

The Mass Observation Project

Summer 2006 Directive

As usual, please start all three parts of your reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply.

Part 1: History matters or does it?

The first part of this directive is about the importance (or not!) of history and also what you might mean by heritage. This might seem a bit abstract but we hope you can give us your views in general and describe any of your experiences which you feel may be relevant. As with all MO directives, the questions are only prompts to set you thinking and writing and you may feel that there are other issues which you would like to include which are important. If so, please feel free to include them.

History

Do you feel that history impacts on your daily life? If so, in what ways? How does it make you feel?

You may wish to consider a range of influences - family and community life, traditions, photographs, films, memories, objects, clothes, events, music, songs and stories, places and buildings.....

Is there a value in studying history? Does it matter who records history?

When something is described as "historical" what does it mean? Does something "historical" have a greater value to you personally?

Heritage

What do you mean by "heritage"?

Give examples of history or heritage in your local area. Are they well known and enjoyed by you and the local community?

Do you belong to any organisations which are concerned with history/heritage (eg local history groups, the National Trust, oral history projects, campaigns to save or maintain places or buildings)? If you do, please list and describe the extent of your involvement. Please say if you are a volunteer for any heritage organisations.

Do you have favourite historical places? If so, what makes them so special to you?

Debates about heritage

Do you think we should invest money in preserving our heritage? If so, do you think we invest enough or much or too little?

Some commemorations of the past have stimulated debate: discussions over the memorial for Princess Diana for example, or the memorial in New York to those who died after 9/11. What are your views? Can you describe memorials you have visited which you have liked or disliked.

Even more controversial have been the debates about commemorations of the Holocaust. Should the former concentration camp at Auschwitz be a museum? If you have visited Auschwitz or a Holocaust Museum, please tell us about your reactions and your feelings about memorialising war and atrocities.

Do you think we are more or less conscious of history than we used to be? Do you think being conscious of history and heritage improves our quality of life? If so, how?

Finally about you....

What would *you* think we should pass on to the next generation and why?

What do you think is valued now which might be forgotten in a 100 years time?

How are you going to pass on your own personal history and heritage - do you think it's important that you do?

Part 2: Core British values

It was recently reported that all schoolchildren were to be taught core British values.

What do you think about this?

What do you think these values might be or should be? (Write as much as you like)

Were you taught core values when you were at school in Britain or anywhere else?

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Part 3: The Football World Cup

As we are planning this directive, the World Cup has yet to start but by the time you come to write your reply it may be all over.

How involved were you?

If you were a keen follower of the World Cup, please describe your activities over the last few weeks - did you go to Germany? What did you watch on TV? Did you watch matches with friends at home or in a pub? Did you have flags on your car or on your home? Did you buy any special publications or souvenirs? Did you place any bets? Did you have a sweepstake at work or with friends? Did you change your everyday patterns? How did people around you react?

If you are not an enthusiast, tell us how you were affected and any views you have on the World Cup and all the attendant publicity. Were any of your family and friends keen supporters?

Please return your response to:

**The Mass Observation Archive
FREEPOST BR 2112,
The Library, University of Sussex,
Brighton BN1 1ZX**

Or email: moa@sussex.ac.uk