachelor (1) | Conservative donor (1) | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | 17 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 5 | | | | | | 2.83 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 4 | | | | | | 3 - ELITE |
| | | | | | Total score/no. of guests (17/6) = | | |
| | | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | | |



Episode 2 – 4/6/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 04/06/2020 | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| | | | | | | |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Nadhim Zahawi | millionaire (1) | private school (1) | Billionaire donors (1) | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 4 |
| David Lammy | £81932 (1) | Harvard (1) | Barack Obama "a friend" (1) | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Donna Kinnair | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | DBE (1) | 0 | 1 |
| Hugh Pennington | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | CBE (1) | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 13 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 1 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 3 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (13/5) = | 2.6 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | | (round to nearest whole no) |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 3 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 3 –ELITE |



Episode 1 – 28/5/20



[DOWNLOAD full scorecard for show](#)

| QUESTION TIME 28/05/2020 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Panel Member | INCOME | EDUCATION | CONNECTIONS score | TITLES/HONOURS score | ECONOMIC/POLITICAL VIEWS score | Total ELITE score |
| | | | | | | O indicates NON-ELITE in that category, 1 indicates ELITE in that category |
| Fiona Bruce | £259000 (1) | Oxford (1) | Husband CEO (1) | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Helen Whately | £81932 (1) | private school/Oxford (1) | Wealthy donors (1) | 0 | right-wing voting record (1) | 4 |
| Ian Murray | £81932 (1) | 0 | Wealthy donors (1) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| John Swinney | £94821 (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dr Layla McCay | can't verify (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alex Massie | can't verify (0) | private school (1) | Father journalist (1) | 0 | Editor at right-wing Spectator (1) | 3 |
| | | | | | | 13 |
| No. of confirmed millionaires on show | 0 | | | | | |
| No. of > £68,000 earners on show | 4 | | | | Total score/no. of guests (11/6) = | 2.17 |
| No. private school/Oxbridge on show | 3 | | | | (round to nearest whole no) | |
| No. of titles/honours holders on show | 0 | | | | Overall panel rating for show = | 2 – QUITE ELITE |