

March 1973

Attitudes of Girls in Senior Forms (in a girls public school).

At the beginning of February a questionnaire was distributed to all girls in the 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Forms in which they were asked, among other things, to give their views on a wide range of social and political issues and to indicate their career preferences and expectations. Altogether 305 forms were handed out and 216 were completed and returned, i.e. 70 per cent of them; the rate of response was slightly above average in the Fifth and slightly below in the Eighth.

In analysing the forms it was decided to group them according to the replies to a question in which people were asked to rate themselves on a 7 point scale stretching from 1 (= left wing) to 7 (= right wing). Very few girls placed themselves at the extreme ends of this scale and, indeed, one-third indicated their political position by marking the centre point of the scale. The ratings are shown in Table 1 in detail, and from this it would seem that in political outlook the girls who replied fall into three roughly equal groups - 35 per cent left-wing, 34 per cent centre, and 30 per cent right-wing.

These proportions varied from Form to Form. Thus, in the Fifth and Sixth almost half the girls (44 per cent) placed themselves in the Centre, and the rest divided roughly equally between Left Wing and Right. In the Seventh and Eighth, on the other hand, appreciably more indicated either a Left-wing (41 per cent) or a Right-wing position (34 per cent); only 1 in 4 of these older (more mature? more knowledgeable?) girls picked the central point in the scale to describe their political views. It would be interesting to see in two or three years' time if today's Fifths and Sixths have moved towards more 'committed' political positions.

As a check on the meaning that people gave to these terms (left-wing and right-wing) we looked at the answers the three groups gave to another question when people were asked whether or not they approved of socialism; only 7 per cent of the left-wingers disapproved of socialism, and only 8 per cent of the right-wingers approved of it (see Table 2). This result strongly supports our decision to divide people into three groups - left, centre, and right - for analysing the answers to most other questions.

Table 1 Self-description: Left wing/Right wing

		%	
Left wing:	1	5.6	)
	2	19.0	) 34.7
	3	10.1	)
Centre	4	33.8	)
	5	15.7	)
	6	8.8	) 29.6
Right wing	7	5.1	)
Don't know		1.9	)
		<u>100.0</u>	

Table 2. Attitudes to socialism: by political self-description

	<u>Left</u> <u>wing</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> <u>wing</u> %	<u>All</u> %
Agree with socialism	66	22	8	33
Uncertain	27	68	41	46
Disagree with socialism	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>21</u>
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Attitudes to protests, demonstrations

One of the distinctive features of most democratic societies today is that people are not content to express their dissatisfaction on social and economic matters solely through voting at elections; increasingly they turn to forms of protest that fall outside conventional party lines and that usually make their point by disrupting the orderly humdrum workings of society. To see how far such behaviour is acceptable the

questionnaire asked: "As a means of protest or protecting rights or securing justice etc. how often are the following actions justified?" There followed a list of 15 types of protest action, and people replied by marking 1 = often, 2 = sometimes, 3 = rarely, 4 = never. To reduce the replies to a simple index of approval three points were allotted an answer of 'often', two points for 'sometimes', one point for 'rarely', and 0 for 'never'. The points were then expressed as a percentage of the maximum obtainable if everyone had answered 'often'.

Of the 15 listed forms of protest, five are supported by a clear and sometimes solid majority of all girls, irrespective of their political inclinations; they are: signing a petition, writing to a newspaper, taking part in a non-violent demonstration, attending a protest meeting, and boycotting goods and entertainments. At the other extreme there are five forms of protest that are overwhelmingly condemned, and again this is an attitude shared by girls of all political viewpoints. The rejected protest actions are: sabotage in factories, the use of guns or explosives, damage to buildings, assassination, and personal violence. And then in between there are the remaining five forms of protest which really distinguish the Left from the Right in that they receive much more support from the former than they get from the latter; these significant discriminators are: refusal to pay rents or taxes, unofficial strikes, sit-ins, obstructing traffic, and painting slogans on walls.

Table 3. Approval of Protest Behaviour

<u>Method</u>	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Signing a petition	89	92	88	87
Letter to a newspaper	85	89	82	84
Non-violent demonstration	78	82	74	77
Attending protest meeting	69	74	69	65
Boycott of goods, sports, etc.	53	56	50	53
Refuse to pay rent, taxes etc.	43	52	34	44
Unofficial strike	39	48	39	28
Occupy buildings, sit-in	38	47	35	32
Obstructing traffic	35	45	31	25
Painting slogans on walls	30	42	25	25
Sabotage in factories	13	23	9	8
Guns or explosives	10	14	11	5
Damaging buildings	9	17	5	5
Assassination	9	12	8	7
Personal violence	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Average	41	46	38	37

Women's Lib.

As an indirect way of measuring attitudes to Women's Liberation people were given four statements about women's roles and status and asked to say whether they agreed or disagreed with them. The two pro-Women's Lib. statements (half all top jobs for women, and beauty contests are degrading) each received very little support (25 per cent and 23 per cent respectively); support for them was higher among left-wingers than among right-wingers, but even among them the assenters were no more than 25 per cent and 30 per cent respectively.

Table 4. Proportion agreeing with various statements

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Half all top jobs should be reserved for women	25	25	28	12
Beauty contests are degrading to women	23	30	21	16
Careers are fine, but real fulfilment is home and children	13	9	18	12
In marriage a man must.... take decisions for all family	13	7	18	16

But at the same time the two traditional views (home and children come before career, and family decisions should be made by husband) received even less support - 13 per cent for each; and, again, there was really very little difference between left-wing and right-wing; both groups solidly rejected the proposition.

The Overprivileged

Most girls named various groups who they thought "have an unduly privileged position in our society", and they have been classified into five main groups - including three types of rich people; these - the idle rich, the rich, and the nouveaux riches - were between them named by over 40 per cent of the girls as examples of those who get more rewards than they deserve. The only other substantial group mentioned were 'greedy workers' (18 per cent). Well over half the left-wingers nominated the various types of rich people as overprivileged, and 25 per cent of right-wingers agreed with them. Only 9 per cent of left-wingers described greedy workers as overprivileged, but right-wingers saw such people as far and away the biggest group of overprivileged people (36 per cent). It should be remembered though that 40 per cent of all girls could not think of any overprivileged groups in British society.

Table 5. Named as overprivileged

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Idle rich	15	25	6	14
The rich	15	25	13	5
Nouveaux riches	11	8	18	6
Greedy workers	18	9	12	36
Feckless poor	4	1	4	8
Others	7	12	1	8
No one	4	4	4	3
Don't know	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>33</u>
Total *	<u>114</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>113</u>

\*Comes to more than 100 per cent because some named more than one type.

The supplementary question ("What would you do about this?") baffled most people; they either said that they did not know or else they suggested Government action through legislation.

The Underprivileged

When asked to name any group of underprivileged people in Britain (not getting the rewards or even the basic rights they deserve) over one-third of the girls could not think of a single one; this blankness was particularly widespread among those in the political centre. The two most commonly mentioned groups were the old (19 per cent) and the poor (17 per cent). The centre and the right-wingers particularly emphasised the old, while left-wingers gave most prominence to the low-paid and the unemployed. The third most frequently mentioned group were coloured immigrants, and here again the views of left-wingers were appreciably more emphatic than those of the centre and right-wingers. The latter surprisingly enough gave second place (after old people) to a group that can be described as social misfits (drop-outs, drug-takers, prisoners, alcoholics, etc), that is, people whose underprivileged position was related to personality traits rather than to social conditions. Again suggested remedies were few and largely in terms of Government fiscal action.

Table 6. The Underprivileged

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
The old	19	13	22	23
The poor, unemployed, etc.	17	24	14	12
Coloured immigrants	11	16	5	11
Nurses, teachers, etc.	10	12	8	11
Drop-outs, gypsies, alcoholics etc.	9	5	5	17
Women	7	7	6	8
Young people, students	6	8	9	2
Sick, disabled	3	7	1	2
Police, firemen etc.	3	4	1	5
Others	4	5	3	3
No one	2	4	-	3
Don't know	<u>35</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>
Total	<u>126</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>130</u>

Attitudes on social matters

At one point the questionnaire contained a list of 34 topics and asked: "Which of the following do you favour, agree with, or believe in?" There was no particular order in the list but, in fact, they can be re-arranged into a handful of groups, although the boundaries between them are sometimes ambiguous; this is particularly true of some of the items I have included in the category of 'school'.

(a) School and discipline

On the five topics in this group opinions varied greatly - from almost complete approval for co-education (75 per cent) to almost complete rejection of school uniforms (only 9 per cent in favour), strict rules (15 per cent), corporal punishment (14 per cent). Broadly, these attitudes were common to all three shades of political opinion, but were held most strongly by left-wingers. Only one-third of all girls approved of compulsory games.

Table 7(a) Attitudes on school and discipline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Per cent approving</u>			
	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left-wing</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right-wing</u> %
Co-education	75	89	69	66
Compulsory games	33	28	36	34
Strict rules	15	7	14	22
Corporal punishment	14	7	16	20
School uniforms	9	7	12	9

(b) Sex, marriage, women's rights

This is a group of topics which can be considered to be of special concern to them because of their sex. Although less than half (48 per cent) support Women's Liberation and over four-fifths approve of marriage (81 per cent), yet solid majorities are in favour of many of the forms of behaviour which, rightly or wrongly, are popularly considered to be 'progressive' and 'liberating' policies, e.g. mothers who go out to work (66 per cent), sex before marriage (59 per cent), divorce by consent (70 per cent), birth control (87

Table 7(b) Proportions approving

	<u>All</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right</u>
	%	%	%	%
Birth control	87	92	87	80
Marriage	81	72	82	89
Divorce by consent	70	73	62	75
Working mothers	66	79	58	59
Abortion on demand	60	65	58	55
Sex before marriage	59	79	56	39
Women's Liberation	48	63	47	33

On some of these issues there were substantial differences between left-wingers and others; the <sup>former</sup> ~~latter~~ gave much more support to working mothers, sex before marriage and Women's Liberation.

(c) Political issues

It was on these issues, not surprisingly, that differences between left-wingers and right-wingers were most likely to emerge. But even in this group of issues there were some on which these differences were relatively slight. Thus, on five of them there was solid all-round rejection; these were capital punishment, Black Power compulsory military service, white supremacy, and anarchism.

Table 7(c) Attitudes on political issues; per cent approving

	<u>All</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right</u>
	%	%	%	%
Conscientious objectors	59	84	44	48
Common Market	58	60	52	64
Royalty	51	29	52	76
Strong leaders	48	44	44	58
Free entry Ugandan Asians	44	65	34	30
Patriotism	41	29	34	64
Socialism	33	64	22	11
Capital Punishment	17	5	18	28
Black Power	12	21	3	12
Compulsory military service	9	5	12	11
White supremacy	5	4	4	8
Anarchism	4	7	-	4

The really big contrasts were, firstly, those where left-wing attitudes were much more favourable than those of right-wingers (conscientious objectors, free entry for Ugandan Asians, and socialism). Secondly there



were issues where right-wing approval was a long way ahead of that recorded by left-wingers; these were royalty, the need for strong leaders, and patriotism.

(d) Attitudes on religion

The replies on the four religious topics included in the list suggest that at most only about half the girls hold conventional and traditional views on the subject: 52 per cent said they believed in God, and 42 per cent in a life after death. But less than one in five approved of Sunday observance, and even less accepted the truth of the Bible. Although there were differences between left and right on these religious issues, the resemblances are much more striking than the differences.

Table 7(d) Religious beliefs: per cent agreeing

	<u>All</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
God	52	45	51	62
Life after death	42	39	39	45
Sunday observance	19	16	9	34
Bible truth	17	12	18	30

(e) Attitudes on 'Youth-culture' issues

There remain seven topics which have little in common except that some of them are thought by the mass media to be closely associated with what they call the 'youth-culture'. If there is any such association then its location must be among young people outside St. Paul's Girls' School. Only one of the topics (modern art) received majority approval. The supporters of communes, legalised pot, and hippies were in a minority even among left-wingers.

Table 7(e) 'Youth-culture' attitudes: per cent approving

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Modern art	60	71	51	58
Legalised marijuana	35	48	26	31
Communes	32	47	26	20
Censorship	27	20	30	31
Beatniks and hippies	27	44	21	19
Self-denial	26	29	21	30
Horoscopes	20	19	21	20

Career preferences

The questionnaire listed 33 possible careers and people were asked to indicate in order the five they would most like to take up. (Those who had preferences outside the list were invited to write in any such additions). After they had indicated their preferences they were then asked to say which occupation (whether preferred or not) they, in fact, expected to be following when they were aged 25 to 30.

The analysis of preferences takes account only of the first three preferences, and treats each of them as being of equal weight. Further, the occupations have been grouped into ten categories:

1. Professions: medicine, law, architects, civil service, etc.
2. Communications: journalism, publishing, television producer.
3. Arts: creative arts, performing arts (drama, music), fashion designer.
4. Science and technology: mathematics, biology, social science, engineering, computers.
5. Business: on own account, personnel, sales and marketing, public relations.
6. Full-time housewife.
7. Social work, and nursing.
8. Politics.
9. Teaching, primary, secondary and university.
10. Others: farming, secretary, psychologist, vet, museum curator, etc.

Slightly over half all preferences concentrated on three occupational groups - professions, communications and the arts. Less than 10 per cent of the preferences were for teaching at any level and even fewer chose either business or social work. At the bottom of the list came preference for being a full-time housewife (3 per cent) or being a politician (3 per cent). Between left-wingers and right-wingers the biggest difference was the latter's relatively high preference for a career in the professions - mainly medicine and law. The left-wingers compensated for this lag by expressing slightly greater preference for the communications industries (especially journalism), for the arts, and for teaching (especially university teaching).

Table 8(a) Job Preferences

	<u>All</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Professions	20	17	17	28
Communications	16	19	15	15
Arts	15	19	12	14
Science & technology	11	10	13	8
Teaching	9	10	9	7
Business	8	7	10	8
Social work	8	8	8	7
Full-time housewife	3	1	4	3
Politics	3	3	1	4
Others	7	6	11	6
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The jobs people expected to be in during their late twenties roughly paralleled their preferences but there were some striking differences. One in six expected to be a full-time housewife, and among centre and right-wingers this proportion was 1 in 5. The biggest single group of left-wingers expected to be employed in communications, while two-fifths of the right-wingers thought they would be in one of the professions.

Some heavily frustrated groups (in the sense that expectations were well below preferences) were those who would have liked a career in the creative and performing arts, those preferring to be scientists, to have business careers, and to be university teachers.

Table 8(b) Job expectations at age 25-30

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Professions	25	15	22	40
Housewife	16	7	23	19
Communications	15	25	8	10
Arts	7	9	8	4
Science etc.	7	11	6	4
Teaching	7	9	6	6
Social work	7	11	8	2
Business	4	5	4	2
Politics	2	2	-	4
Others	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Pocket money

The question about weekly spending money during term time was not very satisfactory since clearly some girls have separate allowances for clothes and entertainment outside their weekly pocket money. However, the figures given on the questionnaire show that weekly spending by 7th and 8th formers is appreciably higher than that of 5th and 6th formers, and that of the three political groups the left-wingers are easily the most affluent.

Table 9. Median weekly spending

	£. p.
Forms: 5 & 6	95
7 & 8	1.65
Left-wing	1.50
Centre	1.22
Right-wing	<u>1.33</u>
All	<u>1.34</u>

\* The median is the middle point of a range of figures. For example, if we say that the median spending of all girls is £1.34 this means that half spend more than this and half spend less than this.

Newspaper and magazine reading

(a) Newspapers

The most widely read (3 out of every 4 issues) daily newspaper is the Times (39 per cent), with the Daily Telegraph (24 per cent), and The Guardian (23 per cent) some way behind in second and third places. There was only one reader of the communist Morning Star, and extremely few readers of the mass circulation tabloids - the Daily Mirror and the Sun.

Reading of the Sunday newspapers is even more concentrated, with the Sunday Times (61 per cent) and the Observer (49 per cent) leaving all the others far behind. (The totals come to more than 100 per cent because some girls read more than one paper).

Between left-wingers and right-wingers there were some expected differences: the former were greater readers of the Guardian and the Observer, and lesser readers of the Daily Express, the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph. In both groups, however, the daily Times and the Sunday Times headed the lists of regularly read newspapers.

What is perhaps surprising is that the newspaper reading of St. Paul's senior girls has comparatively little in common with that of all girls in the national population in the age group 15 to 24. The reading of the latter is not nearly so concentrated on the Times, Guardian, Observer and the Sunday Times.

Table 10. Regular newspaper reading

	<u>All</u>	<u>Left-wing</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Right-wing</u>	<u>All girls 15-24</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Times	39	44	38	36	3
D. Telegraph	24	15	27	31	6
Guardian	23	41	13	12	3
D.Express	13	7	12	23	18
D.Mail	11	11	6	16	8
D.Mirror & Sun	3	5	-	3	57
None of above	17	16	20	16	n.a.
S.Times	61	68	48	67	11
Observer	49	61	48	34	8
S. Telegraph	16	19	10	20	5
S.Mirror, N.of World, People	11	12	5	16	121
None of Sundays	15	11	18	16	n.a.

n.a. = not available

(b) Magazines

Of the nine weekly magazines listed in the questionnaire only two of them were read regularly by at least 10 per cent of all girls - Time Out (19 per cent) and Melody Maker (12 per cent). The number of readers of the journals of opinion (New Statesman, Spectator, New Society) was usually no higher than that of the comics (Beano, Jackie). The non-weekly magazines listed usually had larger followings but even among these only Private Eye reached as many as 22 per cent, with Vogue, Honey and '19' coming just below the 20 per cent mark.

Table 11. Regular magazine reading

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left-wing</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right-wing</u> %
Time-out	19	25	13	20
Melody maker	12	15	10	9
New Statesman	8	13	4	6
Jackie	5	3	8	3
Listener	4	7	5	-
Beano	4	7	1	3
New Society	4	5	1	5
New Scientists	3	5	-	5
Spectator	2	3	1	3
Private Eye	22	29	12	25
Vogue	19	19	17	22
Honey	18	24	14	16
Punch	17	20	17	14
'19'	17	19	21	11
Nova	6	11	4	3

Contents of Folio

The questionnaire listed six types of contributions to FOLIO and asked people to rank them from 1 to 6 in order of enjoyment. The preferences were even more emphatic than the rejects: just over half all first votes went to Grapevine and most of the remainder to 'Humour'. At the other end of the scale, 40 per cent of all sixth votes went to serious writing, 25 per cent to poetry and 25 per cent to interviews.

This distribution of votes was broadly identical for all three political groups, except that right-wingers find poetry particularly repellent.

#### Aims of the school

The questionnaire listed nine possible objectives of an education at St. Pauls' and asked people to indicate which three they considered it most important for the school to achieve and which three the least important. Table 12 shows the answers to the former; well over half of all the 'most important' votes were concentrated on three of the objectives and all of these were non-vocational in any narrow sense of the word:

"teach enough subjects for you to be interested in a lot of things"  
(23 per cent)

"help you to become independent and stand on your own feet" (17 per cent)

"help you to develop your personality and character" (16 per cent).

However, this strong preference for a non-utilitarian education was blurred a little by the appearance in fourth place of the view that an important purpose of the school is to "get you into the university or college of your choice" (15 per cent).

The strictly vocational aims received very little support:

"teach you things which will be of direct use to you in your job" (2 per cent)

"teach you things that will help you to get the best possible job" (5 per cent)

But perhaps the most surprising outcome (given the school's foundation) was that only 1 per cent of 'most important' votes went to 'teach you what is morally right or wrong'.

Table 12 Views on School objectives

<u>Objective</u> *	<u>% of all most important votes</u>			
	<u>All</u> <u>%</u>	<u>Left</u> <u>%</u>	<u>Centre</u> <u>%</u>	<u>Right</u> <u>%</u>
Teach enough subjects to have wide interests	23	21	24	22
Help you to become independent	17	14	20	18
Help you to develop your character	16	20	13	16
Get you into university of choice	15	14	15	16
Help to do well in 'O' and 'A' levels	11	10	11	10
Help you to understand contemporary world	10	14	8	7
Help to get best possible job	5	5	6	5
Teaching of direct use in your job	2	2	2	3
What is morally right or wrong	1	-	1	3
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

\* These are abbreviations from the questionnaire.

There were no substantial differences in priorities between the three political groups; the one possible exception is that left-wingers attached much more importance than did others to the objective of learning about 'what is going on in the world today'.

Ideal Success aspirations

After dealing with career preferences and expectations the questionnaire listed 11 'success' situations for a woman and asked people to say which two of them they would most like to attain. Easily at the top (mentioned by almost 60 per cent of all girls) was 'a great writer, composer or painter'. In second place, and a long way behind (selected by 34 per cent of girls) was the very different achievement of being 'a rich and successful business woman'. The public service roles



(director of Oxfam or Shelter, nun or missionary, M.P. or mayor) had comparatively little appeal; and fame 'at second hand' (e.g. wife of a powerful industrialist, or a cabinet minister or a pop star) was even less attractive.

There were some interesting differences between the three political groups. While all three placed famous creative artist at the top, second and third places varied quite a bit. Among left-wingers directing Oxfam or Shelter had more appeal than being a successful business woman. Among right-wingers the role of successful business woman was a strong second to the creative artist, and a powerful civil servant was a popular third ambition.

Table 13. Two ideal roles

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %
Writer, composer, painter	59	63	59	53
Rich, successful business woman	34	30	33	41
Oxfam/Shelter director	24	34	22	18
Famous actress or dancer	20	17	30	13
Senior civil servant	18	15	12	28
Great scientist	16	15	20	11
M.P. or mayor	8	11	3	10
Wife of industrialist, cabinet minister	7	7	3	11
Famous sportswoman	5	1	4	10
Nun, missionary	5	1	8	5
Wife of pop star	4	6	6	-
	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>

When asked about the likelihood of them achieving the particular goals they had selected most people were pessimistic; only 7 per cent said it was very likely, 27 per cent fairly likely and 66 per cent not very likely.

### Family background

Almost 80 per cent of fathers and 48 per cent of mothers had had a university education. One-third of the girls have no sisters and nearly 40 per cent have no brothers. On all these characteristics the differences between the three political groups are negligible, but on one other there is a striking contrast: 59 per cent of all right-wingers said they were the eldest child in the family, but only 30 per cent of left-wingers claimed to be in this position. Or, to put the figures another way: of all eldest children 36 per cent are right-wingers and 28 per cent left-wingers, while among all other girls only 23 per cent are right-wingers and 42 per cent are left-wingers. It would be interesting to know why in middle class and upper middle class families a girl who is the eldest child often identifies herself with conservatism and traditional values, while her younger sister is prone to turn to radicalism.

### The status-quo scale

The questionnaire contained five statements which when taken together gave a very clear-cut measure of each person's views about the desirability of keeping things as they are and always have been. A typical statement in this scale is: "We are all born to our various social positions and it won't do to change them". Each statement had to be marked so that 1 = agree, 2 = uncertain, and 3 = disagree. Therefore, anyone who marked all five statements with 1 had a cumulative score of 5 and was solidly opposed to change; and anyone who marked all 5 statements with 3 had a cumulative score of 15 and was solidly in favour of change.

On this scale very few (4 per cent) of all girls can be described as out-and-out stand-patters; on the contrary, well over half (57 per cent) returned very high scores in favour of social change.

Not surprisingly such high scores were most common among left-wingers (78 per cent). Table 14 also shows a real difference related to age. In the Fifth and Sixth forms 50 per cent strongly favour social change, while in the Seventh and Eighth the proportion with top scores in favour of change was as high as 65 per cent.

Table 14. Status-quo scores

<u>Score:</u>	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %	<u>5th &amp; 6th</u> <u>forms</u> %	<u>7th &amp; 8th</u> <u>forms</u> %
5 to 8: Against social change	4	1	8	3	7	1
9 to 12: Some change	39	21	53	42	43	34
13 to 15: Favour social change	<u>57</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>65</u>
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Jaundiced-view-of-life scale

There were another five statements in the questionnaire which in the same way asked for agree/disagree numbered answers, and provided a cumulative total that expressed various degrees of distrust. Typical statements were: "If a person doesn't watch out someone will make a fool of her". And "Somebody is always after you to keep you from having fun".

Table 15. Jaundiced-view-of-life scores

<u>Score:</u>	<u>All</u> %	<u>Left</u> %	<u>Centre</u> %	<u>Right</u> %	<u>5th &amp; 6th</u> <u>forms</u> %	<u>7th &amp; 8th</u> <u>forms</u> %
5 - 8: Very jaundiced	14	15	10	19	19	9
9 -12: Medium "	55	51	62	51	53	57
13-15: Not "	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>34</u>
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

In all groups about 30 per cent completely rejected the statements indicating a distrustful and resentful view of other people, and another 55 per cent tended to support them; the proportion of suspicious personalities was very slightly above average among right-wingers and younger girls.

Some self-descriptions

Finally, the questionnaire contained a series of pairs of contrasting adjectives (e.g. weak.....strong; active.....passive). Between the extremes of each pair there was seven spaces, and each girl was asked to consider the extremes of each pair and then put a tick in one of the boxes that she thought best described her. Altogether there were 21 such pairs of adjectives, but here we have analysed only 4 pairs and amalgamated the spaces so as to give a simpler picture of how the older Paulina sees herself. (Scores 1, 2 & 3 have been combined; 5, 6 & 7 have been combined; with 4 on its own representing a half-way mark).

Table 6. Self-descriptions

<u>Score:</u>		<u>Happy</u> %	<u>Attractive</u> %	<u>Successful</u> %	<u>Overprivileged</u> %
1, 2, 3	Yes	79	72	64	62
4	Possibly	13	21	25	31
5, 6, 7	No	8	7	11	7
	Total	100	100	100	100

Very large majorities see themselves unhesitatingly as happy (79 per cent) and attractive (72 per cent); nearly as many are sure that they are successful (64 per cent) and overprivileged (62 per cent). Usually less than 10 per cent took an opposite view of themselves on each of these. It is noteworthy that practically all the girls who say they are unhappy also say they are attractive and overprivileged; their unhappiness is associated with the fact that usually they described themselves as unsuccessful. If we had time and space it might be very rewarding to see how this minority group of self-styled unsuccessful girls answered the other questions and thus throw some light on how they had arrived at this particular assessment of themselves.