

Polls Special

w/e 27 November 2020

Here we cover this week's most relevant polls

- [Exams](#)
- [Retraining](#)

Polls: 2021 GCSE & A/AS level Exams

YouGov have an interesting series of polls on exams.

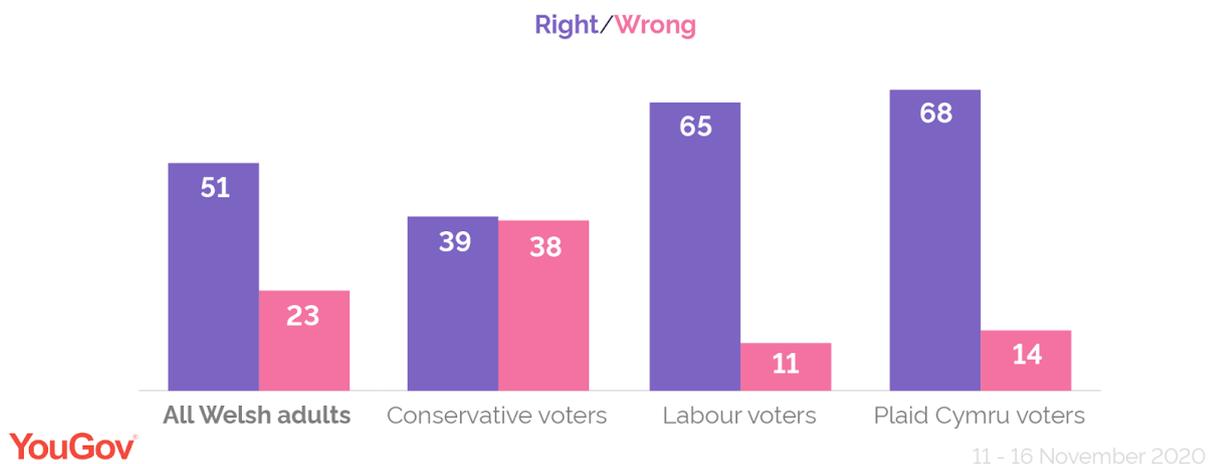
- [YouGov: Welsh public support plans to scrap exams for 2021](#)

The Welsh Government recently announced that they plan to cancel GCSE, AS Level and A Level exams next year, meaning students instead will be assessed and graded by their teachers.

A recent YouGov survey found that **just over half (51 percent) of the Welsh public think that this was the right decision to take**, with 23 percent indicating that they thought it was the wrong decision. Results showed that it is both Labour (65 percent) and Plaid Cymru (68 percent) voters who are most likely to think it is the right decision, compared to just 39 percent of Conservative voters.

Most Welsh people think their government was right to cancel exams

Earlier this week, the Welsh Government announced that GCSEs, AS levels and A levels exams would be cancelled and students would instead be assessed and receive their qualifications under teacher supervision. Do you think this was the right or wrong decision? % of 1,087 adults (16+) in Wales

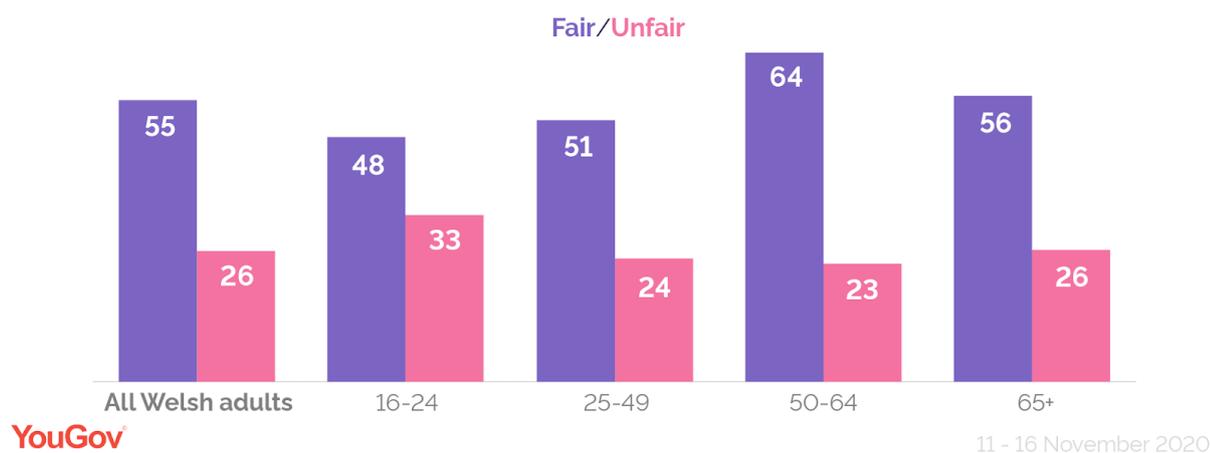


A fair assessment: majority in Wales think teacher assessments are a fair way to grade students

According to Welsh Education Minister Kirsty Williams, the primary reason to replace exams with teacher-managed assessments was fairness. The majority of the Welsh public agree with her, with 55 percent thinking it is a fair way to assess students. Still, just over a quarter (26 percent) think it is unfair, with those aged 16-24 being the most likely age group to consider the approach unfair (33 percent).

Most people in Wales think scrapping exams is fairer for students

Earlier this week, the Welsh Government announced that GCSEs, AS levels and A levels exams would be cancelled and students would instead be assessed and receive their qualifications under teacher supervision. Do you think this is a fair or unfair way to assess students? % of % of 1,087 adults (16+) in Wales



In terms of the impact the change will have, **Welsh people are most likely (45 percent) to think that, on average, students will end up with better grades than they would have done had they taken exams.**

Only 21 percent think there will be no difference between the results students end up receiving and those they would have got had they taken exams, and just one in ten think students will end up with worse grades.

Two thirds have confidence in teachers in Wales

With exams cancelled, it will be teachers in Wales who will manage and supervise assessment. **Results show that two thirds (66 percent) of the Welsh public have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in teachers in Wales.** This puts them ahead of both the Welsh Government (50 percent) and Welsh Education Secretary Kirsty Williams (38 percent).

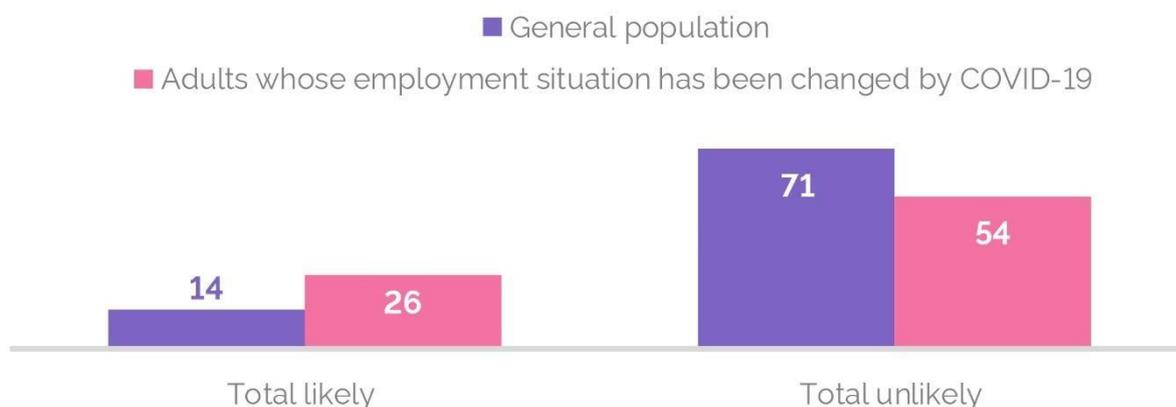
Retraining by sector

- **YouGov:** Are workers with jobs disrupted by COVID-19 willing to retrain?

Britons tend to think the government should focus on supporting struggling industries rather than encouraging workers to find new careers. The government has faced criticism recently for suggesting that people in the arts sector who cannot currently work because of coronavirus should consider finding a new career. But **how willing are people to take a new direction in their professional lives?** YouGov data reveals that coronavirus is currently impacting one in seven (13 percent) workers' employment status, either because they are furloughed, experiencing a reduction in pay or hours, or have lost their job. Of these workers, a quarter (26 percent) say they are likely to retrain in another sector in the near future.

A quarter of workers whose jobs have been disrupted by COVID say they are likely to retrain

How likely or unlikely are you to retrain in another sector in the near future? (%)



YouGov

21 - 22 October 2020

As part of their attempt to help people into new careers, the government launched [a new retraining quiz](#) to allow workers to see what kinds of work they might enjoy. We asked Britons about 11 lines of work that have been reported as experiencing shortages, as well as some of those which appear in the Shortage Occupation List 2020, and asked whether they would consider working in each.

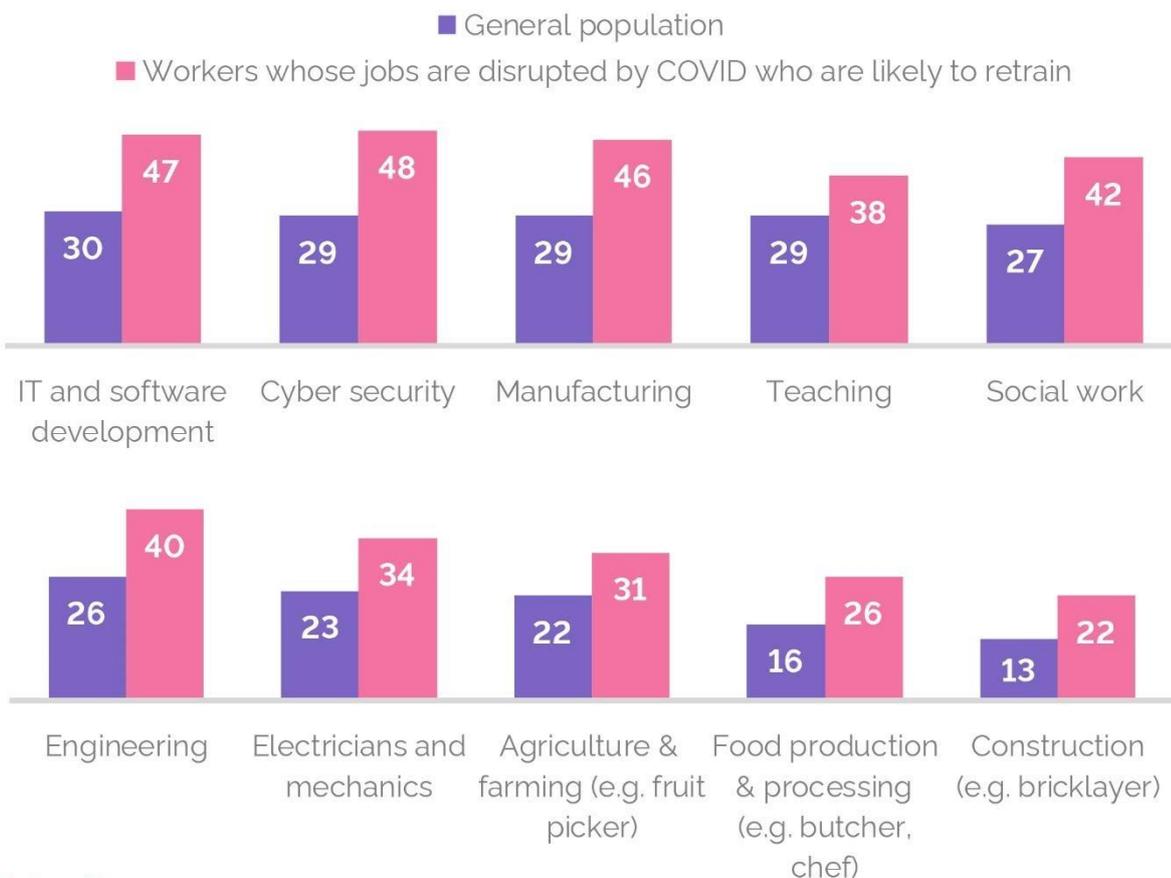
Overall the most popular jobs are IT and software development (30 percent would consider this), cyber security, manufacturing and teaching (each with 29 percent).

The least popular jobs are in construction, which only 13 percent would consider, and food production (16 percent).

This is replicated when looking specifically at those who would be likely to retrain in the near future. IT and software development and cyber security are again most popular (48 percent and 47 percent respectively), whilst potential retrainees would be least likely to consider a job in construction (22 percent) and food production (26 percent).

Which sectors would Brits consider retraining for?

Please say whether you would or would not consider working in each of the following sectors? (% of adults in each group who would consider each role)



YouGov

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Despite the criticism in some quarters about the government’s stance that workers should retrain, a clear majority (81 percent) acknowledge that it is not possible for the government to save every job during the coronavirus crisis.

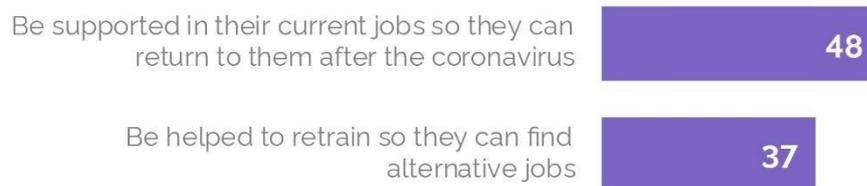
That being said, **half of Britons (48 percent) tend to think that people working in sectors impacted by coronavirus should be supported in their present jobs so that they can return to them when things go back to normal. Just over a third (37 percent) think they should instead be helped with retraining to find alternative jobs.**

Although the vast majority accept the government can't save every job affected by COVID, they would rather try and save afflicted jobs and industries than encourage retraining

Which of the following best represents your view?



Thinking about jobs that are currently unsustainable as a result of coronavirus, do you think people working in these sectors should...?



Which of the following best represents your view?



YouGov

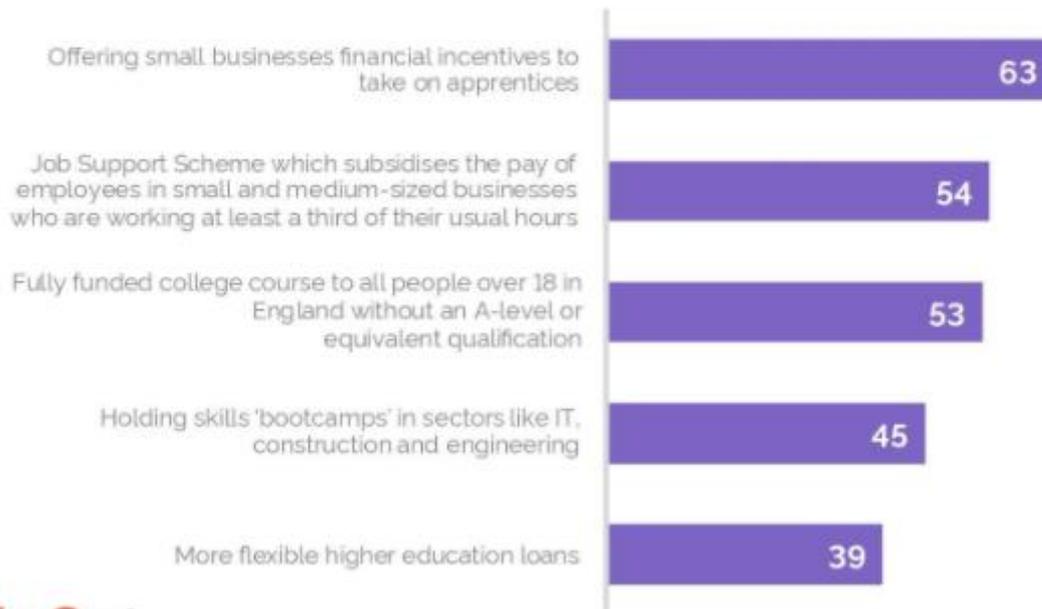
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When it comes to actually supporting people to retrain, however, most Britons (55 percent) think the government is not doing as much as it should be to help people improve their skills or find new jobs.

In terms of what they think the government could do on retraining that would help most, almost two thirds (63 percent) think offering small businesses financial incentives to take on apprentices would be effective, whilst just over half (54 percent) think the same of the postponed Job Support. A similar proportion (53 percent) think government proposals to offer English adults without A-levels a fully funded college course would be effective in boosting retraining.

What is the most effective support for adults retraining?

How effective, if at all, do you think each of the following are in helping people retrain or to gain jobs/skills? (% of adults who answered 'very' or 'fairly' effective)



YouGov

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