

YouGovStone’s ‘ThinkTank’ panel of influential people believes the coalition Government will only last three years and the Tories will come out better than the LibDems. The survey says electoral reform, defence and economic policy are the most likely areas of friction.

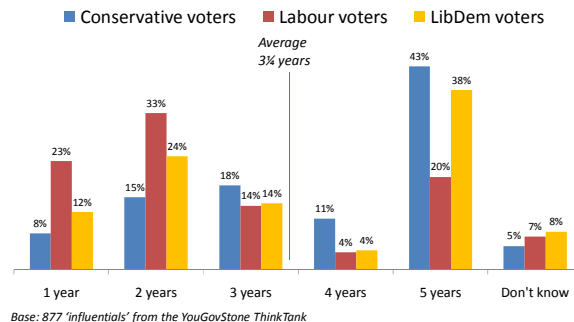
The verdict of 877 ‘influentials’ on the coalition Government is that it will not last the full term. 14% don’t think it will survive a year, in contrast to a third who think it will go full term. Labour voters are most sceptical expecting two and half years while Tory and LibDem voters say three and a half years.

Electoral reform is the area where the coalition is most likely to fail to work together, picked by 65% of respondents. 38% say defence, 34% economic policy and 31% energy/climate change. Given 13 key areas only 5% chose ‘none of these’. Tory and LibDem voters chose very similar areas.

The view of 56% is that the LibDems got a fair deal from the Tories in forming the coalition. 20% think they ‘overachieved in terms of concessions’ but 21% say ‘underachieved’. 59% of LibDem voters think they got a fair deal but a quarter (26%) think they underachieved. 52% of Labour voters also think LibDems underachieved.

Coalition Government is expected to last just over Three Years

“How long do you believe the coalition will last?”



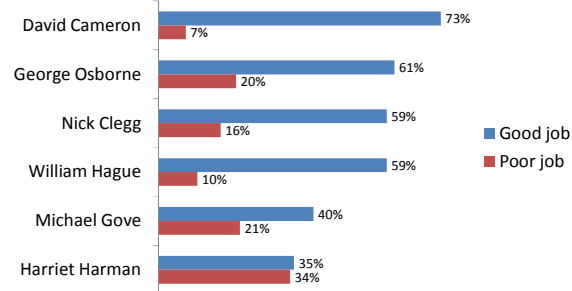
Coalition good for Britain & Tories – David Cameron good so far for Britain – coalition bad for LibDems

Survey respondents believe the coalition is a better result for Britain than either a Tory or Labour majority would have been. 69% say the coalition is better than just having the Conservatives and even 60% of those who voted Conservative agree. Likewise 47% think a coalition involving Labour and the LibDems would have been better than outright Labour rule, with 50% of Labour voters also agreeing with this.

Three quarters (73%) believe David Cameron is doing a good job as Prime Minister; even 40% of Labour voters agree. Just 7% say ‘poor job’.

David Cameron is perceived to be doing a ‘good job’

“Is ‘XXX’ doing a good job or a poor job?”



On balance the Conservatives are expected to come out of the coalition well, with 43% of the sample expecting the party to be more popular as a result, 34% expecting no change and just 17% expecting them to become less popular. The prognosis for the LibDems is not so good – over half (51%) expect the coalition experience to make them less popular; just 30% think they will become more popular, 12% no change.

The Budget

People’s views of the Budget are split down party lines; 91% of Tory supporters in our survey believe the cuts will be good for the economy, as do 55% of LibDems but 73% of Labour supporters say they will be bad. Only 23% of all respondents are confident the budget will deliver sustainable growth for the UK, while 22% are sure it will push the UK back into recession, and 51% believe the result is very much in the balance. Almost all (82%) do expect unemployment to rise over the next year or two. Over half (52%) agree that whoever had won the recent election could find themselves out of office for a generation due to the severity of the necessary austerity measures.

New Labour leader

YouGovStone

Respondents clearly expect David Miliband will become the next Labour leader, with 56% expecting him to win the vote. His brother, Ed, came second with 20% thinking he would win, followed by Ed Balls (4%), with Diane Abbott and Andy Burnham both on 2%. Amongst Labour voters David Miliband's score rises to 64%.

Respondents were asked who they personally wanted to become Labour leader. David Miliband's score falls to 22% whilst Ed Miliband and Diane Abbott both jump to 18%. Amongst those who voted Labour at the election Ed Miliband wins with 34% preferring him versus 29% selecting his brother David.

Fieldwork from June 25th to July 1st 2010. The survey was completed by 877 members of the YouGovStone ThinkTank of influential people, based in the UK, and who work in areas including business, the media, politics, academia, health and charity. For more information please email yougovstonesupport@yougov.com