

# THE BRITISH MONARCHY,

a long-standing institution  
facing modern times





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. CHOOSING THE TOPIC:

Choosing the right topic to do my research project about wasn't an easy task for me. By studying the scientific modality of Baccalaureate, I was expected to choose something related to science, either Chemistry, Physics, Biology or Mathematics. In fact, a topic related to Biology seemed like a good choice, but it didn't fully convince me. Then, there was the language issue. I was thinking about doing it in English, as I like this language very much and I thought that it would be a great opportunity to improve all my skills by being constantly in contact with this language. Doing a scientific research in English didn't look appealing at all to me, so I started to consider the option of focussing on a social topic. I have always been interested in social behaviour and in the difference of opinions, so I focused on finding a suitable topic related to this area which, moreover, would be centred in an English environment, so that I could justify the language's choice.

It luckily coincided that, at the time we had to choose our topics, there were a couple of months left before the British royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, and one day, during the night news, its preparations were shown. It was exactly in that moment when I decided what my research project would be related to: the British monarchy and the royal wedding.

The British culture has always been an object of my admiration, and the idea of researching more deeply about its cornerstone, the British monarchy, was really attractive. Nowadays, we are living in a world in constant change, a time when the monarchy is being more and more attacked by republicans and politicians. But what is people's opinion about it? I have always thought that British people are very traditional and, therefore, very monarchic. Or, at least, that is what the media tries to make us believe. But is it true?

As I was mostly interested in the social aspect, I decided to focus on the British society, on what is its people's opinion about the royal family and the institution of the monarchy itself like, taking advantage, as well, of the impending royal wedding.

## 1.2. THE OBJECTIVES:

The objectives I want to accomplish during my research are the following:

- Find out about the real support the British monarchy has among its people and the interest they show towards it.
- Compare this support and interest with the one that Spanish society shows towards their own monarchy, finding out the differences and similarities.
- Discover what is British people like according to their reaction and implication towards their monarchy and towards events related to it (a royal wedding).
- See how much media interest the institution of the British monarchy generates in Britain and all over the world.
- Confirm or refute some of the most spread stereotypes about British people.

### **1.3. THE RESEARCH METHODS**

For the developing of my research I have used four different sources.

1. In the first place, the Internet has been a crucial source of information for the theoretical parts.
2. In the second place, the information from the Internet has been complemented by some written works, although electronic: books, articles from newspapers and magazines and a thesis.
3. In the third place, I have also watched lots of videos in order to see people's reaction to the royal wedding, as it wasn't enough just reading about it.
4. And the last and the most important source for my research project has been a questionnaire I created myself in order to discover people's opinion regarding the institution of monarchy and the royal weddings. I wrote it in three different languages: English, Spanish and Catalan, so that each individual could have the chance to do it in his/her native language. You can find a copy of all of them in the "ANNEX" section at the end of the research project, or in the following links:
  - <http://www.portaldeencuestas.com/encuesta.php?ie=41058&ic=22588&c=ae1a7> → British questionnaire.
  - <http://www.portaldeencuestas.com/encuesta.php?ie=42146&ic=22588&c=4b155> → Spanish questionnaire.
  - <http://www.portaldeencuestas.com/encuesta.php?ie=42140&ic=22588&c=86679> → Catalan questionnaire.

For the analysis of the answers obtained, I analysed the British questionnaire on the one side and the Spanish and Catalan questionnaires, on the other side, as it is the same nationality.

I used the following websites to spread the different questionnaires:

- [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) → It is a social networking service and website which connects people with friends and others. Here, I asked my friends and acquaintances to complete the surveys, mainly the ones in Spanish and Catalan, although also some in English.
- <http://royalcello.websitetoolbox.com/post/A-survey-about-the-British-Royal-Wedding-and-the-Monarchy-5403467> → This is a website where issues related to the monarchy are discussed, and I created a new thread in its forum asking if people could fill in my English questionnaire.
- [www.eslprintables.com](http://www.eslprintables.com) → This is the website I used to get most of the responses to the English questionnaire. It was my tutor who suggested it to me, and it is a place where English language teachers exchange resources such as worksheets, lesson plans, activities, etc. There is a section on the homepage where you can look for the webpage's users marking their nationality, and that was exactly what I did. I marked the British nationality and sent an email to those people who let their email address to be visible to everybody. The content of the email was the following:

*“Hello,*

*I'm a seventeen years old student from Spain who is carrying out a research project about “The Royal weddings in the Spanish and British society”, where I'll compare and analyze the two most recent Royal weddings that have taken place in each country. I'll try to deepen into its culture and society through people's reactions.*

*To achieve my aims, I would need many British people to answer the questionnaire I have prepared. You can't imagine how grateful I'd be if you could spread the link of my survey to as many people possible. It doesn't matter who they are or how old are they, it's their opinion what counts.*

*Here you have the link:*

*<http://www.portaldeencuestas.com/encuesta.php?ie=41058&ic=22588&c=ae1a7>*

*I hope you can help me. Thank you very much for your attention!”*

In total, the number of answers I got and in which my research will be based on is the following:

- British questionnaire → 110 answers.
- Spanish and Catalan questionnaires → 56 answers.

The genders and the participants' different ages are more or less equilibrated.

As it is reflected in the previous “INDEX” section, the main body of the research project will be divided in two blocks: the first one, centered on the British monarchy, and the second one, focused on the last British royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The analysis of the answers given to the questions from the questionnaires will be placed throughout all the research project.



## 2. THE BRITISH MONARCHY

### 2.1. HISTORY FROM THE PAST TILL THE MODERN DAYS

#### 2.1.1. THE RULERS:



The Roman Britain

##### 2.1.1.1. THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN:

Historians know very little about who ruled Britain before the island, between the first and fourth centuries, was part of the vast Roman empire. The Romans conquered the country in A.D. 43, largely because they wanted to get hold of its valuable resources. They had already been trading with Britain, buying commodities such as grain and tin, and ruling the country would give them even easier access to what it had to offer.

During their time in Britain, the Romans built roads to enable their soldiers, and later their merchants, to travel, and founded many towns that acted as centres of trade and administration. They also brought with them many new ideas – from houses with under-floor heating to their famous baths, from theatre-going to gladiatorial combat. These inventions transformed life for some Britons, although for most working people, life went on very much as it had before.

The part of Britain ruled by the Romans included nearly all of England and sizeable parts of Wales. The Romans called this area the province of Britannia. Its overall ruler was the Roman Emperor, based in Italy, so the provincial government took care of the day-to-day running of the area. To run Britain, the Romans relied partly on the native British rulers who were already there when they arrived. The Romans softened up these local rulers by giving them access to all the most luxurious trappings of Roman life.

Historians don't know much about these British rulers, known as *client-kings*, but archaeologists have excavated some of their probable homes, some of which were quite luxurious, assuming that those *client-kings* were quite useful and loyal to the Romans, who rewarded them with all kind of luxuries.

The client-kingdom system worked well for the Romans when locals and Romans lived in harmony, but sometimes things went wrong.

Eventually, as a result of episodes of revolt, the Romans phased out the system of client-kingdoms. Direct rule by a Roman governor, backed up by the might of the Roman army, was the best way for them to keep control. So from the second to the fourth centuries, local tribal leaders had little power. The Romans called all the shots.

### 2.1.1.2. THE SAXONS:

By the early fifth century, the Roman empire had become so big that it was difficult to hold together and it began to break apart. Whole books have been written about why this collapse happened, with answers ranging from barbarian invasions to economic pressures. But one immediate effect was that the Romans began to pull out of some of their conquered lands.

The Romans left Britain in 410 when the emperor Honorius decreed that the Britons from then on should govern themselves. But Britain's people weren't left alone for long. Between the fifth and seventh centuries, people from the mainland of northern Europe launched a series of invasions.

The new invaders were actually three different peoples – the Saxons from northern Germany, the Angles from the southern part of the Danish peninsula and the nearby islands, and the Jutes from Jutland, the main part of the Danish peninsula. For convenience, these people are now known collectively as the Anglo-Saxons (or sometimes simply as the Saxons).

#### **The Romanization:**

The process of Romanization was the way the Romans made the benefits of Roman life available to the people they conquered. To get the British upper classes on their side, they encouraged them to adopt a Roman lifestyle, helping them to build extravagant houses with all the best Roman features – under-floor heating, colourful mosaic floors, suites of bathrooms, painted walls, and so on. The Romans gave the British tribal leaders access to all sorts of products from the empire, such as different foods, and encouraged them to wear Roman clothes. Innovations in livestock breeding and crop growing made their farms more efficient, which benefited both the Romans and the British. So the British bigwigs were more comfortable, lived a more lavish lifestyle, and were richer than they were before. The Romans hoped that this improved lifestyle would make them more likely to accept Roman rule. Judging by the length of time the Romans ruled Britain, the tactic of Romanization seems to have worked.

The Anglo-Saxons set up a number of kingdoms in England. Each Saxon kingdom was made up of one region, so there were a number of monarchs in England at any one time. From the fifth to the end of the eighth century, these mini-kingdoms fought against one another for dominance, and eventually one of these kingdoms, Wessex, became so strong that its rulers claimed kingship of the entire country.

Historians know very little about what happened to the native British people when the Anglo-Saxons invaded; they used to say that these Celtic people were pushed back into Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall by the waves of invaders. But it's also possible that the locals lived alongside the invaders, under their rule, just as they had with the Romans. Historians simply don't know for sure because there aren't many surviving records.

It's likely that the Britons put up a fight when the invaders first arrived. But historians know about this struggle only because of the writings of some early historians, who aren't very precise about things.

For a while, probably in the first half of the sixth century, the Saxons seem to have been curbed in their invasion plans as a result of some shadowy resistance leaders.

By the seventh century, the Saxon invaders had returned, fought off any remaining resistance, and settled down. They established a number of kingdoms stretching from Northumbria in the far north to Kent in the south. How many kingdoms? Well, different books give different numbers, because the numbers have changed over time. This fluctuation in numbers tells historians something about how Saxon kings saw their job.



Part of the job of a Saxon king was warfare. The Saxons were warriors who continuously fought to extend their territories. Extra territory brought extra power, respect, and wealth, because the spoils of war can be of huge value. And if you had an army, you needed to keep them fed, and helping yourself to your enemy's food was one way of doing it. Warfare also helped the Saxons show off. From the surviving remains, it's obvious that Saxon kings liked luxury. They had fine swords, elaborate jewellery such as belt buckles, and clasps for their cloaks made of precious metals and coloured jewels. And they liked to give such items as rewards for heroism or loyalty.

The Saxon warriors carved out seven main kingdoms in England: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex.

So there were a lot of kingdoms, and a lot of kings to go with them. What's more, even when one king gained supremacy over a neighbouring kingdom, it didn't necessarily mean that he deposed his neighbour. In the Saxon period, when communications were difficult and government was still developing, it wasn't always easy for one king to rule over a large area. So it was sometimes easier to let a conquered neighbour go on ruling, as a sort of dependent, or *subking*.

- **STRUGGLES FOR SUPREMACY:**

With seven main kingdoms and a number of smaller subkingdoms, it is no surprise that some of the more powerful ones became dominant. Eventually three kingdoms, Northumbria,

Mercia, and Wessex, ended up with the most power. But before this dominance happened, a lot of fighting took place.

Compared with larger kingdoms, Wessex didn't seem a likely bet to take over the whole of England, but that is what happened. In the last three decades of the ninth century, Wessex became dominant above all the other kingdoms. By a combination of conquest, alliances, and judicious use of family ties to place people in positions of power, the kings of Wessex gradually increased their influence until they became rulers of England, the whole England.



*King Alfred the Great*

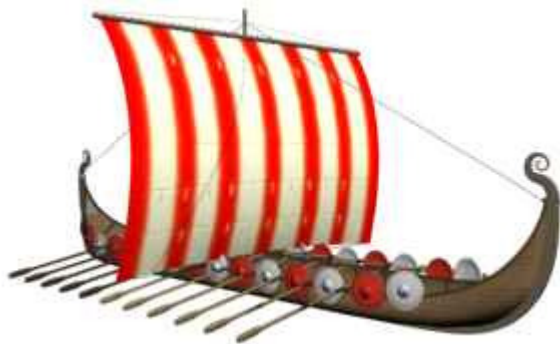
The success of Wessex was due above all to King Alfred, a gifted leader who not only dealt with persistent Norse invaders but also presided over a flowering of culture. More than any previous king, Alfred earned himself the right to call himself king of England. And his enthusiasm for learning and writing meant that he nurtured English literature, encouraging writers to help create England's identity as a nation through their words.

One later ruler, Aethelstan, claimed to be even more powerful than Alfred, giving himself the title King of All Britain. He wanted to be famous and respected all over Europe. But most of the later Saxon kings did not live up to Alfred's high standards. As the tenth century went on, Norse raiders and invaders launched more attacks. These attacks became increasingly serious until, by the beginning of the 11th century, it looked as if England would soon have a Danish king on the throne.

### **2.1.1.3. THE VIKINGS:**

When the Viking insursions began, there was not coordinated Anglo-Saxon response. The Viking incursions culminated with a "Great Army" landing in East Anglia (865). It made wide territorial gains, and the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria had succumbed (by 875). Only Wessex survived the Viking onslaught. The Vikings while devastating large areas also played a

role in the spread of commerce and the evolution of democracy in England.



*A Viking Longship. Having a keel made it much stronger than the earlier Saxon boats and the addition of a sail gave it the speed and endurance that was essential to take the Vikings on their awesome journeys across the northern seas and oceans*

After years of attacks in which Vikings had raided and invaded parts of England, the most powerful Danish king to date, Cnut, conquered England in 1016. Many Britons, fearful of the Danes' violent reputation, probably quaked in their shoes when Cnut became king. But once he was king, Cnut wasn't too bad. He dealt ruthlessly with traitors, but with good reason. He wanted England to be stable and therefore safely under his rule.

Cnut was absent from England a lot of the time because he also had lands in Scandinavia to rule. But he tried to lay down a framework so that England would run smoothly in his absence, dividing up the kingdom under powerful nobles called earls and putting together an influential law code.

Cnut ruled for 19 years, but he did not leave a clear line of succession when he died. For this reason, his reign was followed by several years of dispute and fighting between his sons before the Saxon Edward the Confessor, son of Aethelred the Unready and a man with strong connections with Normandy, came to the throne. Edward's reign followed a curiously similar pattern to Cnut's – a period of relative stability followed by a disputed succession. But Edward's reign was also troubled by internal bickering – especially a conflict between Earl Godwine and Edward's Norman advisers and associates. By the time the king died, in 1066, the Normans were eyeing England and planning to take over completely.

#### **2.1.1.4. THE NORMANS:**



*The Norman coat of arms*

In 1066, a new ruling family arrived in England: the Normans. As their name suggests, the Normans came from Normandy, in northern France. But the Normans were originally Norsemen – their ancestors were Vikings, Scandinavians from northern Europe, who had settled in France in the early tenth century. When they took over England, the Normans kept their long history of links with France, so for hundreds of years, kings of England also

ruled territories across the Channel.

The kings of the Norman dynasty ruled from 1066, when William of Normandy conquered England and became William I, for nearly a century until the death of King Stephen in 1154. The 11th and 12th centuries seem remote, but historians can still find their legacy today. Several cathedrals and many castles were built by

Norman churchmen and knights who owed their power to England's rulers from northern France.

#### **2.1.1.5. THE PLANTAGENET DYNASTY:**

In 1154, King Stephen died with England still scarred by a lengthy civil war. The country needed a period of stronger, more decisive rule to recover from the war, and strong rule was exactly what the kings of the Plantagenet dynasty aimed for. Henry II, the first of these rulers, displayed his strength by successfully asserting his own power and developing a better legal system.

But ruling England became more and more complicated during the 12th and 13th centuries, because the country was part of a much larger empire that also included an enormous chunk of France. More than ever, kings were on the move across their domains, defending their borders. And more than ever, these borders were under threat. There were enemies within, too – nobles who resented having to fight or pay excessive taxes to the king and wanted to limit royal power. The period saw a number of attempts to put legal brakes on the king. The most famous, the document called Magna Carta, is still quoted today.

## THE MAGNA CARTA:

The Magna Carta was signed in June 1215 between the barons of Medieval England and King John. "Magna Carta" is Latin and means "**Great Charter**". The Magna Carta was one of the most important documents of Medieval England.

It was signed between the barons and John at Runnymede near Windsor Castle. The document was a series of written promises between the king and his subjects that he, the king, would govern England and deal with its people according to the customs of feudal law. Magna Carta was an attempt by the barons to stop a king - in this case John - abusing his power with the people of England suffering.



*One of the only four surviving exemplifications of the 1215 text.*

Why would a king - who was meant to be all powerful in his own country - agree to the demands of the barons who were meant to be below him in authority ?

England had for some years owned land in France. The barons had provided the king with both money and men to defend this territory. Traditionally, the king had always consulted the barons before raising taxes (as they had to collect it) and demanding more men for military service (as they had to provide the men). This was all part of the Feudal System.

While kings were militarily successful abroad, relations between the kings and the barons were good. John was not successful in his military campaigns abroad. His constant demands for more money and men angered the barons. By 1204, John had lost his land in northern France. In response to this, John introduced high taxes without asking the barons. This was against feudal law and accepted custom.

John made mistakes in other areas as well. He angered the Roman Catholic Church. The pope, angered by John's behaviour, banned all church services in England in 1207. Religion, and the fear of Hell, were very important to the people including the barons. The Catholic Church taught the people that they could only get to Heaven if the Catholic Church believed that they were good enough to get there. How could they show their goodness and love of God if the churches were shut ? Even worse for John was the fact that the pope excommunicated him in 1209. This meant that John could never get to Heaven until the pope withdrew the excommunication. Faced with this, John climbed down and accepted the power of the Catholic Church giving them many privileges in 1214.

1214 was a disastrous year for John for another reason. Once again, he suffered military defeat in an attempt to get back his territory in northern France. He returned to London demanding more money from taxes. This time the barons were not willing to listen. They

rebelled against his power. The barons captured London. However, they did not defeat John entirely and by the Spring of 1215, both sides were willing to discuss matters. The result was the Magna Carta.

The document can be divided into sections :

- The first clauses concern the position of the Catholic Church in England.
- Those that follow state that John will be less harsh on the barons.
- Many of the clauses concern England's legal system.

Magna Carta promised laws that were good and fair. It states that everyone shall have access to courts and that costs and money should not be an issue if someone wanted to take a problem to the law courts.

It also states that no freeman will be imprisoned or punished without first going through the proper legal system. In future years the word "freeman" was replaced by "no one" to include everybody.

The last few sections deal with how the Magna Carta would be enforced in England. Twenty five barons were given the responsibility of making sure the king carried out what was stated in the Magna Carta - the document clearly states that they could use force if they felt it was necessary. To give the Magna Carta an impact, the royal seal of King John was put on it to show people that it had his royal support.

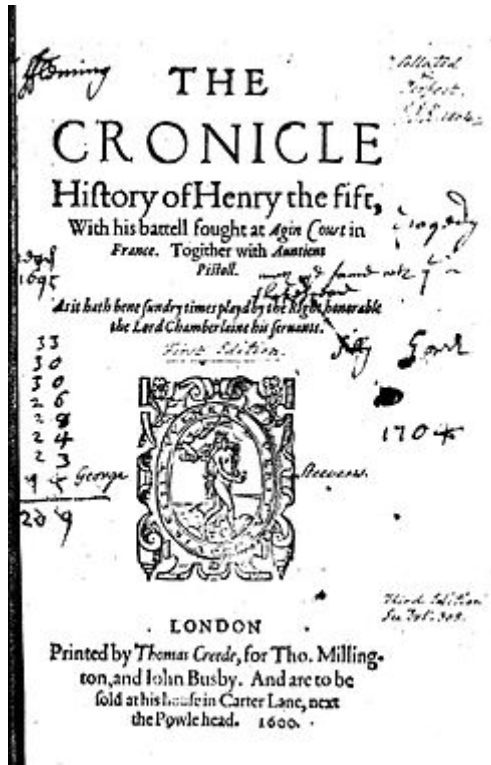
The Plantagenet dynasty continued with the reign of Edward I. Edward was a strong, impressive-looking king in the traditional image of the medieval warrior-ruler. He believed in going for what he wanted by conquest and spent one fortune conquering Wales and building some of the country's finest castles to defend it, and another fortune on a failed attempt to take control of Scotland, too. Edward I used to be seen as a great king, and his legal reforms – introducing local justices of the peace and giving communities the power to police their local areas – were effective. But his tyrant tactics against the Welsh and the Scots made him a villain rather than a hero for all but die-hard English patriots.

Edward was followed by two more Edwards; his son Edward II and grandson Edward III. Edward II was a promising king, intelligent and loyal. But his reliance on a succession of favourites caused mishap and rebellion in his kingdom, and after a 20-year reign, he was forced off the throne and almost certainly murdered. His son and successor Edward III was a very different character. He embraced the traditional virtues of chivalry and founded the famous Order of the Garter. He also claimed to be rightful ruler of France and began the Hundred Years War to try to take over the country. The war lasted long after the end of Edward III's 50-year reign.

The last Plantagenet king was Edward III's son Richard II. Like his father, Richard loved chivalry, and he began his reign by successfully defeating the uprising now known as the Peasants' Revolt. But in his later years, saddened by the death of his first queen, Anne, he became both tyrannical and unpredictable. His fights with his senior barons finally got too much and Richard was deposed, the first Lancastrian king, Henry IV taking over.

### 2.1.1.6. LANCASTER AND YORK: FIGHTING FAMILIES:

When Henry Bolingbroke arrived in England in 1399, he found a power vacuum. The current king, Richard II, was ill – he seemed to have lost his mind and had spent the last few years of his reign falling out with his advisers and showing himself unfit to rule. Bolingbroke took over decisively and ruled as Henry IV, dealing with a number of challenges to his power and showing himself to be a dynamic king.



Title page of the first quarto of Shakespeare's play Henry V (1600)

His son, Henry V, was even more of a man of action, entering the old war with France and winning some of the most famous battles in history. His victories, such as the Battle of Agincourt, were immortalised in Shakespeare's play *Henry V*, turning the king into a kind of superhero who licked the French and then married their princess. The reality wasn't so straightforward, though, especially as Henry died young, before making sure of his gains.

After Henry V died, his baby son became King Henry VI. The boy king had to rule through advisers, and when he did finally take responsibility for the realm himself, he proved unsuited to the job. Although kind and pious, he lacked the ability to govern shrewdly. While his military leaders were losing the lands England had conquered in France, Henry lost his grip on power in England. A civil war began, and the crown passed back and forth between Henry and his rivals of the House of York, Edward IV, Edward V, and Richard III. This conflict, the Wars of the Roses, lasted from 1455 to 1485 and ended when a leader from a different family, the Welsh Tudors, defeated Richard III in battle and claimed the throne through his connection with the Lancastrians.

### 2.1.1.7. THE TUDORS:

The Tudors have been one of the most powerful royal dynasties in British history. When the first Tudor king, Henry VII, took over the English throne in 1485, the country was in a right royal mess. During a long civil war between the rival houses of Lancaster and York, many had lost their lives, and royal prestige was at a low level. The Tudors at last brought more peace and stability. Henry VII put the royal finances on a regular footing, Henry VIII tried to increase English influence abroad, and Elizabeth I presided over a period when Britain was producing some of the greatest names in literature and the arts.

But it wasn't all sweetness and light. The Tudors argued constantly over religion, sometimes even putting people to death because of their beliefs, being quite fanatical. And their personal lives were complicated, too, from Queen Mary's absent husband to Henry VIII's six wives – it's a wonder he found the time or energy to rule at all. But in spite of their matrimonial troubles, the Tudors left the country, and the monarchy, stronger than they found it.



#### **2.1.1.8. THE STUARTS:**

The most lasting change that occurred under the Stuart monarchs of the 17th century had to do with the relationship between England and Scotland. In 1603, King James of Scotland added England to his domains, and just 100 years later, under Queen Anne, the last Stuart ruler, England and Scotland were formally united as one kingdom. It was at last possible to speak of Great Britain as a political concept.

The other big issue for the Stuart rulers of the 17th century was that the relationship between king and Parliament finally deteriorated beyond repair. In the 1640s, England was torn by a civil war between royalists and parliamentarians. When the parliamentarians won the war, the king, Charles I, was executed, and England became a republic.

But England's republican rulers held to an uncompromising brand of religious Puritanism that didn't suit most people, so eventually the Stuart monarchs were welcomed back to the throne. But in the late 17th century, Parliament put in place a Bill of Rights to restrict the power of the monarch, confirming Parliament's control over laws, taxes, and other issues. Britain's constitutional monarchy, with strictly limited royal power, was born.

The Stewart family had had close connections with France for much of the 16th century, and by the time James VI of Scotland became James I of England, it was quite common for the family name to be spelled in the French way, as Stuart. As a result, it has become customary to use this later, Frenchstyle spelling when referring to the family as rulers of the two realms of England and Scotland, after 1603.

#### **2.1.1.9. THE HOUSE OF HANOVER:**

After the death of the last Stuart ruler, Queen Anne, in 1714, George I, the first Hanoverian ruler, came from Germany to become king. Although George traced his ancestry back to the Stuart line, he was a non-English-speaker who seemed foreign to Britain. He had quite a few problems, most of them coming from the fact that he was an alien ruler. But George's descendents became more and more British and presided over a time during which Britain's power in the world grew dramatically.

Under the Hanoverians, industry developed, agriculture became more efficient, and the empire grew really fast. But if Britain became more prosperous and powerful as a nation, the monarchy wasn't always a success. Big drops in its fortunes occurred when Britons watched with horror the extravagant and dissolute antics of George, the Prince Regent (later George IV). And another drop in popularity developed when Queen Victoria cut herself off from her people and went into deep and lengthy mourning after the death of her beloved husband, Albert. It was a surprise, and a relief in royal circles, when Victoria recovered her popularity, and her son Edward VII developed a less political, more symbolic role for the monarchy.

## **2.1.2. MODERN ROYALS:**

### **2.1.2.1. THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR:**

In the first half of the 20th century, two kings called George dominated the royal history of Britain. They were both shy, rather private men who were in many ways ill-suited to the public role of monarchy. But both George V and his son George VI managed to overcome their complexes to become leaders who were respected and, in the end, loved by their people.

Between the two Georges came Edward VIII, who reigned only for a few months, was never crowned, and gave up the throne in order to marry a woman whom the establishment was considered unacceptable to be queen.

These unlikely rulers presided over difficult times. George V led his country through World War I and the political upheavals that followed it. The Britain of George VI's reign had to face the even greater devastation of World War II. In the 20th century, it was no longer acceptable for a king to be a military leader in any real sense, so both monarchs had to find ways of being a war leader without going into battle.

By the end of George VI's reign, therefore, the monarchy had transformed itself. During World War II, the king met ordinary people regularly, developed a common touch, and was at the centre of a royal family that was featured widely in the press and on the news.

### **2.1.2.2. ELIZABETH II:**



Elizabeth II (1952–present) came to the throne after the death of her father, George VI, when Britain was still recovering from World War II. She has steered the monarchy through more than half a century of change, during which the royal family has been exposed to some of the most searching publicity in its history.

As a modern constitutional monarch, Elizabeth II has little power to make policy or change the way her country is governed. She's proud to be above party politics, and when she opens Parliament every year, she makes a speech in which she presents the policies of her government, whatever its political colour. But her weekly audiences with the Prime Minister can be very influential. Every premier of her reign has said how much they value her advice, based as it is on the kind of long experience of many governments that no politician can ever hope to have.

Queen Elizabeth's experience, together with her devotion to her work, are the unchanging features of her reign. But the monarchy has also seen new developments since the queen has been on the throne. On a worldwide scale, the most important has been the final disappearance of the British empire and its replacement with the looser Commonwealth of Nations.

On a more intimate level, the most significant change has been the monarchy's relationship with the media. Elizabeth and her family have had to cope with the regular intrusion of television cameras into their lives, the development of a dedicated team of royal photographers who follow the royal family wherever they go, and a series of former royal staff members who have published behind-the-scenes stories about the royal family.

The family life of the queen and her children has been scrutinised most closely of all. Under George VI, the monarchy had come to define itself as a family – the king and queen with their two daughters seemed a perfect and happy family unit. Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, and their four children seemed to follow suit – until the children grew up and experienced a series of hurtful marital breakups. The resulting scandals damaged the monarchy's image and gave munitions to those who wanted to abolish the monarchy altogether. But the queen herself has remained distant from the scandal. No one questions her dedication to her work, her country, and her people.

### **2.1.2.3. THE PRINCE OF WALES:**



Prince Charles is the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. He was born in 1948 and has therefore spent all his adult years as heir to the throne. His whole life has been shaped by this fact and by the fact that the heir has no clearly defined role.

Like several other members of the current British royal family, Prince Charles has developed his role in two ways: supporting the queen in her official duties and helping others, especially by carrying out an impressive list of charitable works.

The prince would certainly see these day-to-day activities as the most important part of his role in today's royal family. But the media have been attracted more to the sensational side of Charles's life – especially by the story of his marriage to Diana, Princess of Wales, the breakdown of their relationship, and the princess's tragic early death in a car accident

in Paris. Charles's second marriage has also attracted a lot of attention from reporters and broadcasters.

### **2.1.3. THE KINGS OF SCOTLAND:**

#### **2.1.3.1. PICTS, SCOTS AND OTHERS:**

The early chroniclers describe Scotland as the home to a number of different tribes or peoples. They all had their own monarchs, who frequently fought each other to gain extra territory. This unclear story of Scotland's early days is difficult to understand because few written sources exist and the records contain big gaps. Historians aren't even sure of the exact origins of some of the people involved.

The main players in the early history of Scotland are two peoples, the Picts, who seem to have occupied a large chunk of mainland Scotland, and the Scots, who came originally from Ireland and lived in a kingdom called Dalriada, in the west of Scotland and the Western Isles.

Both these groups were in turn made up of several smaller tribes. Each of these small, close-knit groups had its own ruler, who would owe allegiance to the overking of the Picts or Scots, so from the fifth to ninth centuries many kings ruled Scotland at once, and in many cases, historians don't know much about them.

From time to time, these diverse tribes were united under a single, dynamic leader who claimed to be king of the whole of Scotland. None of these periods of unity lasted for long until the mid-ninth century, when the Scots king Kenneth MacAlpin overcame the Picts and united the country for good.

In the 13th and 14th centuries, Scottish monarchs had to grapple with a host of problems – disloyal nobles, clashes with England and Norway, and money troubles, among others. Scotland's rulers varied in their ability to keep all the balls in the air, but the period produced two kings who have gone down in history as Scottish heroes: Alexander III, who presided over a period of prosperity, and Robert I, who was one of Scotland's most famous war leaders.

### **2.1.4. THE HEIR:**

The monarchy has always been bigger than any individual king or queen. Being part of a continuous succession of rulers is what gives monarchs their power. Kings and queens benefit from the accumulated experience (and accumulated conquests) of those who went before them, and it is in the interests of the institution of monarch to pass the throne on to a competent heir.

As a result, having an heir has always been one of the top priorities of any ruler. In the early years, a successor was essential. Kings were usually military leaders, and a king could be killed in battle at any time. Even if times were peaceful, people didn't live as long in the Saxon and medieval periods as they do today. A ruler had to be prepared with an heir – and often a 'spare' as well, for good measure.

Most monarchies are family affairs, and the British one is no exception. Today, the crown passes from ruler to eldest son, through a clearly defined line of succession. Everyone in the royal family knows where they stand in the line to the throne.

It hasn't always been like this. The Saxons and Norman rulers usually chose their own heir and announced the lucky candidate publicly, so no one was in any doubt. But even then, the heir was usually a close family member – someone the king or queen could trust – and someone who would be good at the job. The monarch usually chose a successor from amongst their most able relatives. Later, the custom developed of handing the crown to the ruler's eldest

male child, the first daughter if he had no sons, or to another close relative if he had no children at all. The girls got a bad deal in this process, and in the early centuries of British history there were very few queens. The reason girls didn't usually get to rule was because in early societies, it was the men who were expected to be the leaders – in case they had to lead an army into battle.

This need for an heir has meant that when we talk about the *British monarchy*, they don't usually mean just the king or queen. They mean the whole royal family – sons, daughters, cousins, uncles, aunts, the lot. As well as a seemingly endless source of heirs, the royal family also makes up a big support network for the monarch. In the Middle Ages, the king's sons might go into battle on behalf of their father, act as ambassadors, or occupy different royal castles to spread the family's power around the kingdom. Even today, although kings no longer go into battle, 'minor royals' do all sorts of duties, from representing the country overseas to giving out awards.

The importance of this working family has meant that kings and queens have nearly always been keen to have lots of children. A medieval king sighed with relief when his queen produced a son and heir. Having a son was best, because in the Middle Ages men were seen as having the dominant role – women didn't usually get a look when it came to positions of power.

Several British rulers have hit problems, both personal and political, because they found it difficult to produce an heir. So the succession was a big issue that sometimes dominated the entire reign.

But just having an heir was never enough. You had to train for the job of ruler, just like any other. Royal princes usually had plenty of work to do. Back in the Middle Ages, their jobs included leading the royal army in times of war. In more peaceful times, a medieval prince might learn about leadership by running his own dukedom – in other words, becoming overlord (or boss) of a chunk of the kingdom. Being a feudal overlord meant dealing with tenants, overseeing the regional economy, settling disputes in a local court, and turning out with your men in times of war. Running a dukedom was like being a king on a small scale and was good preparation for becoming ruler.

Another way medieval kings had of preparing their eldest sons for the job of monarch was to make them Prince of Wales, all of whom have used the role in different ways – from acquiring leadership skills to ceremonial duties – to prepare for kingship.

Today, with the monarch playing a more symbolic part in government, the heir to the throne needs different skills. The heir still deputises for the sovereign and still keeps in touch with affairs of state. But the tasks he performs are more likely to be going on official visits or reading government briefings than going into battle. Some royals, such as the queen's second son Prince Andrew, have seen active service in war, but today's royal family would not allow the heir to the throne to risk his life on the battlefield.

## 2.2. HOW THE BRITISH MONARCHY WORKS

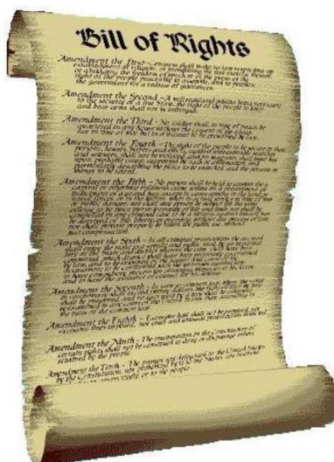
### 2.2.1. A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY:

The British sovereign is the head of what is known as a ‘constitutional monarchy’. This means that, while he or she remains the UK’s head of state, with the notional right to govern and take major constitutional decisions, in practice he or she does not do so. Unlike in presidential countries, Britain’s head of state is a figurehead with little real power. Instead, day-to-day decisions regarding domestic and foreign policy are left to Parliament and, more specifically, the government, led by the ‘First Lord of the Treasury’, or prime minister.

The authority invested in successive prime ministers to choose their own ministers, create legislation, and decide whether to take the state to war, among other things, comes from another of those key constitutional principles: the **Royal Prerogative**. In essence, this is the body of traditional privileges and powers historically acquired by reigning monarchs (predominantly in the Middle Ages). Today, the majority of so-called ‘prerogative powers’ derived from this principle are exercised not by the Crown itself, but by Parliament.

#### 2.2.1.1. THE ORIGINS:

The position that the present Queen occupies is that of Britain’s longest standing institution (its only interruption being a period from 1649 to 1660). Although it was short-lived, this period—sometimes referred to as the ‘English Revolution’—marked a symbolic break with the past that was to change the role of the British monarchy forever. Beforehand, the prevailing ‘rationale’ for the existence of the sovereign derived from the ‘Divine Right of Kings’. By propagating the idea that they could not be held answerable to ‘manmade’ institutions such as mere parliaments, European medieval monarchs were aiming to reign with the minimum of outside interference—with the possible exception of that of the Church, which, in some notable cases (such as Henry VIII’s inability to obtain permission from the Pope to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon) directly challenged their privilege. Parliaments were generally regarded as tools to enable kings and queens to raise taxes, pass edicts, and declare wars without punishment.



*The first ten Amendments to the Constitution, which are commonly known as the Bill of Rights.*

In England, all of this was to change following the execution of Charles I. While his eldest son, Charles II, ultimately succeeded him following Cromwell’s death, the concept that any monarch had a divine right to rule unchallenged had, by then, been all but abolished. Through a succession of important constitutional statutes—most notably, the Bill of Rights and Act of Settlement—a newly liberated Parliament stamped its authority on the nation, and the monarch.

## **2.2.2. THE ROLE OF THE MONARCHY TODAY:**

One of the oddest things about Britain's constitutional monarchy is that, unlike the United States, Britain has no one written document that forms the constitution. The British constitution consists of a set of rules, some unwritten, some written down in laws passed in Parliament, and some forming documents such as the Magna Carta (*see page 14*). These rules have been established over a long period of time. The constitutional monarchy has evolved since 1689, the year after William III and Queen Mary came to the throne as joint monarchs. The Bill of Rights of 1689 started it all. It set down some key principles to protect the rights of Parliament and limit the power of the ruler, including:

- The law should be free from royal interference.
- People can petition the ruler.
- The ruler can't impose taxes by royal right alone.
- Elections of Members of Parliament should take place without royal interference.

In addition, many more rules have been developed to limit the power of the monarch. For example, the monarch:

- Can't make or pass legislation.
- In matters of government, always acts on the advice of his or her ministers and may not enter the House of Commons.
- Must always be neutral politically.
- Doesn't vote in elections.

One really important thing that the British monarch never does is cast a vote in an election. In theory, nothing stops the king or queen from voting. But in practice, casting a vote would be unconstitutional, because the sovereign is outside politics and able to function whatever the political colour of the government. The same goes for the heir to the throne, who will one day have to play the same politically neutral role. Other members of the royal family, are theoretically able to vote, but they don't. For them to put their weight behind a political party would compromise the neutrality of the monarch. And as far as the monarchy is concerned, whatever the personal political views of the members of the royal family, neutrality is all.

The role and powers of the monarch are best explained by splitting them into two broad categories: *actual* and *notional*.

### **2.2.2.1. ACTUAL PREROGATIVE POWERS—THOSE EXERCISED BY THE MONARCH:**

Despite the huge upheavals of recent centuries, the reigning sovereign still holds the following key constitutional offices:

- head of state;
- head of the executive, legislature, and judiciary;
- head of the Commonwealth (and head of state of 15 of its 53 members) (*see next page*)\*;
- commander-in-chief of the armed forces;

- supreme governor of the established Church of England;
- the authority from which the Royal Mint derives its license to coin and print money (at present, in his or her image).



*A fifty pence coin with Queen Elizabeth II portrait.*

The monarch also has two formal roles in relation to Parliament. These roles are more symbolic, but they show that the ruler is still very much at the forefront of government. These roles relate to the opening and closing of Parliament:

- The monarch opens each session of Parliament personally, and a key part of the opening ceremony is the Queen’s or King’s Speech, which outlines the programme of new laws to be debated during the coming session. Of course, the queen doesn’t write this speech herself. It’s put together by her ministers. But this ceremony still shows that the queen is at the heart of government.
- When the time comes for Parliament to be closed – when an election is due – the Prime Minister travels to Buckingham Palace and asks the monarch for permission to close Parliament. Again, the sovereign is at the heart of things, even if his or her role is ceremonial.

**\*The Commonwealth:**

Other former British colonies may have their own heads of state, but remain part of the *Commonwealth* – the family of allied nations that has replaced the empire. The Commonwealth was a concept that evolved gradually during the first half of the 20th century. It wasn’t founded on a specific day, but developed as many of Britain’s colonies began to leave the empire after World War II. In 1958, the Commonwealth was recognised nationally when Empire Day became Commonwealth Day. The Commonwealth is held together by regular meetings between the ministers and leaders of its countries, and by the enthusiasm of the royal family, who value this extended world ‘family’ greatly. Britain and the countries of the Commonwealth also shared close trade ties, but these ties have been less strong since Britain joined the European Union.



But so much for their official titles: what does the monarch actually *do*? And more specifically: which prerogative powers do monarchs personally still exercise in an age when the government holds over most key political decisions?

The central roles and duties of the monarch—many of which are largely ceremonial—include:

- governing the Church of England;
- ‘creating’ lords, and conferring knighthoods and honours in person;
- entertaining visiting heads of state at Buckingham Palace;
- visiting other nations on official state visits—including those of the Commonwealth—as Britain’s premier overseas ambassador;
- chairing meetings of the *Privy Council* (a body of advisers made up of members of the current and previous Cabinets, plus other distinguished individuals, which issues Royal Charters and Orders in Council);
- attending, on horseback, the ‘Trooping the Colour’ (the monarch’s annual birthday parade, led by regiments of HM Armed Forces).



*The current Prime Minister, David Cameron.*

- meeting the prime minister once a week to discuss Cabinet business and to offer advice on affairs of state;

Referring to this last point, in practice, of course, the senior member of the government has to work with Parliament, and the Prime Minister is the leader of the party that holds the majority in Parliament. The real power is with Parliament.

The monarch and Prime Minister meet once a week (or speak on the telephone, if they’re not within easy travelling distance of one another). During these meetings, as in other dealings with Parliament, the sovereign’s duty is to ‘encourage or warn’, but, ultimately, to respect the advice of the minister of the day.

The current queen, Elizabeth II, has reigned during the governments of ten Prime Ministers. The discussions she’s had with these varied political figures (seven Conservative and three Labour leaders), together with her wide experience of talking to political leaders around the world, makes her one of the best-informed people in the country. Prime Ministers value her opinions, which are given in the strictest confidence.

In addition to all the above prerogative powers retained by the monarch and his or her immediate family, the monarch has traditionally been called on to fulfill a unifying role as a national figurehead at times of crisis, a person who acts as a focus for the nation

A modern monarch can still stand for his or her country in a number of ways:

- Rewarding special achievements or successes by handing out awards and honors.
- Supporting the needy and less well-off by all kinds of voluntary and charitable work.
- Leading the nation in showing grief or compassion after bad news or tragedy or when commemorating those who have died in war.
- Making contact with people through visits to different areas, *walkabouts* during which the sovereign meets ordinary people, and other occasions.

Each of these jobs is the tip of a very large iceberg. For example, giving out honors means a long and careful selection process and many investiture ceremonies for the monarch; the present queen's charitable work involves being patron of more than 600 different organizations; and the visits and walkabouts may be the culmination of months of planning.



*The Queen goes on a walkabout at Tynwald Green on the Isle of Man. Her Majesty is known as 'Lord of Man' on the Isle of Man, a Crown dependency*

#### 2.2.2.2. NOTIONAL PREROGATIVE POWERS—THOSE DEFERRED TO GOVERNMENT:

Most sovereign powers are exercised ‘on the advice of ministers’, which means that it is ministers—and the prime minister, in most cases—who take the necessary decisions. In practice, then, it is the monarch who offers the ‘advice’ to prime ministers, rather than the other way around, and prime ministers who discharge the following functions:

- dissolving and summoning Parliament—that is, calling elections and forming new parliaments after the results are in;
- giving the Royal Assent to Bills passed by Parliament;
- appointing ministers and other senior public officials, including judges, diplomats, governors, officers in the armed forces, police *chief constables*, and Church of England bishops and archbishops;
- devising the legislative *agenda* for each parliamentary session (year of Parliament) and writing the Queen’s Speech, which will make these proposals public at the State Opening of Parliament;
- declaring war and peace;
- the *prorogation* of Parliament—that is, the suspending of the activities of Parliament (if not Parliament itself) for the duration of holiday periods, such as the Summer Recess, and the annual Christmas and Easter breaks;
- drawing up lists of nominations—in consultation with the leaders of opposition parties—for peerages, knighthoods, and other honors in the New Year *Honors List* and the Queen’s Birthday Honors List.

In addition, the monarch may occasionally issue a ‘Royal Pardon’—known formally as the ‘Royal Prerogative of Mercy’—to convicted criminals. This tends to happen either when an individual found guilty of a crime is pardoned in light of new evidence, or (very rarely) when the actions and/or behaviour of a prisoner are considered to justify their early release from a sentence. Unlike all other sovereign powers exercised by the government on the monarch’s behalf, pardons are issued on the advice not of the prime minister, but of the Home Secretary in England and Wales, and the First Minister in Scotland, following the introduction of *devolution*.

### **2.2.3. THE ROYAL FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

With the British monarchy, you don't just get one royal; you get a whole bunch of them – the spouse of the ruler, their children, and very often a number of cousins, aunts, and others, who are all part of the deal. Antimonarchists often make fun of the royal family. The monarch's children and the minor royals are criticized as hangers-on who contribute little while taking a lot in terms of privilege and money. In fact, the situation isn't quite as simple as the critics say.

The royal family has several roles in helping the ruler in their work. They can also take the effectiveness of the ruler into new directions

The other members of the royal family help the monarch in all sorts of ways, official and unofficial. The *senior royals*, the sovereign's closest family members, help on official duties, from state visits to award presentations. The rest of the family – and the senior royals, too – supplement the monarch's work with all kinds of extra activities of their own.

The British monarch has to cope with a vast and expanding diary of engagements. As well as the events that are a regular part of the royal calendar, these engagements include all sorts of functions to which the sovereign is invited every year. One person can't handle them all, so close family members often step in. Under the present queen, Elizabeth II, close family means the queen's children, their spouses, and the queen's cousins. Here are some official palace figures that can give us an idea of the workload the royals undertake:

- Attending 2,000 official engagements per year.
- Entertaining 70,000 people per year at royal parties, dinners, lunches, and receptions.
- Answering 100,000 letters per year.

These jobs vary a lot in size and complexity. Some engagements are state visits that take years of planning, while some are brief ceremonies – such as opening a hospital or visiting a factory – that still have to be done with care and dignity. Having a large family back-up team to do some of this work makes sense.

The family can help in emergencies, too. Heads of state sometimes have to attend events that can't be scheduled in advance – funerals of other rulers, for example. If the monarch is busy – perhaps tied up on a state visit on the other side of the world – another family member can go instead.

One way the monarch leads the country is in support of charities and voluntary organizations. The royal family helps, too, with each member supporting specific charities. Thousands of charities would like a member of the royal family to be their patron or president, and all together the royals play this role for about 2,000 charities in Britain.

The current Prince of Wales is particularly known for his charitable work, taking a lead by setting up his own charities in fields in which he has a special interest, from education to the environment. Other royal family members have also set up charities. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers are among the best known.

Activities like these duties spread the work of the royal family into all kinds of areas and therefore make the monarchy still more effective as a symbol of the nation. A lot of the work – both with charities and with engagements – takes the family all over the country and enables people to see the monarchy and its activities first hand. And there’s also an opposite, but equally beneficial effect. Travelling around allows the sovereign and her relatives to meet many different people, making the royal family less remote and more understanding of the country and its diverse population.

The modern monarch, concerned with everything from opening buildings to doing charitable work, from state visits to royal garden parties, seems a far cry from the old rulers. Back in the Middle Ages, and even in the Tudor period, the crown had much simpler priorities. In those days, much of the king’s time was taken up with two very basic activities: dispensing justice and going to war. Even today, the monarchy still has a role to play in the justice system and the armed services.

### 2.2.3.1. THE MONARCH AND THE COURTS

Once upon a time, the phrase *the royal court* meant two things: the circle of people around the monarch and the court of justice where the ruler sat as judge. Kings and queens were justices for centuries, from the Anglo-Saxon period until the time of the Stuarts. Rulers became known as *founts of justice*, and if they didn’t sit in court themselves, their judges were closely identified with the ruler.

In 1689, with the beginning of constitutional monarchy, this situation changed. Rulers were no longer allowed to sit on the bench and administer justice. That responsibility became the job of the specialists; the judges, magistrates, and similar officials who still preside over courts today.

Even so, the monarch is still closely identified with the justice system. When crowned, a king or queen swears to preserve the law and justice, and to see that justice is administered to all. And the sovereign is involved directly in the system in various ways, such as appointing senior judges – as usual, in response to the advice of ministers. The sovereign is also expected to be merciful and can grant pardons to convicted criminals, again with the advice of ministers.

Today, the ruler is still closely identified with the justice system, a fact that can be seen through the kind of language that is used to describe the courts, the cases tried there, and the prisons:

- Many courts are called *Crown Courts*, and the judges are known as *Her Majesty’s Judges*.
- The prisons are known as *Her Majesty’s Prisons*.
- Criminal prosecutions are brought in the name of the crown, and when cases are referred to, they’re given the name *Regina (Latin: the Queen) v X*, where X is the name of the defendant.

There's a twist in the tail, though. As fount of justice and head of the justice system, the monarch can't actually be prosecuted in either a civil or a criminal case. It's just as well that the current monarch is careful to keep on the right side of the law.

### **2.2.3.2. THE MONARCH AND THE MILITARY**

Monarchs no longer lead their troops into battle as they used to. The last British ruler to do so was George II, who led his forces to victory against the French in 1743. But the sovereign is still the head of the armed forces, and the British royal family has a long tradition of involvement with the Army, Navy, and Royal Air Force.

Many modern royals have been active soldiers, sailors, or airmen. The Duke of Edinburgh had a distinguished career as a naval officer when he was a young man, and the Prince of Wales followed his father into the Navy after a brief period in the Royal Air Force. Whereas Prince Charles's time in the Navy was seen primarily as part of his preparation for his other roles in the royal family, his brother, Prince Andrew, had a long career in the Royal Navy, spending 20 years as an officer and seeing active service in the Falklands War in 1982. And the tradition continues, with both of Prince Charles's sons, Princes William and Harry, training as Army officers at Sandhurst. In addition, many members of the royal family hold appointments and honorary ranks in various military units.

However, the British sovereign no longer has the power to raise an army. This ancient right was removed when the constitutional monarchy came into being in 1689 and now Parliament raises and maintains armies.

But just as the monarch keeps close links to government through regular briefings from ministers, so she keeps up to speed with the country's military forces. The ruler's Defence Services Secretary (who is both a member of the royal household and an officer in one of the services) acts as the liaison person between the ruler and the government minister responsible for defence. To ordinary servicemen and women, the monarch is more than someone keeping a remote but benevolent eye on their progress. Members of the Army and Royal Air Force swear an oath of allegiance to the sovereign when they join up. (Traditionally, this oath doesn't happen in the Navy, but it's called the Royal Navy, so sailors are always reminded of the importance of the monarch). And all soldiers know that if they have to go into battle, they're fighting 'for queen and country,' not for any specific government or political party.



*Prince William and Prince Harry at an air force base in Shawbury, England*

## 2.2.4. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

### 2.2.4.1. POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?

As we have already seen, despite its lack of real power, the monarchy still has several important roles to play in contemporary Britain. And after having discovered more deeply about them, I wanted to know what do British people think about the monarchies in general and their own in particular. Are the monarchies good or bad? Do they do any difference? Are they considered “essential” for their country? In order to do so, I included a couple of questions in my survey related to this topic.

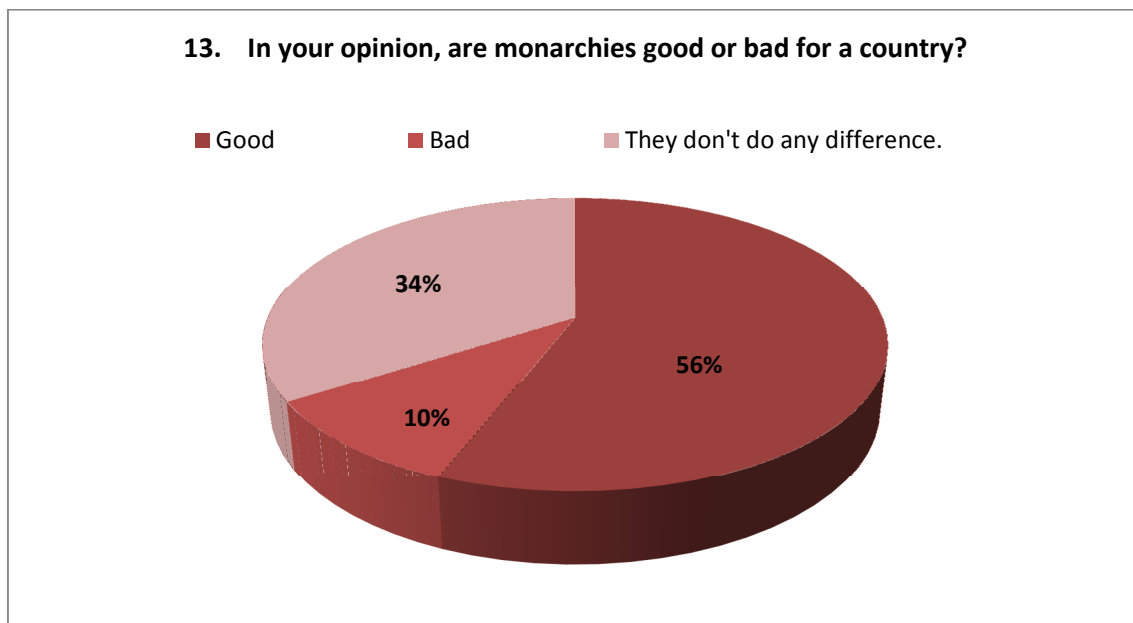
Question number 13 reads as follows:

❖ **13.** In your opinion, are monarchies good or bad for a country?

The possible answers were:

- a) Good
- b) Bad
- c) They don't do any difference

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



As you can see, the winning majority of the people polled (56%, 62 people out of 110) believes that the existence of a monarchy is good for a country, a 34% (37 individuals out of 110) holds that they don't do any difference, and a minority of the people polled (a 10%, 11 individuals out of 110) thinks that they are bad for a country.

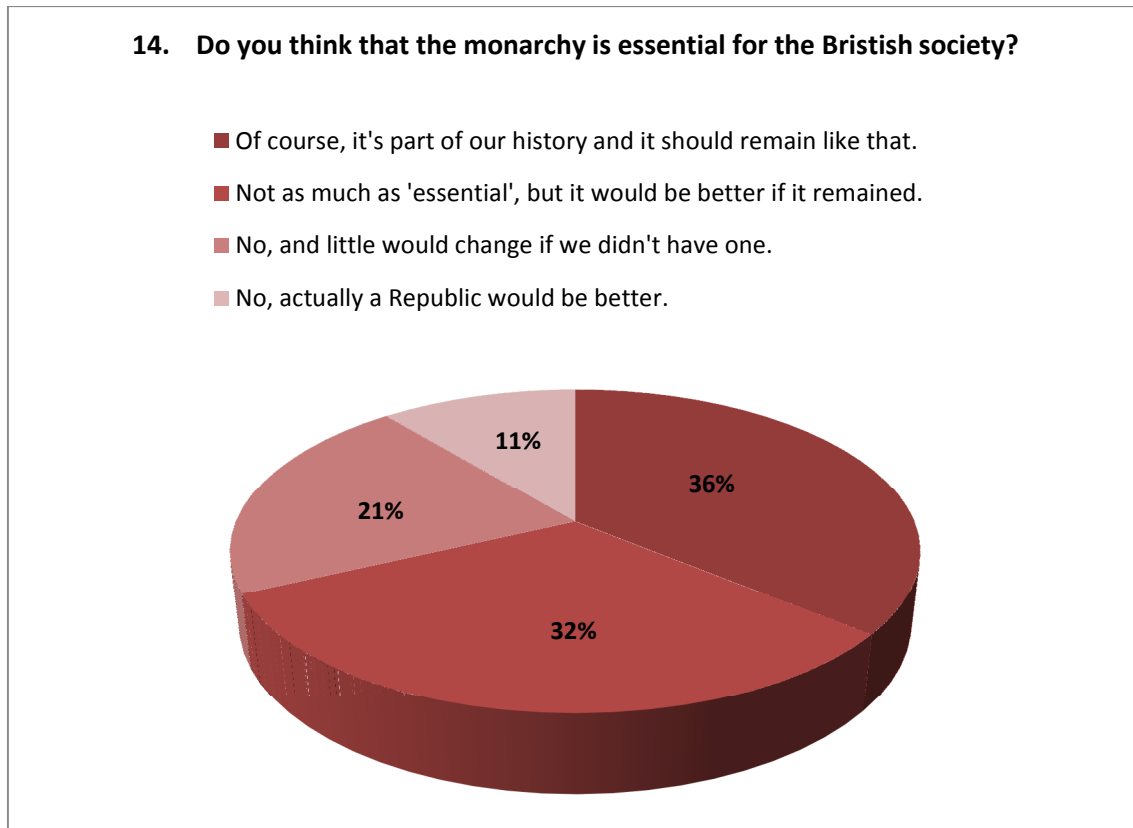
As one of the main objectives of this research project is knowing what is the British monarchy's real importance and value for its society, I also wanted to obtain more concrete answers. Thus, I included, as well, a more specific question. Question number 14 reads as follows:

❖ **14. Do you think that the monarchy is essential for the British society?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Of course, it's part of our history and it should remain like that.
- b) Not as much as "essential", but it would be better if it remained.
- c) No, and little would change if we didn't have one.
- d) No, actually a Republic would be better.

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



The 36% of the people polled (40 individuals) are fully determined that the monarchy is essential for the British society, having to remain whatever it takes. A 32% (35 individuals) doesn't have such a strong opinion, but they also consider that it would be better if the monarchy remained, as they are of the opinion that it has more advantages than disadvantages. Another 21% (23 individuals) think that the monarchy isn't essential for the British nation and that very little would change if they hadn't one, referring to its lack of real power and an attribution of a rather symbolic role. The 11% of the people left (12 individuals) are against the monarchy's existence in Britain and express their support for the Republicanism.

In general, the percentage of those who think that a monarchy is a good thing and should remain in the British society (68%) is higher than the one of those who think that it is a bad thing and that it would be better if it didn't exist.



#### **2.2.4.1.1. ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING THE MONARCHY:**

People who give arguments defending the British monarchy and monarchies in general admit that their contemporary roles are rather symbolic, but that this doesn't mean that they aren't fundamental. These roles, which according to the defenders of the monarchy makes it necessary, can be divided into six main headings:

- Representing the UK at home and abroad
- Settings standards of citizenship and family life
- Uniting people despite differences
- Allegiance of the armed forces
- Maintaining continuity of British traditions
- Preserving a Christian morality

##### **- REPRESENTING THE UK AT HOME AND ABROAD:**

As the Head of State and as Head of the Commonwealth, also a symbolic role, the Queen represents Britain in a multitude of ways. She has gained a lot of experience of public affairs by reason of her more than 50 years on the throne, and this, together with her political neutrality, has meant that she has been able to offer Prime ministers and others objective and informed observations. Some observers claim, although some disagree, that the Queen and leading members of the Royal Family are good for British trade.

##### **- SETTINGS STANDARDS OF CITIZENSHIP AND FAMILY LIFE:**

For most of the Queen's reign, this has been seen as an important function of the monarch, who is both Head of State and Head of the Church of England, the established church. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family carry out many public duties and are connected with a wide range of charities, and even critics of the monarchy accept that the Queen is diligent in carrying out her duties. However, in the late 1980s and for much of the 1990s, the personal behavior of the younger members of the Royal Family brought much discredit to the monarchy and led to a debate about its future.

##### **- UNITING PEOPLE DESPITE DIFFERENCES:**

The monarch symbolizes the unity of the nation, something that has been made possible thanks to the fact that the monarch transcends partisan politics. In Britain, the Crown is the substitute for the state, which is a concept not much understood or used in this country. The Queen also takes her role as head of a multi-ethnic Commonwealth extremely seriously.

However, critics believe that the Royal Family occupy a socially privileged position which symbolizes social divisions rather than unity.

##### **- ALLEGIANCE OF THE ARMED FORCES:**

The armed forces swear an oath of loyalty to the crown and the Royal Family has close links with the services. Some believe that this helps to emphasize the apolitical role of the military and dissuade their involvement in politics. Others are more skeptical and don't think that the monarch would be able to act as a defense against a coup.

- MAINTAINING CONTINUITY OF BRITISH TRADITIONS:

The monarch symbolizes continuity in affairs of state and many of her duties, such as the State Opening of Parliament and the Trooping of the Colour –**an impressive display of pageantry held on the occasion of the Queen's Official Birthday, which takes place in June and is carried out by her personal troops, the Household Division, on Horse Guards Parade, with the Queen herself attending and taking the salute**– have a symbolic importance. Supporters of the monarchy believe that the awarding of honors and other activities of the monarch help to break down social barriers by recognizing those who have contributed to the community. However, critics believe they help to perpetuate an outdated class system.

- PRESERVING A CHRISTIAN MORALITY:

The Queen is supreme governor of the Church of England and there are close links between the monarch and the church. However, the extent to which this link remains important is controversial, given the changing attitude to religion. For instance, the number of divorces in the Royal family would have been unthinkable half a century earlier. Also, the fact that Britain has more religions than ever before, has led to speculation over the monarch's role. Prince Charles declared that he would like to be 'Defender of the faiths, not the faith'

- EXERCISE OF FORMAL POWERS:

There is a range of powers the monarch exercises as Head of State. Some argue that most if not all of these powers could be taken over by elected persons, like the speaker of the House of Commons, but there are also strong arguments that these powers should remain vested in the monarch.

The combination of the symbolic role and the powers vested in the crown enables the monarch to act as a constitutional safeguard. Therefore, the monarch serves as the ultimate protector of the political system. Retention of the prerogative powers is a reminder to ministers and other servants of the crown that they owe a responsibility to a higher authority than to a transient politician. This view sees the monarch as an ultimate deterrent. Although her actions are governed by convention, she still has the legal right to use her legal powers.

#### 2.2.4.1.2. CRITICISMS OF THE MONARCHY:

There are four main criticisms of the monarchy:

- There is the potential for political involvement
- The monarchy is unrepresentative
- The monarchy is overly expensive
- In the modern world the monarchy is no longer necessary

- THERE IS THE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT:

Although most of the monarch's actions are governed by convention, there are occasions when these may not apply. For example, in the event of a 'hung' Parliament, the monarch might have to exercise a personal judgment. There is the danger that circumstances might make real involvement, making unavoidable decisions, opposing to the formal procedures.

Some critics suggest that the monarch's powers should be transferred elsewhere, perhaps to the Speaker of the Commons, but this would politicize the role to an unhealthy degree.

- THE MONARCHY IS UNREPRESENTATIVE:

A hereditary monarchy cannot claim to be representative of the nation in that it is a hereditary institution. Nor it is socially representative of the people, being based on wealth as well as inherited privilege.

There have been efforts, especially since the death of the Princess of Wales, to reduce some of the barriers between the Royal Family and the people. However, defenders argue that by definition it is impossible for the Royal Family to be socially representative and to be too close to everyday activity, as this would rob the institution of its aura and charm.

- THE MONARCHY IS OVERLY EXPENSIVE:

Criticisms of the cost of the monarchy became pronounced in the 1990s.

Supporters point to economies made by the Royal Family in recent years and to the fact that the costs of the monarchy are offset by revenues from the crown lands

It is argued that the public activities of the Queen and other members of the Royal Family represent good value for money to the British taxpayer. Despite this, several polls have shown that the public are less tolerant of Royal spending than they used to be.

- IN THE MODERN WORLD THE MONARCHY IS NO LONGER NECESSARY:

Though some critics argue in favor of a more open and less costly monarchy on the Scandinavian model, others see the monarchy as an unnecessary institution which does actual harm. They believe that the arguments advanced in favor of the monarchy, are simply myths generated to justify a deeply undemocratic institution. They also argue that the functions performed by the monarch could just as well be carried out by an elected president.

Supporters of the monarchy answer to these criticisms with a variety of arguments. These include that:

- The monarchy retains majority support in the polls
- It is doubtful if an appointed or elected head of state would be able to carry out the symbolic roles of the monarch
- Although the reputation of the monarchy may have been spoiled in recent years it remains of value to the nation

As we have already seen in the results of the survey, the 11% of the people polled support republicanism, which is the movement that seeks to remove the British monarchy and replace it with a republic that has a non-hereditary head of state.

A significant number of republicans assert that hereditary monarchy is unfair and elitist. They claim that in a modern and democratic society no one should be expected to defer to another simply because of their birth. Such a system, they assert, does not make for a society which is

at ease with itself, and it encourages attitudes which are more suited to past ages than to a modern nation. Some claim that maintaining a privileged royal family diminishes a society and encourages a feeling of dependency in many people who should instead have confidence in themselves and their fellow citizens.

The arguments the republicans give against monarchy are that:

- It contradicts democracy, by denying people the basic right of electing their head of state and by devaluating a parliamentary system.
- It is ethnic-discrimination
- It is gender-discriminative
- It demands deference→ It is argued by republicans that the way citizens are expected to address members, however junior, of the royal family, is part of an attempt to keep subjects 'in their place'.
- It is the enemy of merit and aspiration→ The order of succession in a monarchy specifies a person who will become head of state, regardless of qualifications. The highest titular office in the land is not open to "free and fair competition".
- It devalues intellect and achievement→ Republicans argue that members of the royal family reinforce their position with unearned symbols of achievement. Examples in the UK include the Queen's many honorary military titles of colonel-in-chief, regardless of her military experience.
- It harms the monarchs themselves→ Republicans argue that a hereditary system condemns each heir to the throne to an abnormal childhood.
- It is expensive
- It makes the UK appear 'backwards'→ Republicans argue that the monarchy may be considered embarrassing: as a concept it is archaic, and while the UK has a hereditary head of state it cannot claim to be a modern nation
- Monarchs are not impartial, and lack accountability→ Republicans argue that monarchs are not impartial. Instead, they have their own opinions, motives, and wish to protect their interests. Republicans claim that monarchs are not *accountable*, or responsible.

#### 2.2.4.2. THE FUTURE:

The popularity of the British monarchy has increased more than ever, much of it based on celebrity value and revenue from tourism potential. As a system of government it has ceased to exist and is now totally irrelevant. So, will this archaic institution continue into the future in its present form or will the British people replace it with a less expensive means of attracting tourists to Britain? The French have done so and the royal palaces have been preserved and are open to the public. In fact, Paris without the Louvre would not be Paris. So, is the future of Buckingham Palace to be the same or will the present occupants continue holding on to it as they do at present?

In the past decade or more, there have been growing calls from some groups of the society for the monarchy to be abolished and replaced by an elected head of state, in the guise of a president. Will the British monarchy be able to overcome the difficulties of the present times and continue existing, despite all the growing opposition it encounters every day? What is its future? Is its disappearance a matter of some decades or will it manage to perpetuate its existence for centuries? After all, this long-standing institution survived revolutions and wars and faced innumerable setbacks which didn't stop it from prevailing, so why couldn't it do the same now?

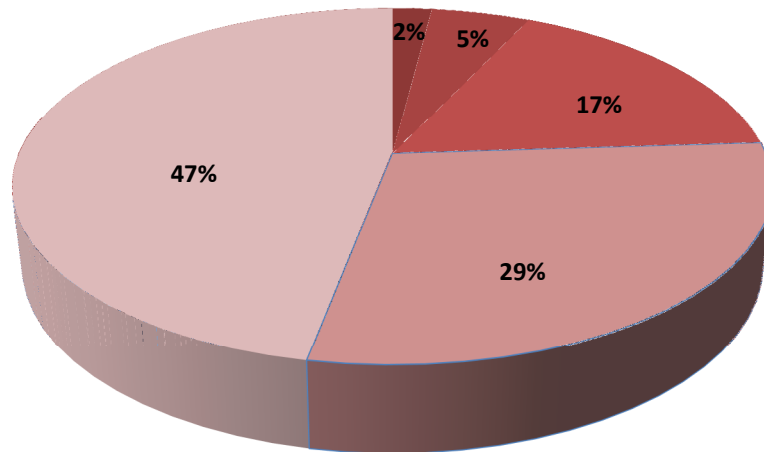
In order to know the public opinion, I included a question in my survey related to this topic. Question number 15 and its possible answers read as follows:

- ❖ **15.** Looking to the future, do you think Britain will not have a monarchy in:
- a) 10 years
  - b) 25 years
  - c) 50 years
  - d) 100 years
  - e) It will last for centuries

As we can see from the graphic next page, the percentage of British people who think that their monarchy will last for centuries is very high (47% in my questionnaire, or the same as saying 52 individuals), which means that most of the British population is of the opinion that, no matter what, their monarchy will be strong enough to overcome the problems it finds day after day in our modern society, with growing groups of population who want to eradicate this institution. The percentages fall as the periods of time decrease. Although the percentage of people who think that Britain won't have a monarchy in 100 years is also quite high (29%), the ones who give it 50, 25 and 10 years of life are quite small (17%, 5% and 2%, respectively).

**15. Looking to the future, do you think Britain will not have a monarchy in:**

■ 10 years ■ 25 years ■ 50 years ■ 100 years ■ It will last for centuries



**2.2.4.2.1. PROPOSALS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

There are four main proposals of how the monarchy could develop in the future:

- Abolition
- Reform
- Leave alone
- Strengthen

- ABOLITION:

The 1990s polls showed an increase in those favoring abolition of the monarchy and a decrease in those who thought Britain would be worse in its absence but, however, more recently, the support for the monarchy has recovered. Around three quarters of those questioned regularly express support for retaining the institution.

- REFORM:

The strength of feeling that a reform is necessary if the institution wants to survive long into the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been recognized by the government and by the Royal Family itself. The monarchy can't remain unchanged and must change to suit the times.

Various suggestions for change have been made to reform the monarchy, as polls show a general desire for a more open and approachable monarchy. Indeed, it has tried in recent years to be more open about its finances and the Queen now pays taxes. But, anyway, there

still are radical suggestions which include transferring the monarch's prerogative powers to the Speaker.

- LEAVE ALONE

There is also a group of people who are of the opinion that as long as the monarchy doesn't interfere in their everyday lives, they don't mind about their existence and they accept the situation as it is.

- STRENGTHEN:

A 1996 poll demonstrated that there is support for giving the Queen a greater role, though the nature of this role was not specified. Nowadays, this support is greatest among young and working class people, many of whom feel that the Queen would run the country more wisely than politicians. However, this view is not held by politicians or, as far as it is known, by members of the Royal Family either. Any attempt by the Queen to become more politically involved would lose her support from sections of the public who value her non-partisan role.

#### 2.2.4.3. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH SPANISH PEOPLE'S OPINION:

In the questionnaire to Spanish people, I decided to ask the same questions than in the one to British people related to the importance they give to their monarchy and about how they see its future. I did it like that so that I could compare the results obtained and see if there are any big differences in the points of view of people who live in two countries with a monarchy.

In the tables provided later it can be seen the existing contrasts in the percentages obtained to the same questions and answers given:

- POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?

Question number 8 from the Spanish questionnaire asked the same as the question number 13 from the English one:

- ❖ **8. In your opinion, are monarchies good or bad for a country?**

The possible answers, as well, were:

- a) Good
- b) Bad
- c) They don't do any difference

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%) :	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%) :
a) Good	56	10
b) Bad	10	30
c) They don't do any difference	34	50

The Spanish questionnaire's results show that Spanish people have a more negative point of view about the monarchy. Just a 10% of the people polled think it is good, in comparison to the 56% of the British people. The opinion that a monarchy is bad rises a 20%, and the one which says that monarchies don't do any difference rises a 16%. From these results we can deduce that Spanish monarchy isn't so followed and admired as the British one. In fact, this conclusion also seems to be proved by the results of other questions from the survey, some of which I will expose in short.

Question number 9 from the Spanish questionnaire asked the same as the question number 14 from the English one but referring to the Spanish monarchy:

❖ **14. Do you think that the monarchy is essential for the Spanish society?**

The possible answers, as well, were:

- a) Of course, it's part of our history and it should remain like that.
- b) Not as much as "essential", but it would be better if it remained.
- c) No, and little would change if we didn't have one.
- d) No, actually a Republic would be better.

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) Of course, it's part of our history and it should remain like that.	36	7
b) Not as much as "essential", but it would be better if it remained.	32	27
c) No, and little would change if we didn't have one.	21	34
d) No, actually a Republic would be better.	11	32

Here we can see some big differences between the results obtained. The percentage of Spanish people who strongly feel that their monarchy is essential for the society because of all the centuries of history it brings with it is a 29% less. On the contrary, the percentage of those who think that little would change if they didn't have one and the ones that are of the opinion that a Republic would actually be better rises a 13% and a 21%, respectively. The percentage of those who think that it isn't as much as essential but it should still remain decreases a 5%.

These results also show that the Spanish monarchy isn't so popular between the Spaniards as the British is among the Britons. Actually, quite a big percentage of Spanish people (32%) prefer a Republic rather than a parliamentary monarchy.



- THE FUTURE:

Question number 13 from the Spanish questionnaire asked the same and provided the same answers as question number 15 from the English one, but referring to the Spanish monarchy. It read as follows:

- ❖ **15.** Looking to the future, do you think Spain will not have a monarchy in:
- a) 10 years
  - b) 25 years
  - c) 50 years
  - d) 100 years
  - e) It will last for centuries

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) 10 years	2	16
b) 25 years	5	23
c) 50 years	17	25
d) 100 years	29	11
e) It will last for centuries	47	25

As it is reflected on the table, Spanish people seem to be more confident or, at least, they hope so, that their monarchy will disappear in quite a short-term. The percentages of people who think that it will disappear in a period of 10, 25 or 50 years rises considerably in comparison to the British results. For Britons, their monarchy will continue to be a long-standing institution, as a 47% of them believe that it will last for centuries and a 29% that it will last, at least, a century more, in contrast with the 25% and 11% of Spanish people who think the same, respectively, about their own monarchy. Most of the Spanish people don't see such a bright future for their monarchy and give it quite a short life.

In my opinion, regardless whether it is referring to the British or to the Spanish monarchy, a monarchy itself is always a powerful and very important institution which has a really imposing existence, with a lot of actual laws or traditions being a direct consequence of its subsistence. I think that having a monarchy is always good as long as it doesn't mean a big and difficult effort for its society. In this case, as we have already seen, the British monarchy isn't a heavyweight for its people, but the other way round, helping to their economy and being UK's image abroad, a good one, which attracts millions of tourists each year.

I also believe that if the monarchy is to be abolished one day, it will have to be caused by some kind of a huge revolution or crisis, because something of such a big scale can only happen if a big group of people agrees. Nowadays we are in times of deep changes, and there is nothing left but waiting to see if the existence of monarchies will be affected by that.

## 2.3. MONARCHY AND RELIGION

Being a king has always meant being closely connected to religion. The earliest ceremonies in which a person was made a monarch usually took place in church and involved a senior priest anointing the new ruler with holy oils. In the Middle Ages, new rulers started to have coronation ceremonies, in which the process of becoming king or queen was marked by putting on the crown. But coronations still took place in church and usually involved anointing, too.

These sacred rituals still form part of the coronation, and they indicate that being a king isn't just about worldly power. It's also about being virtuous, worshipping God, and trying to do good by your people.

Of course, the sacred coronation rites didn't mean that every king or queen was a paragon of virtue. Far from it. But good behavior was expected, and the bishops – who were powerful men in their own right in the Middle Ages – had something to say if a king stepped off the straight and narrow.



*Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953, at Westminster Abbey, London. The new Queen is on the throne as the bishops pay homage to her.*

### 2.3.1. THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS:

The Divine Right of Kings is a political and religious doctrine of royal absolutism. It asserts that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from the will of God. The king is thus not subject to the will of his people, the aristocracy, or any other estate of the realm, including the church. The doctrine implies that any attempt to depose the king or to restrict his powers runs contrary to the will of God and may be considered as treason.

The origins of the theory are rooted in the medieval idea that God had bestowed earthly power to the king, just as He has had given spiritual power and authority to the church, centering on the pope. With the rise of nation-states and the Protestant Reformation however, the theory of Divine Right justified the king's absolute authority in both political and spiritual matters. The theory gained importance in England under the reign of King James I (1603–25). King Louis XIV of France (1643–1715), though Catholic, strongly promoted the theory as well.

The theory of Divine Right was abandoned in England during the Glorious Revolution of 1688–89. The American and French revolutions of the late eighteenth century further weakened the theory's appeal, and by the early twentieth century, it had been virtually abandoned. Nowadays, it has largely become an object of fun.

### **2.3.2. BONDING WITH THE CHURCH:**

The British monarchy is unusual in that the monarch has a religious role as well as a governmental one. In 1521, the Pope gave Henry VIII the title *Defender of the Faith*. When Henry broke with Rome, the Pope took away this title, but Henry persuaded Parliament to vote it to him and his successors in 1543, as defender of the English church. Henry was also named *Supreme Head of the English Church*, and his daughter, Elizabeth I, took the title *Supreme Governor of the Church of England*. Since then, all monarchs have held the title. This title has had important consequences for both the Church and the sovereign.

The link between the monarch and the Church means that the Church of England is the official, or *established*, church in England, and a number of other connections between the Church and state have evolved:

- The archbishops and senior bishops sit in the House of Lords, the second chamber of the British Parliament. This group is known as the *Lords Spiritual*, and they take part alongside the other lords in the debates about new legislation.
- The Lords Spiritual swear an oath of allegiance to the monarch.
- Parish priests also swear an oath of allegiance.
- Bishops and Archbishops may not resign without the permission of the sovereign.

So, what does this religious connection mean for the monarch? It doesn't mean that the sovereign is an active church leader or a priest. The Church of England is effectively led by its *General Synod*, a Church body that includes bishops, representatives of the clergy, and lay church members. But the monarch's role does come with several duties and requirements:

- Appoints bishops and archbishops. The monarch makes appointments based on the advice of the Prime Minister, who in turn bases his advice on lists of candidates supplied by the Church. The Church actually has a big say in the choice of leaders, but the monarch has the final say.
- Opens the General Synod every five years.
- Gives assent to measures passed by the Synod, in the same way that assent is given to laws passed by Parliament.

- Promises to *maintain* (or ensure the survival of) the Church.
- Is a full member of the Church of England who has been confirmed and who takes Holy Communion.

The sovereign also has several obligations to the Church of Scotland, promising to preserve it. But the monarch isn't head of the Church of Scotland. The special relationship of Defender of the Faith is the one between ruler and Church of England.

In addition to playing a role in the Churches of England and Scotland, The Queen recognizes and supports the various other faiths practiced in the UK and Commonwealth.



*The Queen attends the Millennium Church Service at St Paul's Cathedral in London, accompanied by John Moses, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral and Dr. George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.*

#### **2.3.2.1. CONFLICTS WITH THE CHURCH:**

The role of the ruler in the Church of England has brought some complications in the personal lives of kings and princes. In the past, trouble occurred when the Prince of Wales, the future George IV, wanted to marry a Catholic. In the 20th century, even more trouble happened when Edward VIII wished to marry Wallis Simpson, who had been twice divorced. Edward's marriage, which was against the principles of the Church, cost him his crown. The current Prince of Wales, whose wife the Duchess of Cornwall was divorced, has been allowed to marry with the blessing of his mother.

### 2.3.3. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

As we have already seen, the current Queen holds the title of *Supreme Governor of the Church of England*, which has been passing from generation to generation since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, we can deduce that religion had played a really important role in past times, being constantly present in everybody's life. But what about now? What role does religion play in today's society?

I have always had the feeling that religion is becoming less and less important in today's modern society, at least, in the most developed countries, such as the ones forming the European Union. But what is its cause? What produced this change?

As Elizabeth II has a fundamental role in the Church of England, I wanted to know how important is religion to the British people. In order to do so, I decided to include a question in my survey related to religion and the Church, taking advantage, as well, of the recent royal wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton.

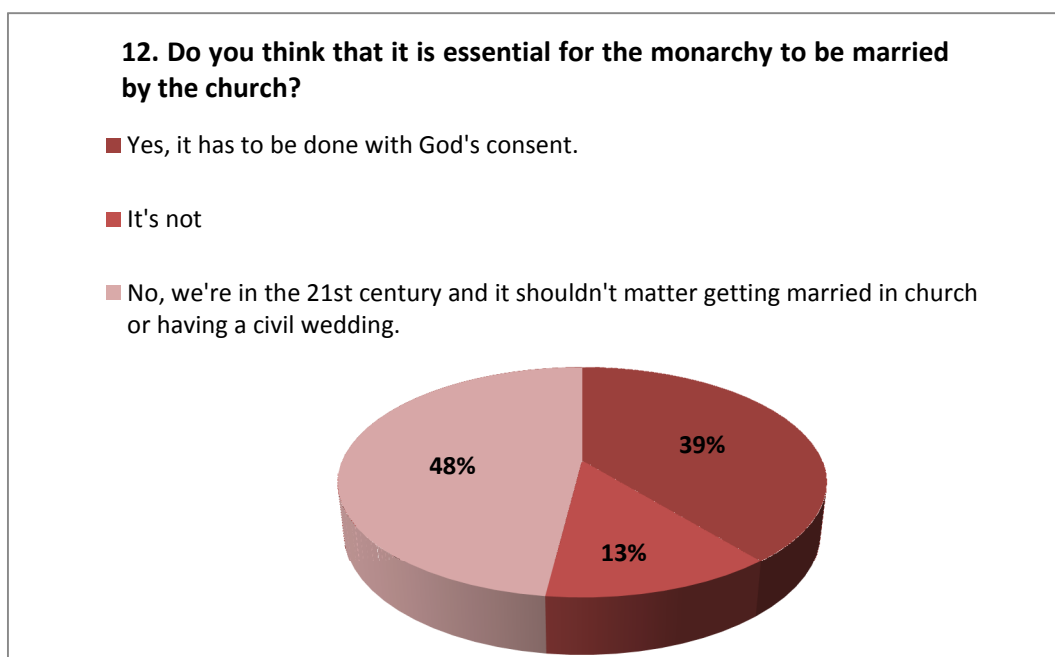
Question number 12 from the British questionnaire read as follows:

- ❖ **12. Do you think that it is essential for the monarchy to be married by the church?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, it has to be done with God's consent
- b) It's not
- c) No, we're in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it shouldn't matter getting married in church or having a civil wedding

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



As you can see, it is clearly reflected in the graphic that, for most of the British working class people, religion doesn't seem to have such an important role in the royal lives. As we can deduce, this also means that it doesn't have an important role in their own lives.

The 48% of the people polled (53 out of 110 in total) consider that we are supposed to be in a modern century, a century of changes and development, so we need to leave all the old and antiquated in the past and move forward to the future, bettering ourselves.

It seems that for those people and for the 13% more (14 individuals), who think that it isn't essential for the monarchy to be married by church, religion isn't connected anymore to the monarchy and, most essentially, to the monarch as it used to happen some centuries ago. Through these results we can clearly see that the doctrine of *The Divine Right of Kings* isn't actual at all.

But we can't forget the 39% of people who think that a royal marriage must be done with God's consent. This shows that there are still people who believe that a marriage, a royal one in particular, is a sacred union, a union that must be done by the church.

I must admit that before doing the survey, I had the impression that British people were quite religious and attended a mass regularly. I guess that I had this impression because when I spent a summer in Cambridge, England, I lived with an old lady who went to the church every Sunday, without exceptions. Considering the results of the survey, I see that I was quite wrong. I guess this is a good example which shows that age is also a really important factor to take into consideration.

Let's compare my results with what the official statistics say.

#### **2.3.3.1. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH THE OFFICIAL NUMBERS:**

The British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) is published annually by the National Centre for Social research since 1983. Its 27<sup>th</sup> report, published in 2011, included a number of issues related to the religion in Britain and to the religious faith and contemporary attitudes. On the purpose of my research, I have extracted the following key points:

- In Britain, those who profess no-religion have risen from 31% to 43% between 1983 and 2008. In 2009, this was found to have further risen to 51%.
- Conversely, in 1983 66% identified as Christian, in 2008 the number was 50%. In 2009, this further declined to 43%.
- The proportion identifying as belonging to some other religion has risen from 2% in 1983 to 5% in 2009.
- In 2008, 37% of the UK population are skeptical, 35% have definite or doubtful.
- In 2009, only 17% of the British population attend religious services at least monthly, and only 11% attend at least weekly.
- Those self-described as members of the Church of England consist of 20% of the population in 2009 (40% in 1983). In 2008, it was found that 49% of this group never

attend services; only 8% of people who identify with the Church of England attend church weekly.

- 62% of people in Britain never attend a religious service.
- 42% of all those questioned are against any form of faith school
- 52% agree that “Britain is deeply divided along religious lines”
- Religion in Britain is estimated to have a ‘half-life’ of one generation

After seeing these official statistics, it seems that the results obtained in my survey don’t differ so much from the reality. There are more nonbelievers year after year, and almost half of those who describe themselves as members of the Church of England (49%) never attend religious services. There is a really big loss of faith and dedication, this is the reality.

After discovering these facts, I wanted to deepen a little bit in the issue and find out more about why do this happen. Is it really true? As in the question from my survey people couldn’t extend more their answers as they could only choose one out of the three possible ones, additionally, I decided to search the net seeking for some British forums where religious issues were discussed in order to know more thoroughly British people’s opinion on this issue.

#### **2.3.3.2. A QUICK LOOK TO BRITISH FORUMS ON THE NET:**

There are countless arguments against religion. Some of them are the following:

- It is a way of controlling millions of people by telling them how to think and what to do.
- It creates division instead of union, causes differences and judgments.
- It is flawed, because it was created by man.
- It causes war and death, giving others an excuse to kill.
- It slows scientific progress and changes the culture.
- It gives people excuses to do things that they should not.
- It allows people to hide from responsibility.
- It is like a drug.
- As humans, we need to believe in something which is bigger than us but what isn’t necessarily true.

On the other hand, some of the few opinions I could find in the forums which defended religion give the following arguments:

- It gives hope to those who need it.
- It is people who declare themselves as religious and then ignore all of the Church's teachings, what is the real cause of problems.
- Religion is not the problem in this world, humanity is.
- Most of the people practice religion peacefully and with love, not hate.
- Lack of tolerance is what rips populations apart, not religion.
- Religion doesn't start wars, people do.

I must admit that I was quite surprised to see that most of the opinions are negative. But, like most institutions, it represents good and bad. Religion becomes a necessity for some and a restrictor for others. It represents a moral compass for those who have nothing and also holds back a basic need for development of a more democratic society.

It stands as an important institution that can serve society but it also requires basic human temperance. Religious organizations should concern themselves with helping those who have no other guidance in their life. They should reach out to people who need and want direction. They should provide a social safety net and in order to accomplish that goal, they likely need the support of those who already have well-established values. Therefore, religions not only require support by those who are well founded in their own sense of morality, but religious organizations should make their number one goal helping those who have no direction.

Religions need not to be over-zealous. There is no need to fight among themselves to prove who is right or wrong. No need to enlist everyone in their ranks. No need to make themselves something more than what they are. No religion is free of tyranny if its entirety of teachings comes from one leader or one small group of like-minded individuals. Zealots become dangerous, too powerful and too fanatical.

#### **2.3.3.3. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH SPANISH PEOPLE'S OPINION:**

As well as knowing British people's opinion on the religious issue, I also wanted to know what Spanish people think about it. That is the reason why I asked them the same question than to the Britons.

Question number 7 from the Spanish questionnaire reads the same as question number 12 from the British one:

- ❖ **7. Do you think that it is essential for the monarchy to be married by the church?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, it has to be done with God's consent
- b) It isn't "essential", but it has always been the tradition, so I don't see why it should change
- c) No, we're in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it shouldn't matter getting married in church or having a civil wedding

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:



<b>ANSWERS:</b>	<b>ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):</b>	<b>SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):</b>
a) Yes, it has to be done with God's consent	39	11
b) It isn't "essential", but it has always been the tradition, so I don't see why it should change	13	43
c) No, we're in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and it shouldn't matter getting married in church or having a civil wedding	48	46

If the number of believers in the United Kingdom is low, in Spain it is even lower. There is only an 11% of Spanish people who strongly believe that a royal wedding must be done with God's consent, a 28% less in comparison with the British. Instead, the percentage of those who think that royals should be married by the church, but just because it has been the tradition for a long time, arises to 43%, in comparison to the British 13%. The percentages of those who have more of a liberal point of view, believing that, nowadays, it shouldn't matter whether getting married in church or having a civil wedding, are more or less the same, with a 46% of Spaniards and 48% of Britons.

Spanish society is clearly way more indifferent to religion than the British one is. Things have changed a lot in the past decades. Nowadays, usually it is only elder people who go to mass or simply to visit the church. It is really unusual to see young people there.

In my opinion, religions should likely remain as a formidable institution within society but not its cornerstone. Many can live happy, moral and godly lives without religion. Many do better and are better people when religion does not run their life. However, there are a lot of people who benefit from religious organizations for good, and that is what really counts. Religion brings faith and hope to people all over the world. It gives belief and spiritual guidance to people who need it. It can transform lives.

But the actual tendency is not to see religion as an important part of our lives. In my opinion, something of such a big scale can't have just a single cause. There are always several factors that need to be taken into consideration which, combined, lead to the loss of faith, to people stopping believing in God.

On the one hand, we could all agree that science has a lot to do with this change. Any religion, throughout history, has tried to explain the origin of the universe and everything we know, from the natural phenomena and the reason why we behave like we do, to the meaning of life and death. With the quite recent scientific revolution, all these religious and mystical explanations have become obsolete, deriving in a lot of people losing their faith and stopping believing in God.

On the other hand, our current lifestyle has also been the cause of this loss of interest towards our spiritual and most inner world. We are too busy and too stressed with all the work we must do and all the problems we have that we don't even have time to think about going to church or having an inner talk with ourselves.

Believing in God is seen as old-fashioned and antiquated. That maybe is the main reason why it is becoming more and more frequent to see only old people going to mass rather than the youngsters.

Speaking from my own experience, I can almost assure that most of young people don't believe in God and aren't interested in religion at all. I know that because, until two years ago, I had studied my whole life in a religious school where, at least once every fortnight we went to a mass, besides from praying every day before the beginning of the lessons and before having lunch, to bless the food we were about to eat. Naturally not everybody, but most of the students made fun of it and didn't take it seriously.

What will happen to our religions, Christianity or any other, if the youngest generations don't collaborate? Will they disappear?

In my humble opinion, leaving aside the subject of whether we believe in God or not, most of the religions (Christianity could be a really good example of it) are a really beneficial source of good values, and if we listened more to their teachings, we could all become better people, helping our degrading society to improve, making the world a better place to live in.

People don't either think that it has such an important relevance in the royal life, in the monarchy's life. In fact, as we have already seen, a big percentage of the population thinks that unions such as marriage, which has been considered sacred for a long time, shouldn't take place in holy buildings, the churches, anymore.

Monarchy doesn't seem to be so associated to religion as it was before.

In my opinion, we should all give a chance to religion. It has some really good teachings that could be really useful for our society.

## 2.4. MONARCHY AND ECONOMY

Questions have always surrounded the royal finances. Everyone knows that royal families are some of the richest people in the world, but where does their wealth come from? How is the work of The Queen funded? How much does the Royal Family cost the tax payers each year? Does The Queen pay tax - and if not, why not?

In this part of the research project, some of these and some other questions that can come to one's mind will be clarified, related to the funding of the British Monarchy, one of the most well-known and richest monarchies in the modern world.

### 2.4.1. PAYING FOR THE MONARCHY IN THE PAST:

In the medieval period, the ruling king or queen owned all the land in the country. Land was the biggest kind of wealth you could have in those days, because you could enjoy the benefits of all the produce grown on the land. If you didn't want the produce, you could allocate the land to tenants and collect rents in the form of either money or services.

If a medieval ruler needed to go to war, he expected his tenants to fight for him. One of the main services that tenants gave in return for land was fighting for their sovereign. An early king's tenants were usually members of the aristocracy, and these nobles were extremely important to medieval rulers.

#### 2.4.1.1. THE ARISTOCRACY:

The British aristocracy began as the high-ranking class of men and women who were close to the royal family, held land and castles as direct tenants of the sovereign, and played a major part in running the country. In the Middle Ages, these nobles did everything from raising and leading royal armies to keeping the peace in their local area. They were the ruling class and stuck together.

A whole hierarchy of aristocrats developed, with titles and property inherited from one generation to the next, like the crown itself. The nobles at the top of the hierarchy were second only to the ruler in power and prestige. The various ranks that developed are, from top to bottom, Duke, Marquis, Earl, Viscount, and Baron. These ranks still exist today, and still include people with a lot of money and property. But hereditary nobles no longer play a central part in government.

But even medieval kings sometimes needed extra help – perhaps to hire more soldiers in a difficult war – so they had to turn to raising taxes. And that sometimes meant trouble.

The main way for an early ruler to raise taxes was to call a meeting of *Parliament* – the representatives of the people – and persuade them to pay money. Parliament evolved in the Middle Ages and from early on had two chambers:

- **The Lords**, made up of members of the nobility plus senior churchmen (archbishops and bishops).
- **The Commons**, consisting of representatives of the people of the country.

To begin with, Parliament advised the king and carried out various administrative functions. But from the 14th century, Parliament developed into the forum where laws were passed, petitions from the people were heard, and taxes were raised.

Getting Parliament to approve taxes wasn't always easy, because people didn't like giving up their own wealth, so Parliament often used its power to get something out of the king in return. A number of rulers had a particularly difficult time with Parliament.

Parliament could become a useful brake on royal power – 'we'll give you the money if you agree to reduce your power or let us pass such-and-such a law'. But Parliament could also be the total undoing of a monarch who didn't know how to manage it properly.

As time went by, taxes became more regularised. Rulers kept hold to specific kinds of taxes so that they could have a regular income. Two examples were the duties that were charged on goods that were traded and the taxes that were charged on people's income.

- **Excise duties:** *Excise duties* – charges on goods that were bought and sold – became a common way of raising money in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. By this period, the feudal system of land in return for services had disappeared, and royal feudal rights were finally abolished in 1660. The rulers of the 17th century seized on excise duties as a way of raising money. All kinds of goods were taxed – for example, salt, candles, beer, and coal. Because most of these items were necessities, ordinary people hated the taxes and feared the men who collected them. But in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, up to half of government income came from these kinds of taxes.
- **Income tax:** The other important kind of tax was tax on peoples' income. *Income tax* was first introduced in 1798 and was collected frequently in the 19th century. In the 20th century, it came to be seen as a way of achieving social equality, by taxing the rich to help the poor. But 19<sup>th</sup> century rulers and governments saw it more simply as a way of paying for crises, such as the Crimean War.



Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister

By the 17th century, also the government was paid for by taxes, and taxes were raised by Parliament. The most powerful people in Parliament were, and still are, the *government ministers*, the senior politicians of the political party that has the majority in Parliament. The ministers formulate policies and devise new laws. Monarchs sometimes found them hard to work with because they used power in the way that the crown once did.

Not surprisingly, one minister usually took the lead, and as time went by, this leader was recognised and given a title – the *Prime Minister*. The first Prime Minister was Robert Walpole, a politician who entered Parliament in 1700 and

was Prime Minister from 1721 to 1742. The Prime Minister became the person who formed the link between Parliament and the monarch.

## **2.4.2. THE FUNDING OF THE MONARCHY NOWADAYS:**

The Monarchy has sometimes been described as an expensive institution, with Royal finances shrouded in confusion and secrecy. In reality, the Royal Household is committed to ensuring that public money is spent as wisely and efficiently as possible, and to making Royal Finances as transparent and comprehensible as possible.

Each year, the Royal Household publishes a summary of Head of State expenditure, together with a full report on Royal public finances. These reports can be downloaded from the royal website: <http://www.royal.gov.uk/>

The *Head of State expenditure* is the official expenditure relating to The Queen's duties as Head of State and Head of the Commonwealth.

Nowadays, the process of obtaining the monarchy's funding has changed a little bit, but taxpayers still remain a really important factor to take into consideration. The income of the reigning monarch and his or her immediate family— known as the 'Royal Household'—comes from four principal sources:

- The Civil List;
- Grants-in-aid;
- The Privy Purse;
- Personal income.

### **2.4.2.1. THE CIVIL LIST:**

The Civil List, often used by those in favour of abolishing the monarchy, this essential fund, financed by the British taxpayer, originated with the Bill of Rights. Back in 1701, when Queen Elizabeth had been on the throne for nearly 20 years, she negotiated a rise in the *Civil List*, the money paid by the government to the royal family, and during the negotiating process, the royal finances were made public as never before.

The Civil List dates back to the 18th century, when George III made a deal with Parliament. In return for the king's surrender to Parliament of his so-called 'hereditary revenues', members of Parliament agreed to provide a fixed annual income to the Royal Household. The "hereditary revenues" are the income generated by the Crown Lands, estates owned over a period of time by the monarchy. In practice, this exchange has received huge dividends for Parliament: in 2007–08, the income from the Crown Lands was £190.8m, compared to the £40m paid to the monarch. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, the Civil List has included payments to

give several other members of the royal family, from Prince Philip downwards, an income. The state has also paid for other essential royal expenses (including the various forms of transport that get the family around the world). In addition, the family enjoy income from other estates that weren't included in George III's deal.

Since 2001, the Civil List itself has been fixed at £7.9m a year for the Queen until 2011, with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip), receiving a separate annuity of £359,000.

So for what does the Civil List *pay*? In broad terms, it funds the following expenses for both the reigning monarch and his or her spouse:

- around 70 per cent pays the salaries of the 645 servants, butlers, and other employees of the Royal Household;
- most of the remaining 30 per cent covers the costs of royal garden parties (attended by some 48,000 people each year) and hospitality during state visits.

In addition, a number of annual parliamentary allowances are issued each year to individual members of the Royal Family. These amount to £2.5m extra in total. Since April 1993, however, the Queen has, in practice, refunded £1.5m of this money to Parliament, using her personal pot of money, the Privy Purse. The remaining £1m has been retained annually as income for the Duke of Edinburgh and, until her death in 2002, the Queen Mother (who received £643,000 a year). All other senior royals performing official duties are now paid annuities out of the Privy Purse, rather than the Civil List.

Perhaps surprisingly, one of the few key members of the Royal Household who has no such annuity income is the present heir, the Prince of Wales (Prince Charles), who, as Duke of Cornwall, earns substantial income from his 130,000-acre Duchy of Cornwall estate. Originally bestowed on the Black Prince in 1337, despite its name, the Duchy actually extends over 23 counties. According to the Prince's official website, in 2007–08, his income from the Duchy was £16.3m, a year-on-year increase of £1m, or 7 per cent.







*The Duchy of Cornwall*



**2.4.2.2. GRANTS-IN-AID:**

Awarded to the Crown by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), grants totalling £15.3m a year (fixed until at least 2011) are bestowed to the so-called ‘occupied royal palaces’. These are those in which members of the Royal Family still live.

The occupied palaces include the following:

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buckingham Palace (home of the Queen and Prince Philip)</li></ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St James's Palace (home of Prince Charles)</li></ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kensington Palace</li></ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Windsor Castle (second home of the Queen)</li></ul>

In addition to grants-in-aid, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle also help to maintain themselves by means of their summer public openings. Grants may not be used for the upkeep of the two royal estates—Sandringham in Norfolk and Balmoral in Scotland—which are the Queen’s private property and not her legacy as head of state.

 <p>Sandringham in Norfolk</p>	 <p>Balmoral in Scotland</p>
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A further set of grants are also awarded by the Department for Transport (DfT), to the amount of £6.2m in 2007–08. These cover the cost of transporting members of the Royal Family to and from their three thousand annual engagements in the UK and overseas. Until she was taken out of service in 1997, the biggest grant was used to maintain the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, the Queen’s official ship, which was launched in 1953. Now that *Britannia* is little more than a visitor attraction, royal transport consists of:

- the Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft of the No. 32 (The Royal) Squadron;
- the Royal Train;
- other chartered and scheduled flights on official visits.

There is a portion of the grants-in-aid budget (amounting to £500,000 in 2007–08) which is spent on royal ‘communications’—that is, letters, telephone bills, and other correspondences, including invitations to garden parties.

#### **2.4.2.3. THE PRIVY PURSE:**



Dating back to 1399, the Privy Purse is derived largely from the income generated by the Duchy of Lancaster—a huge expanse of land covering 19,268 acres and the only surviving Crown estate to remain in the hands of the monarch. It is kept under lock and key by the monarch’s personal accountant and administered by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—in recent years, almost always a senior Cabinet minister.

#### **2.4.2.4. PERSONAL INCOME:**

Like anyone else, senior members of the Royal Family, despite deriving much of their income from the state, are free to generate their own earnings— as they pay Income Tax on them, like their subjects. Examples of the personal incomes earned by individual members of the Royal Household include the military salaries drawn by Prince Charles, who served for a time in the Royal Navy, Prince Andrew, who saw action during the Falklands War, and Prince Harry, who is currently in the Household Cavalry. Other examples include the income earned by Prince Charles from his Duchy of Cornwall estate, in the form of land rent and the proceeds from goods produced there—for example, his ‘Duchy Originals’ products. His youngest brother, Prince Edward, Duke of Wessex, has a film and television company, Ardent Productions.

More sporadic sources of income might include everything from share dividends to unexpected benefits from betting on the races.



### 2.4.3. TAXATION AND THE MONARCHY:

Republicans have been arguing for a long time that the Queen and Royal Family get great dividends each year from the British taxpayer, while giving back little, or nothing, in return. In truth, this is not entirely true. Like everyone, the Queen has always paid *indirect taxes*—that is, Value-Added Tax (VAT), and other taxes imposed on consumer goods and services. She has



*The devastating fire at Windsor Castle, 1992*

also long paid, on a voluntary basis, local taxation—that is, *Council Tax* and, before that, the Community Charge (or ‘Poll Tax’) and rates. It was not until 1993, however, that she agreed to pay *direct taxes*—principally, Income Tax. This decision was taken because of the revelation that much of the £60m cost of repairing Windsor Castle following a devastating fire in 1992 was funded by taxpayers, despite the fact that they already hugely subsidized the Royal Household.

The monarch and certain members of her immediate family do, however, continue to enjoy substantial tax breaks not granted to her subjects. In particular, while the Privy Purse pays tax and the Queen’s personal estate is subject to Inheritance Tax, grants-in-aid are not regarded as taxable, and neither is any transfer of property ‘from sovereign to sovereign’—that is, between the Queen and her successor.

### 2.4.4. THE ROYAL FINANCES AND THE CRISIS:

Head of State expenditure has reduced significantly over the past decade, from £87.3 million in 1991-92 (expressed in current pounds) to £41.5 million in 2008-09. In the year 2008-09 The Queen cost the taxpayer just 69 pence per person.

Head of State expenditure is met from public funds in exchange for the surrender by The Queen of the revenue from the Crown Estate.

Every year the Royal Household publishes an Annual Summary of Head of State expenditure, together a full report on Royal public finances.

A summary of Head of State expenditure met from public funds 2008 and 2009 reads as follows:

<u>HEAD OF STATE EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
- The Queen's Civil List	<b>13.9</b>	12.7
- Parliamentary Annuities	<b>0.4</b>	0.4
- Grants-in-aid	<b>22.6</b>	22.0
- Expenditure met directly by Government Departments and the Crown Estate	<b>4.6</b>	4.9
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>41.5</b>	40.0

## 2.4.5. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Nowadays, ordinary people are looking after their budgets more than ever, trying to save some money, struggling to reach the end of the month without worrying about any kind of money problems. We are in an era of a worldwide economical crisis; we constantly hear it on the radio or watch it on TV. Economy is in the spotlight, and it seems to be what everybody is thinking and worrying about right now. Unemployment, inflation, bankruptcy, rise of prices... all these are words which, unfortunately, we are very familiar with, and they are all related to one thing: money.

Given the fundamental importance money has in the modern world, the fact that the British monarchy gets a huge amount of it from the government sometimes makes it a complicated and tricky issue, an argument used by Republicans and anti-monarchists to try to dissolve the monarchy.

While doing my research, I found a lot of misunderstandings about the cost of the monarchy, many of them perpetuated by republicans and journalists who deliberately give inaccurate information. But are the British citizens' opinions blurred by this inaccurate information? Or are they well-informed about where do their monarchy gets the money from for its funding, what amount do they receive from the government, what percentage of ordinary people's taxes goes to them or what is it spent on? What do they really think about it? Do they agree with the amount? Do they disagree? How much do they care? What is the real opinion of the working class, ordinary people who go to work every day and face daily life problems? Do they think it is fair?

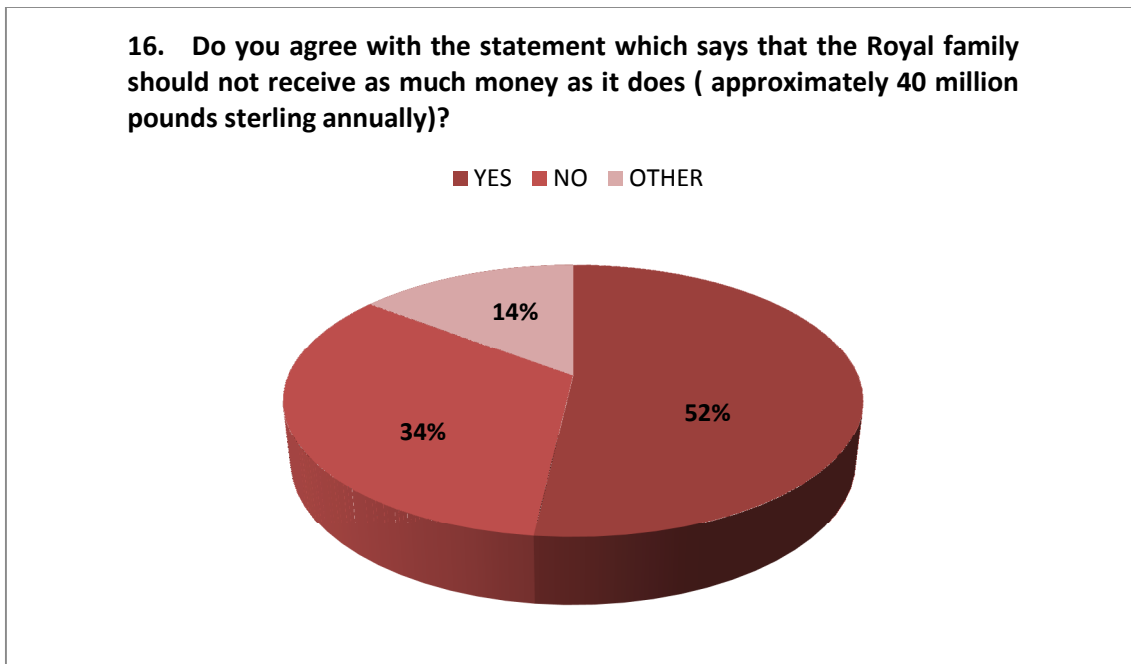
In order to discover British people's opinions on this delicate issue, I decided to include one question in my survey related to economy. Question number 16 reads as follows:

- ❖ **16. Do you agree with the statement which says that the Royal family should not receive as much money as it does (approximately 40 million pounds sterling annually)?**

Unlike the other questions of the survey, in this one I decided to leave the participants to answer with an empty box. Multiple-choice answers could also have been an option, but I considered that it wouldn't fully express people's opinion on this topic, and that an empty box would be a fairer way to evaluate "real" answers. As it turned out, I was right.

I have noticed that all the opinions are quite divided, and that those who are against the monarchy receiving so much money give quite weak arguments and are misinformed or confused about the reality of what the monarchy does with the money received. On the other hand, those who think that the monarchy deserves all that money, really surprised me, because I didn't think that there would be so many people well-informed and so interested in this issue, even being able to mention some statistics and figures that I even didn't know myself after all the research I've done. That forced me to research more and confirm that all they were saying was true. That showed me that a lot of British people are interested and well-informed about where part of their taxes goes to and they don't waste their time just complaining and criticizing without having any solid arguments.

In the following graphic we can see the percentage of the different possible positions taken by the 110 people polled:



As you can see, the majority of the 110 polled (52%) agree with the statement which says that the Royal family should not receive as much money as it does, but the percentage of those who don't agree with the statement (34%) is also quite high. The "OTHER" section, has also a great importance (14%).

In order to know more deeply about what are the different opinions of the people polled, I will deal with the arguments for and against the Monarchy receiving this high amount of money separately.

#### **2.4.5.1. Those who DON'T AGREE with the statement (34%):**

Most of the people who don't agree with the statement give a justifiable explanation for their positioning, and the arguments they give to support their "no" answer are related to the following points:

- TOURISM:

A lot of people think that the monarchy generates far more money for the country than what it is spent on them. One way of doing so is by attracting millions of tourists from all over the world who want to visit places related to the monarchy.

Actually, sites related to the Royals are the major attractions in the UK. According to figures from VisitBritain, the monarchy earns Britain £500million a year from tourists visiting Royal attractions.

Landmarks such as the Tower of London, visited by 2.5 million people a year, net half a billion pounds in fees. Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle also featured highly, drawing in nearly four million visitors.

This shows that Britain's monarchic heritage draws tourists to just about every corner of the country.

- THE REVENUE FROM THE CROWN ESTATE:

To my surprise, quite a lot of people have mentioned that it isn't the monarchy who receives the money from the government, but on the contrary, through the huge income from the Crown Estate (the Queen's property). In return, the British government finances the duties undertaken by the Queen as Sovereign.

As a matter of fact, in the year ending 31 March 2010, the Crown Estate earned a net income surplus (profit) of £210.7 million, so it was the British government who made this surplus.

In my humble opinion, compared to this huge income from the Crown Estate, the approximately £40 million the monarchy gets per year from the government isn't such a big amount of money as Republicans claim. It could seem an enormous amount for a normal person, but we must take into consideration that the government and the whole English community gets a lot more in return from their monarchy than they give to it.

Moreover, there are those who think that the Queen should have full access to the Crown Estate's revenue and that the monarchy is actually robbed by the government.

- CHARITY:

Some of the people polled who support the idea of the monarchy getting the £40 million from the government think that it is fair because the Royal Family contributes with thousands or even millions of pounds on charity.

The Royal Family plays an important role in supporting and encouraging the public and charity sectors. About 3,000 organizations list a member of the Royal Family as patron or president.

The huge range of these organizations - covering every subject from education to the environment, hospitals to housing - allows members of the Royal Family to meet people from a wide range of national and local life, and to understand their interests, problems and concerns.

Some members of the Royal Family have also established their own charities, like The Prince's Trust, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, a charity which provides advice and support for people acting as carers.



The Princess Royal Trust  
*for Carers*

- THE USE OF THE MONEY:

A lot of people say that the money given to the Royal Family isn't just for one person, but for the whole family. Moreover, the money isn't spent on whatever the monarch fancies, but it is to support the Queen's functions as Head of State and to cover all the expenses it involves: paying for the garden parties, hospitality during state visits, the salaries of the 645 servants, butlers, and other employees of the Royal Household, to maintain and take care of all the Royal Palaces and the transportation on official visits, among others.

- OTHER:

Other arguments used by the people polled to defend the funding of the monarchy are:

- It generates a lot of employment.
- Royals give up their private lives, so it is fair to give them all this money.
- As long as they remain ambassadors of good will on behalf of the UK, they are worth every penny.
- Banks and governments are throwing money away for far lesser causes.
- The fact that the Royals are the part of UK society that acts as a glue against individualism and consumption.

**2.4.5.2. Those who AGREE with the statement (52%):**

In general, I noticed that those who think the amount of money the monarchy receives is too much are quite misinformed, and the arguments they give to support their point of view are totally wrong and out of place. Such comments are some of the following examples:

- *"If the money comes from the people and our taxes, it's not fair because it doesn't come back to us in any way."* → This argument is totally false. The British monarchy contributes a lot to its society by creating employment, through the tourism it generates, by the representation, recognition and consideration it creates abroad, but, above all, by unifying the British nation, bringing everybody together. Not every country has the privilege to have that.
- *"If they are our representatives, they have no need to amass personal fortunes"*. → Actually, the monarchy doesn't amass the money it gets from the government as personal fortune. It is used to cover all the expenses the different functions of the Royals involve, such as all the travelling, the garden parties, official visits and appointments, etc.
- *"Yes, it's a waste of tax, they should either work or do more for society to earn it."* or *"They should do more to earn their money."* → And my question is: Aren't they doing enough? They are giving up on their private lives by being constantly followed by the

*paparazzi*, all their most private secrets being uncovered on the magazine's covers, and devoting their whole life to the country and its people. The stars, at least, can choose whether they want their private lives to be made public or not, but the Royals can't. They constantly have to do what they're supposed and told to do, to behave according to what everybody expects from them. I can't imagine what kind of pressure that must be, not everyone could cope with it. Just for that, they deserve all our respect and consideration.

But it isn't just because of them giving up on their private lives, but also because of other reasons I have already mentioned in other parts of my research project. The British monarchy does a lot for its society by attracting all the tourists from all over the world and by giving away millions of pounds from the Crown Estate's income.

- *"Definitely, we should not have to incur expense due to their lifestyles"* → As it turns out, British people don't incur expense due to the Royal's lifestyle. According to Buckingham Palace's accounts, in 2010, the Queen and the Royal Family cost the taxpayer only 62p per person. I don't think that this amount of money has such a detrimental effect on British people's pay check. I'm sure they pay a lot more to the government by means of other taxes.
- *"They should make their own money."* → In fact, they make it, they have personal income. As I have already said, the money the government gives to the monarch is used to cover the expenses that being a Head of State involves, it isn't to be spent as they please. I believe that, as they generate a lot of money for the country with all the tourism and the income from the Crown Estate, it is fair, at least, to cover these kind of expenses, as their efforts are for the country's good.

Regarding to the other opinions, absolutely everyone agrees that the amount of money they receive is way too much and that a renegotiation of their annuity must be made. I've come across quite a lot of people who believe that it is unfair that the Royals are living in such big commodities and luxuries when there is still a lot of people living in poverty in the UK, thus they should also be seen making cutbacks in their spending as everyone else. This opinion is perfectly understandable given the fact that there are still a lot of people who don't have anything to eat in their fridges or even a place to spend the night and must attend soup kitchens or welfare shelters. It is really sad to see these huge differences between both lifestyles, and I also think that something must be done in order to change that, although monarchy is contributing a lot with all the money it generates from charities. But it isn't necessary to look at the extreme cases, it's enough to look at ourselves. Nowadays, UK's citizens, as well as millions of people all over the world, are constantly struggling with money problems, being forced to make a lot of cutbacks, so it seems pretty unfair the Royals keeping the same high standards of lifestyle when everybody else is doing great efforts to survive this awful economical crisis.

There is also a bunch of people who expressed the view that the Royals should only get the money from the territories they own and their personal income, as they have their own businesses and earn quite a lot by themselves. Despite that, the government should be responsible for its safety. Many of them said that they feel that this huge amount of money is a complete waste of the taxpayer's hard earned salary. A middle-aged man even commented: *"They should be on minimum wage privilege, as it is not a right to have their lifestyles paid for"*.

It isn't for me to judge if it is a waste of the taxpayer's money or not, or if it is a right to have their lifestyles paid for or not, but I must point out that the positioning of everyone who is against their monarchy receiving so much money was quite strong. Intensifying adverbs such as *totally*, *absolutely* or *definitely* were constantly appearing in the answers. This means that they really feel and fully support what they said.

There was a woman that truly surprised me, because she had just discovered that the monarchy gets this high amount of money from the government. This was a big surprise for me because I have always thought that British people were all well-informed about their monarchy, as it is always so present in their lives and they always seem very interested in everything related to them.

#### **2.4.5.3. Those who have NOT CLEAR answers (14%):**

In the "OTHER" section, I have included all those opinions which don't choose a yes or no answer. They can mainly be divided into three groups:

1. In the first group, we have those people who frankly admit that they don't care, or simply don't want to comment.

I was greatly surprised when I read a comment literally saying "*It doesn't bother me*". I think it should bother everyone who has a monarchy in their country, because whether directly or indirectly, it affects you. Though it is not necessary for you to know absolutely everything about how the monarchy works or what every penny is spent on, I think that, at least, people should be interested in where a part of their taxes goes and if it is wisely used or not.

2. In the second group, there are those people who admit not knowing enough about the spending of that money thus they decided not to comment because they can't make an informed decision. I have also included in this group those people who think that, first of all, we must calculate how much money is generated by the monarchy so that we could compare if the monarchy really deserves receiving the £40 million annually.

This seems a really good way of dealing with the question. I believe that when you state an opinion, you can only do it when you know for sure what you are talking about. You must be informed about the subject of discussion in order to be able to formulate an accurate, clear and justifiable answer. Otherwise, misunderstandings and false suppositions take place, and our opinion isn't totally valid.

3. Finally, in the third group we have those people who state that it is a difficult and complicate question, as there are several things to take into consideration. In general, they all agree that the amount of money they receive may be a little excessive, but they also say that there are several factors that must be weighted up. Such factors are:

- All the money they bring in through tourists coming to see them.
- Their double representation of the country.
- Their dealing with a lot of countries which have monarchies.
- All the money doesn't just support them.

A woman suggested: "*it has to be more transparent of what they have contributed to the country and society to make them worth receiving such money*". Another one says:

*“If this is what it takes to pay for them, then yes, as long as they perform the civic duties”.*

In conclusion, there are several factors to take into consideration. I agree that the amount of money the monarchy receives is a little bit excessive and that royals should also reduce their spending, as these are difficult times for economy and a lot of people is struggling with money problems. But, on the other hand, we must also bear in mind that monarchy brings millions of pounds into the country, so I think that we shouldn't be so critical. It is the government's duty to administrate all this money, so it isn't monarchy's fault if it is badly invested.

#### **2.4.5.4. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH SPANISH PEOPLE'S OPINION:**

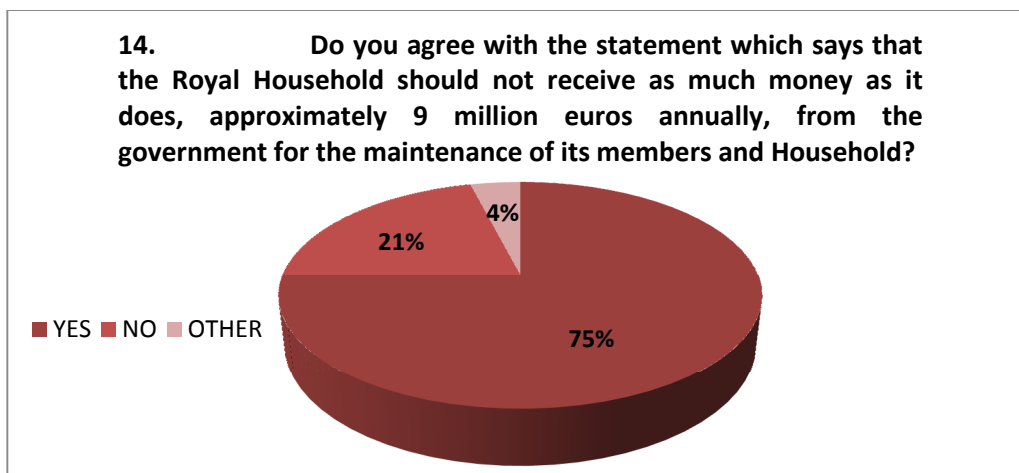
Given the fact that Spain, as well as Britain, is a parliamentary monarchy, its monarchy also gets a certain amount of money from the government for all kind of expenses. However, in Spain, the amount is fairly reduced in comparison to the British royals: approximately 9 million euros per year. Based on this figure, I wanted to know what was Spanish people's opinion regarding this fact. Is it very different from the British society? Are the opinions similar? And if there are significant differences, what is it due to?

Question number 14 from the Spanish questionnaire read as follows:

- ❖ **14.** Do you agree with the statement which says that the Royal Household should not receive as much money as it does, approximately 9 million euros annually, from the government for the maintenance of its members and Household? Of course, all this apart from disposing from other profits such as the not payment of certain taxes, their security, traveling abroad at state's expense, etc.

In this question, I decided to leave the participants to answer with an empty box as well. Apart from the fact that then I would be able to obtain “real” answers, I could also better distinguish all the existing differences in opinion between both nationalities, each coexisting with a monarchy in its respective country.

With the answers obtained, I elaborated the following graphic, showing the results for each of the three possible positions taken:





We can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires in the following table:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) Yes	52	75
b) No	34	21
c) Other	14	4

Unlike in the British questionnaire, here the opinions weren't divided. In fact, most of the Spanish people polled consider that their monarchy shouldn't receive such a big amount of money. It is a 23% more in comparison to the British, and it might seem surprising, as the amount of money the Spanish Household receives is approximately 39,4 million euros less than the British one does. What's the explanation Spanish people give to defend their opposition, then? On the contrary than in the British questionnaire, here the roles are the other way round. The ones who give more justifications for their positioning are those who think that their monarchy shouldn't receive such a big amount of money (75%), and those who agree with the statement usually don't give any justification at all for their positioning (21%).

Next, I'll set out all the justifications and explanations Spanish people give for their positioning.

- THOSE WHO AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT (75%):

Those who think that the Spanish monarchy shouldn't receive such a big amount of money can be divided into two groups: the ones who think that they should spend less, and the ones who believe that they shouldn't receive any penny.

The justifications given to support their point of view are the following:

- The crisis, being the reason that most appears in the answers. Most people believe that in these difficult times, all that money should be destined for better causes, like for example as payment to the unemployed.
- It isn't right to receive all that amount just because you are the country's image.
- We are supposed to be in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not in medieval times.
- It is very unfair, because there are a lot of poor people who barely have something to eat and must do great efforts to maintain themselves, while the royals have all their wishes and whims paid for with ordinary people's taxes. A lot of people maintain that if they want to have a luxurious life, they should pay for it themselves.
- They are people like us after all, so we should all have the same rights. They should work and pay the same taxes as everyone else.

Although supporting this point of view, a lot of people admit that Spain has always been very traditional and that it won't be easy to change things as they are.

I have found a really strong opposition towards the monarchy in a lot of answers provided in this block. People are angry and they strongly disagree with what, according to them, is a very big injustice. I have even found some rude expressions in a few occasions.

- THOSE WHO DON'T AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT (21%):

In this block, most of the people don't give any kind of justification, but those who do, state the following:

- The Spanish monarchy deserves a better treatment from the government, and the royals do a lot to merit all the money they receive.
- Saving this amount of money wouldn't make any relevant difference for the government's budget (although this point is argued by people who belong to the previous block).
- They deserve it for allowing us to have a democracy.

- THOSE WHO HAVE NOT CLEAR ANSWERS (4%):

Here the answers can be divided into two groups:

- Those who say that they don't have enough knowledge about what the money is spent on to comment.
- And those who say that several factors must be taken into consideration. They believe that, although royals could try to spend less money, they do their duty very well and they need a certain amount of money to undertake them. According to them, they are a very important diplomatic body, so it isn't strange or excessive the fact that they don't have to pay certain taxes. Having security is also important, as there have been several attempts of attack on them. And, finally, it isn't strange either the fact that they travel abroad for free, as in most cases it is with a diplomatic or mediating purpose.

As it is demonstrated by the results of my survey, Spanish people are more reluctant to accept the fact that their monarchy gets big amounts of money from the government, although, as we have seen, these amounts are way smaller than the British. The arguments they give to support their opposition are also weaker, as they aren't based on any kind of statistics or solid justification, but only on personal judgment. The results have also showed a big opposition to the monarchy as an institution.

## 2.5. MONARCHY AND THE MEDIA

Considering the media-culture influence nowadays, it is necessary to highlight the huge power the media has. Billions of people watch the news, listen to the radio, read the newspapers or search the Internet every day in order to keep informed about what happens in the world. Depending on what kind of language is used and how things are said, our points of view change. The media present the world in particular ways and contribute, this way, to the formation of specific attitudes and opinions among the public. Mass media set the terms of what is important and what is not, controlling somehow our own ideals, having enough power to impress their own definitions of the world. And it is because its great influence on today's society why it plays such an important role for the monarchy and the royal's image.

The reality is that all the British media are really interested in the discussion about the monarchy in the United Kingdom and, particularly, about the present sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. The institution of monarchy has survived in Britain for over a millennium, with Queen Elizabeth II occupying the throne for the last fifty-nine years. Not surprisingly, the Queen has been an object of intense media attention throughout her whole reign, perhaps even more than the heads of state in other democratic countries. The main reasons as to why Elizabeth II generates such intense media interest are that it is considered to be the symbol of British nationhood, that she is at spotlight as an individual person together with her family and because as a constitutional head of state and, therefore, the most important representative of the institution of monarchy, the Queen is the central point for the intense debate which is taking place in the UK between the supporters of a monarchy and the defenders of a republic. The mass media stand in the middle of this debate. Even though the Queen is not the subject of daily media reports, key royal events such as important anniversaries or occasional public appearances result in intensive media coverage not only in the UK but also abroad.

All the royal rituals mean a huge pageantry, and it is media's responsibility to inform and show it to the public. This way, although almost powerless, the institution of the monarchy is seen as celebrated and a symbol of continuity and national identity. The Queen's image is of particular importance, as she is considered to be the head of the nation.

In the middle fifties of the last century, there were a series of events which showed the importance of the Queen's public role. People began to be fascinated by seeing her, as if she was still attached to the magic associated with kings and queens from the medieval times. If they couldn't see her in person, people increasingly had the opportunity to see her in the papers and on television. The media were becoming more and more interested in the monarchy, and they began to give the monarch and her family closer scrutiny after the late sixties. The royal family was present in the nation's life as it never had been before.

Media's coverage fever pitch, however, was reached in 1969, when Prince Charles was 21 and any newspaper and television company was struggling to be the first one who told the public what kind of life he has, how he was being prepared for his future role as king and what was his behavior like.

By then, the royal family was used to be filmed on state occasions and royal visits, to have photographs of themselves relaxing at home published in magazines, and to be written about in the press. But most of this coverage was of public events and even the more personal pictures were carefully selected. The royal family didn't want everybody to know about their life inside Buckingham Palace or to overhear private conversations. Maybe then they could control more or less what was released or published in the media, but things have changed now.

With the yellow journalism's increasing popularity, a vast amount of public seems to prefer eye-catching headlines, exaggerations, scandals, sensationalism and gossiping. If we add this to the fact that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century people are just as fascinated by the monarchy as they have never been, royals become the focus of paparazzi and sensational journalists' attention. Nowadays, many media stories cover the private lives of royal family members.



*An example of Princess Diana's harassment by paparazzi, 1996*

But this can also bring problems. The royals are news, and a number of people have tried to exploit this fact by breaking royal security in various ways. The most known and tragic case was the one of Princess Diana's death of 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 1997. Everybody blames the paparazzi for Diana's and Dodi Al Fayed's – her couple by then – deaths in a car crash in a tunnel in Paris. Apparently, they were escaping from a whole bunch of them in search of a little privacy when the accident occurred. It was and still is popularly believed that they were pursued to their death by the paparazzi. After Princess Diana's decease, the whole nation mourned and paparazzi's job was bitterly criticized.

Fortunately, nothing such extreme and dramatic has happened again, but there still are episodes in which paparazzi or tabloid magazines are often reported for taking and publishing private photographs, either involving royal members or celebrities.

Although the emergence of the popular press, radio, television and, most recently, the Internet has caused some headaches to the monarchy, it has also contributed to the elevation of its symbolic role by representing it not only in a serious and straightforward way, but also in a sentimental and emotional one. The British royalty constantly appears on the media news, what doesn't let British citizens forget about the family which symbolically represents them.

It was precisely the media which had a fundamental role in the last royal wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton that took place the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2010. I will analyze this role more deeply in the second part of the research project, the one mostly dedicated to the analysis of British people's reactions towards a royal wedding and their monarchy as an institution itself.

## 3. THE LAST BRITISH ROYAL WEDDING

### 3.1. A LITTLE INTRODUCTION TO ROYAL WEDDINGS

The modern monarchies act as a guarantee for the established set of values, but the most peculiar about the parliamentary ones is their constant balance between the divine and traditional, the legal and the democratic. This way, the broadcast ceremonies addressed to a massive public become an essential and symbolic path to their status' perpetuation. It enables the royalty to look divine and mundane at the same time, as well as distant and close.

People like to see these contrasts, and ceremonies such as royal weddings make them clear. The Queen is seen as sublime and common, extraordinary and normal, solemn and informal, mysterious and accessible, regal and democratic.

British monarchy's constant loss of constitutional power throughout the last century has made its ceremonial's extension and adaptation more important than ever. As a consequence, royal weddings have lately become a big public show. During centuries, they have been celebrated privately and sometimes at night. Nowadays, however, apart from being celebrated in public, they are also broadcast in the media, becoming number one mass media events.

The monarchy has been the symbol of the unification of a nation for centuries, but its abolition has also been claimed in several occasions as a result of the diversity of opinions. That's why when it comes to royal image, it is extremely important to do it right during such a crucial event as a royal wedding. Any ceremony or ritual bonds the present with those features from the past we already have or which we want to promote as important.

Monarchic rituals consist of highlighting respect and of repressing any possible hostility towards the monarchy. In actual democracies, with such huge numbers of audience, broadcast ceremonies are central instruments for the monarchy and its members' image.

Royalty expects to get closer to the common people by trying to show the institution's most "common and human" side, so that the whole nation would be able to identify itself with the monarchic institution which represents them.

Royal weddings seem to attract the attention of entire countries, or even of worldwide communities. They seem to make the monarchies look more "divine" but, at the same time, more accessible to everyone than ever.

#### 3.1.1. THE TELEVISED HISTORY OF ROYAL WEDDINGS

British royal weddings have always been breathtaking. From Queen Victoria to Princess Diana, they have been full of majesty and splendor.

Ever since the first televised royal wedding in 1960, the nation has been greed, and with Prince William's engagement to Kate Middleton announce, speculations began about what type of ceremony they would have, what they can learn from the previous unions, etc.



Princess Margaret's marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones was the first ever televised royal wedding, with twenty million viewers tuning in for the Westminster Abbey service. It was a glamorous affair on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 1960.

The public had to wait until the Princess Anne's 1973 wedding to Captain Mark Phillips for another such a laborious affair, again at Westminster Abbey. This time, the television audience grew to an estimated 500 million. With the wedding day declared a national holiday, crowds lined the streets to watch the newly married couple head back to Buckingham Palace.



Next was the ceremony still dubbed "the fairytale wedding", the marriage of William's parents, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. It took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 1981, and 600,000 people filled the streets of London to try to get a glimpse of the couple on their wedding day. They were married at St. Paul's cathedral, in front of an invited audience of 3,500 and an estimated global TV audience of 750 million. After the service, the newlyweds took an open air ride to Buckingham Palace, where they emerged on the balcony to give the crowds the famous first kiss they had been waiting for. But, as it turned out afterwards, their marriage wasn't a fairytale at all. In fact, they got a divorce on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 1996.

Then it was the turn of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, and it was back to Westminster Abbey for their wedding in July 1986. Again, their first public kiss as man and wife was on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, with 100,000 people gathering to try to catch a glimpse.



1999 saw a slightly more low-key wedding of Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys-Jones at Windsor Castle. With a televised audience of 200 million watching, 8,000 locals also lined up the streets to catch a glimpse of the bride and groom. The wedding was considered rather simple compared to the royal standards.



More recently, Prince Charles' marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles was an even more intimate affair. Being the second time for both of the couple, the service was held at Windsor Guildhall on April the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Anyway, the small service didn't stop 20.000 people turning up to cheer the couple's arrival.



And the last, but not the least, it was Prince William and Kate Middleton's turn to get married. It will be precisely their wedding which I will be focused on in the second part of my research project. It took place at Westminster Abbey on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011. Some have dubbed it as "the wedding of the century", and for very good reasons, as we will discover throughout my research.

### **3.1.2. WILLIAM AND KATE'S STORY:**

In the following table you can see the most relevant dates for the couple:

September, 2001	William and Kate met each other for the first time while studying in the department of Creative Arts in the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.  Kate persuaded William to stay at the university after he admitted finding it difficult to settle. He later switched to a geography course.
March, 2002	Kate modeled a sheer black lace dress in a university charity catwalk show watched by Prince William. It is believed that it was then when the Prince became interested in Kate.
September, 2002	It was during this time when Kate gained a lot of recognition from the Royal Family because of her involvement in number of social works. In October, 2002 both William and Kate became roommates where they shared the flat with two of their colleagues from the same University.
June, 2003	Kate made her first public appearance. In June, 2003, Kate went to watch a Rugby match with Prince William. William denied to the media that he was dating Kate Middleton, but even then the Media did not want to miss the opportunity to seize the perfect moment. It was during this match when numerous intimate pictures of William and Kate were published in the newspapers of the world.
March, 2004	William and Kate's relationship was revealed after they were pictured skiing in Klosters together. Clarence House didn't deny they were dating. The media once again grabbed the opportunity and asked

	numerous questions to the couple regarding their wedding plans, and William was reported to have said: "I don't want to get married until I'm at least 28 or maybe 30."
June, 2005	Both William and Kate graduated from the University and for the first time both the families met each other at their congratulatory luncheon. Queen Elizabeth II was also present, and next day newspapers' headlines stated: "Queen came to see her future granddaughter – in – law"
December, 2006	Kate attended the graduation ceremony held by the Military Academy where William studied and the entire military crew greeted Kate as the <i>princess in waiting</i> and William's friends greeted her as <i>Queen Kate of the future</i> .
April, 2007	William and Kate were confirmed to have split. They did so in a peaceful way. William decided that his primary choice would be only military and nothing else. He also decided during that time that he will not be getting married early. Kate was deeply hurt when the news of William being involved with various sex scandals were revealed during that time.
June, 2007	The young lovers decided that they will give a second chance to their relationship and decided to make up again. As a result of celebration, they flew to the Desroches Island for enjoying a romantic holiday.
April, 2008	Kate watched as William received his wings as a qualified RAF pilot from the Prince of Wales - this was her first appearance at a formal event with Prince William since December 2006. She was given a nick name " <i>Waity Kate</i> " by the British people when she attended William's Royal Air force graduation ceremony.
October, 2010	After eight year long relationship, Kate Middleton and Prince William got engaged during their private holiday in Kenya.
23 November, 2010	The Prince and Miss Middleton announced that their wedding would take place on April 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2011, at Westminster Abbey.

Their wedding has certainly brought a bit of glamour and excitement to the country and to the whole world.

After what happened to Charles and Diana, this was the revitalization of the monarchy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The fact that William married a commoner makes people able to identify with him and not put him in a separate level, not as heir to the throne, and this plays in favor of the British monarchy.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the future of the British monarchy seemed in doubt. After Diana's funeral in 1997, the House of Windsor suddenly found itself on the receiving end of unprecedented public anger. Now, however, the British monarchy has demonstrated that it has the ability to capture the public imagination and make itself the focus for patriotic celebration in a way that no other institution can match. For years, republicans have been predicting that the British would soon get tired of the flags, the carriages, the pomp and the pageantry. But, after the royal wedding on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011, apparently nothing has changed.

The monarchy is virtually the only national institution that still commands widespread and instinctive respect. Rightly or wrongly, the Queen is seen as a genuinely nonpolitical, patriotic figure, the incarnation of a vanished patriotic consensus.



## 3.2. BEFORE THE WEDDING

### 3.2.1. TOURISM:

According to official calculations, an estimated amount of up to 1.1 million tourists from all around the world flooded UK's capital in order to witness the royal wedding.

These figures also mean that a great income was generated for the country, additional money spent by the foreigners in restaurants, bars, hotels, taxis, souvenirs, local small businesses and other famous sightseings, an estimated amount raising to 30 and 50 million extra pounds spent only on that day. Then we also have to sum the rest of the money spent during the rest of the days their journey last, because it wasn't just one day they visited England. Around 60% were domestic visitors, travelling to London from around the country, and the other 40%, visiting from overseas.

The tourist authority VisitBritain, predicts that the wedding, a worldwide TV event, will trigger a tourism boom that will last several years, eventually pulling in an extra 4million visitors and some £2billions for the country's funds.

### 3.2.2. MADNESS FOR MEMORABILIA:

William and Kate's engagement sparked a souvenir boom. Manufacturers from England to China rushed to produce commemorative mementos including tea towels, shot glasses, ashtrays, imitation engagement rings, collectible plates, pillows, nails, toilet seats, condoms, refrigerators, sick bags and anything you could have ever imagined with William and Kate's faces engraved on them. They proved to be very popular, and it is estimated that, in total, people spent around £26 million in merchandising.



*Examples of the memorabilia madness, with a shop full of Royal Wedding souvenirs and other separated items shown in the picture on the right and on the next page.*



But who was all this memorabilia popular among, foreign tourists or British people? We will find that out later on in my survey's analysis.

### 3.2.3. THE MEDIA:

Weeks before the royal wedding, hundreds of journalists from across the world swooped on London to capture the pageantry of the royal wedding and cover the finale of the fairytale romance between Prince William and commoner Kate Middleton.

Every vantage point around Westminster Abbey was taken up by television cameras and temporary studios, while an entire media village had sprung up near the Buckingham Palace. Two temporary constructions were erected which housed more than 36 glass-fronted studios and a line of viewing stands for cameras for broadcasters including the BBC, Sky News, ABC, NBC, CBS and al-Jazeera, with outside broadcast vans and other equipment taking up so much space that part of Green Park has been closed to the public. Broadcasters from outside the UK spent at least 100,000 pounds each to cover the event that was expected to have a larger audience than any previous royal wedding.



*The media centre outside Buckingham Palace. Much of the media coverage of the royal wedding came from there.*

American television channel NBC set up a camp in Trafalgar Square as well as occupying studios outside Buckingham Palace and the Abbey. American people showed special interest in the big event, spreading the royal wedding hysteria all across America. There hadn't been such a huge media interest in a British event for years.

### 3.2.4. INTEREST:

An estimated 1,600 kilometers of bunting was sold to mark the wedding, much of it being used to decorate the 5,000 street parties taking place all across Britain.



*British Union Jack flags are pictured on London's Regent Street on April 20, 2011, in preparation for the royal wedding.*



*Union flag bunting are put up by workers on a street near Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Thursday, April 21, 2011 ahead of the royal wedding.*

An approximate 2 billion people in more than 180 countries around the world were expected to see reports, photos and TV pictures of the royal wedding, which was covered by more than 8,500 journalists in London alone.

Facebook calculated that 2.8 million people in Britain and America alone had written status updates about the royal wedding in the 24 hours before the service began. And the build-up to the service, Twitter users were posting 237 tweets every second about the royal wedding.

Some specialists think that all that pre-wedding excitement could be due to the fact that Prince William's wedding to Kate Middleton has the potential to become a true fairy tale wedding, unlike the union of his parents, Prince Charles and Lady Diana. The greater public interest could also have been rooted in the possibility that the heir to the throne may skip generations, and Prince William might be more than a King-in-waiting, becoming the next King of England.

There were some enthusiasts who even camped in front of Westminster Abbey days before the wedding, reserving a spot where they could be able to perfectly watch the couple, as it is shown in the following picture:



But, as it is usual, not everybody was excited with the royal wedding, and some even wanted to disrupt it. Following an application by the far-right Islamist group Muslims Against Crusades to protest near Westminster Abbey on 29<sup>th</sup> of April, police warned that anyone attempting to burn a union flag during the royal wedding, would be arrested.

Republicans, on the other hand, saw the opportunity they were expecting for. Some republican journalists wrote in their articles that when a certain time would have passed, people would get bored of the fans and would start looking for something to criticize or for people who are willing and ready to criticize. The chatter will start, the debate will begin and the attention will start to be put on more serious questions. They claim that, eventually, all this chat about dresses, rings and honeymoons will become boring and repetitive, and that questioning about the importance of the monarchy will start to emerge.

They thought that, for the first time in a long time, people would begin to think critically about the royal family and the monarchy. And all those people who never had much time for the royals would be motivated like never before to do something about it. Then, republicans would be given more opportunities to provide answers, which won't be in the interests of the monarchy.

But, has it really happened what republicans predicted? We will discover that later.

### 3.2.5. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

As we have already seen, there was a huge memorabilia madness, with millions of souvenirs related to the Royal Wedding sold before, during and after the big event. But my question is: were they bought by British people themselves or was it mainly a tourist tendency?

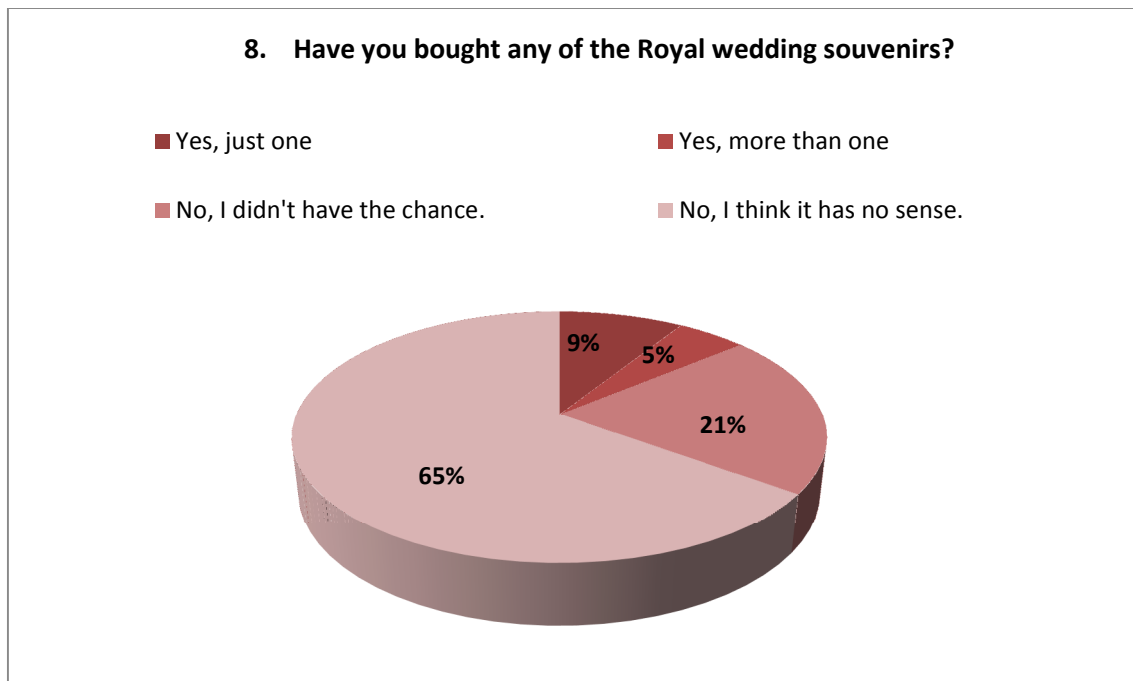
In order to answer to this, I proposed a question in my survey related to this topic. Question number 8 reads as follows:

❖ **8. Have you bought any of the Royal wedding souvenirs?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, just one
- b) Yes, more than one
- c) No, I didn't have the chance
- d) No, I think it has no sense

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



As we can see, the winning majority of the people polled, a 65% (which is 71 individuals out of 110 in total), think that it doesn't have any sense to buy a Royal wedding souvenir. A 21% (23 individuals) say that they didn't buy any but because they didn't have the chance, so they would have if they had had the opportunity. A 9% (10 individuals) say that they bought just one souvenir, and only the 5% of people left (6 individuals), bought more than one.

The results obtained in this question truly surprised me, because I have always thought that British people are very proud of their nation and they like the pageantry, so all of them would be really excited and glad to buy memorabilia of the big event. Now I see that I was wrong.

Most of British people think that it isn't necessary to buy all these souvenirs and that all that madness for them is exaggerated, as it is just a wedding and it must be enjoyed as it is, all that merchandising being unnecessary. Just 16 British individuals out of 110 in total bought some kind of memorabilia that would remind them of the event, with just 6 people that I guess were so interested in it that they bought more than one item. In the following picture, which I found on the Internet, we can see an elderly lady who was really into the royal wedding, as she bought lots of souvenirs to decorate her home.



However, this wasn't the general tendency in British families, as only few people were so interested in the royal wedding that they decided to buy plenty of mementos.

In the previous section of the research project, I mentioned that it is estimated that, in total, people spent around £26 million in merchandising. Therefore, from the results obtained in question number 8 from my survey, we can conclude that most of the souvenirs were bought by tourists and not by British citizens. This is understandable, because if you are a tourist who has come from another country specifically to witness the royal wedding with your own eyes, it is normal that you want to buy some keepsakes to bring back with you to your country. Most of British citizens, on the contrary, as they are used to it, don't see the point.

### 3.3. ON THE WEDDING'S DAY

#### 3.3.1. THE WHOLE PROCESS:

The 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 started as the perfect day for a wedding, without a single sign of rain, something that, for the British standards, is really unusual.

The first guests started to arrive at the abbey at 08:15, although the first members of the Royal Family - Prince William and his best man Prince Harry – didn't turn up until two hours later. About 1,900 people were invited to the service at Westminster Abbey, the church where the wedding would take place, most of whom were couple's relatives and friends along with 50 members of the Royal family, 40 members of foreign royalty, 200 politicians and diplomats and 80 guests from the Prince's charities.

Kate Middleton arrived at the Abbey in a Rolls Royce Phantom VI, which had been presented to the Queen for her silver jubilee, while Prince William travelled in a specially designed 6.22m long Bentley.

The marriage service itself began at 11:00, and an hour and a quarter later, Prince William and Catherine Middleton emerged as a married couple and took an open carriage procession to Buckingham Palace, passing all the excited crowds of approximately a million lined in the streets.



*Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge smile at the cheering crowds as they make the journey by carriage procession to Buckingham Palace following their marriage.*

Following the service, the 10 bells of the 1,000 year-old Abbey were rung in a “full peal” lasting more than three hours, in which no sequence of sounds was repeated.

They went in a procession which past many of London's best known landmarks. In the following map extracted from the Official Royal Wedding Programme, we can see the royal wedding route from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace:

## MAP & TIMETABLE

	Arrival
11:00 a.m.	The Marriage Service
12:15 p.m.	The Carriage Procession of the Bride and Bridegroom with a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry, followed by The Queen's Procession with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, leaves Westminster Abbey for Buckingham Palace
1:25 p.m.	The Queen and the Bride and Bridegroom with their Families appear on the Balcony
1:30 p.m.	Ply Post





When at Buckingham Palace, the most famous “kiss scene” took place.



It was thirty years ago when Charles and Diana began the tradition of the kiss on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2011, the new royal couple delighted the 500,000 people gathered outside the Palace by sharing two kisses on the balcony.

Perhaps the most drastic difference of the royal wedding was the departure of the couple from Buckingham Palace.

To the surprise of the crowd William and Kate left their lunchtime reception in a classic open top Aston Martin with 'JUST WED' on the number plate.



*The newly-marrieds wave at crowds near Buckingham Palace as they make their way to Clarence House in an open-top Aston Martin Volante*

### 3.3.2. SECURITY:

Authorities put in place one of the biggest security operations ever held in the United Kingdom: more than 5,000 officers were on duty to control the huge flag-waving crowds, alongside around 1,000 soldiers lining the route from Westminster Abbey to Queen Elizabeth's London residence, Buckingham Palace.



*Police and the crowds*

Specialist teams with sniffer dogs patrolled the procession route searching for explosives, while helicopters overflew the crowds as part of the operation to protect Prince William and his new wife Kate Middleton.

One million people lined the route between the church and Buckingham Palace and 500,000 watched the couple appear on the palace balcony after the service, police estimated.

The Metropolitan Police said there were 55 arrests, with most of those detained for minor public order offences.

Police arrested 10 people at Charing Cross railway station after they were found to be carrying anti-royalist placards.

Other arrests were for drunk and disorderly, criminal damage, theft and over a suspected environmental protest. Three were held over drug offences and four for allegedly carrying an offensive weapon.

### **3.3.2.1. REPUBLICAN PROTESTS:**

Police said they were aware of about 10 protesters in Soho Square, central London, and they were monitoring them.

A handful of protesters gathered in Trafalgar Square, where crowds were watching the proceedings on a giant screen, and displayed a banner complaining about government cuts to public services and Britain's military role overseas.



*Crowds gather to watch the Royal Wedding on the big screen in Trafalgar Square*

Those arrested were so because the police felt they were intent on causing disruption, committing acts of criminality or likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to the vast majority of people who wanted to come and celebrate the occasion. Although a lawyer representing some of those held said that police had abused their power by using security concerns as a pretext to block protests that could embarrass the royal family.

Police were prepared for a wide range of possible threats, from militant Irish republicans to Islamist groups, anarchists and stalkers.

### 3.3.3. THE MEDIA:

The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton was an event for the internet age. Facebook, Twitter, Google and YouTube were all given over to the royal wedding. And, like the streets around Westminster Abbey, cyberspace was buzzing with talk of the big day.

Leading the online celebrations was the British monarchy's own royal wedding website. Visitors were directed to the official Clarence House Twitter feed, the royal Flickr photo account, and the wedding "event" page on Facebook.

Talk of the wedding dominated Twitter, not just in the UK, but around the world.

While blogs and social networking sites provided users with a way of sharing their thoughts on the royal wedding, the internet also allowed people to watch the ceremony.

YouTube's live feed brought the BBC's pictures to a global online audience through the "Royal Channel". The BBC website, which also streamed the occasion, at one point experienced technical issues caused by "the sheer weight of traffic". Many TV broadcasters also live streamed the wedding to mobile devices, including smartphones and tablet PCs.

The world's largest social networking site, Facebook, was quick to extract wedding statistics from its more than 500 million users. Here we have some figures:

- 684,399 status updates mentioned the royal wedding over a four hour period - roughly 47 per second.
- 2,274 users checked-in at Westminster Abbey using Facebook's "Places" feature.
- A Facebook page dedicated to "Princess Beatrice's Ridiculous Royal Wedding Hat" gained over 4,000 fans.

Although measuring the scale of a global media event is notoriously difficult, the number of TV viewers has been estimated at around two billion.

Quantifying the popularity of a topic on particular sites, such as Facebook and Twitter is possible. However, it is difficult to know the impact on the internet overall.

At the height of the wedding, global web traffic, as measured by Akamai, was 39% higher than normal.



Although there is no firm evidence that this was due to the wedding, the United Kingdom was listed as a hot spot, with the country accounting for 11% of online activity.

*Global web traffic was 39% above normal during the wedding according to Akamai*

### 3.3.4. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

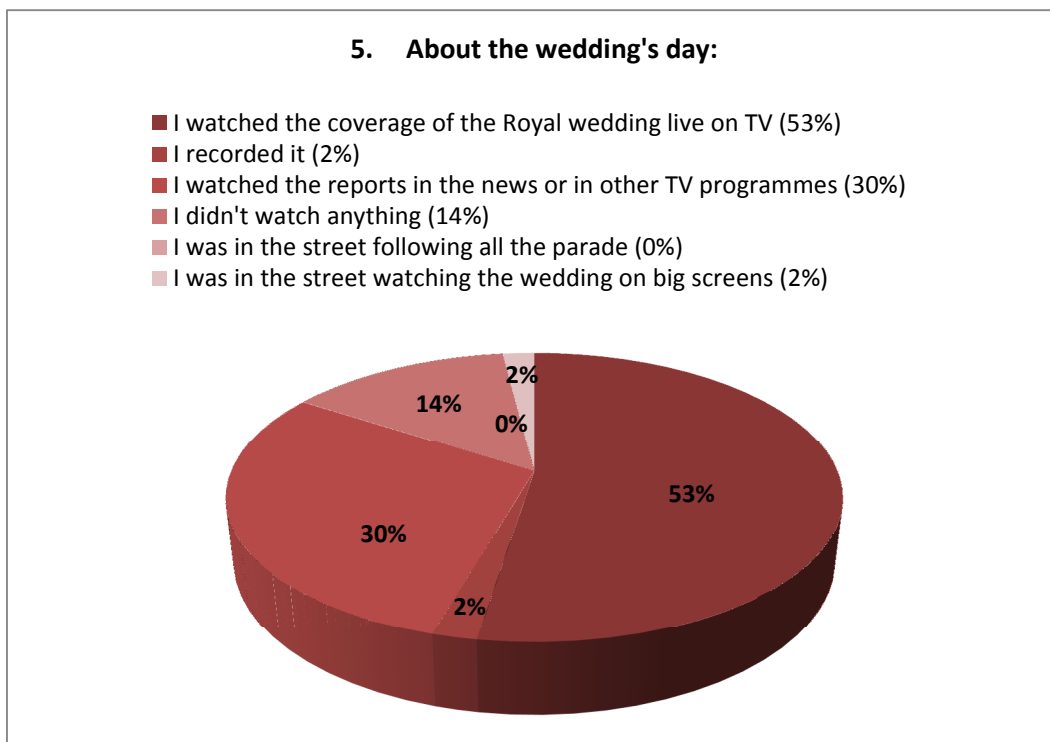
#### 3.3.4.1. WHEN THE WEDDING WAS TAKING PLACE...

I was intrigued to know what all the people polled were doing the day of the wedding. That is the reason why I decided to include a question in my poll asking them about this. Did they watch it live on TV? Were they in the streets following all the parade? Or perhaps they didn't watch anything of it?

Question number 5 and its possible answers read as follows:

- ❖ **5. About the wedding's day:**
  - a) I watched the coverage of the Royal wedding live on TV
  - b) I recorded it
  - c) I watched the reports in the news or in other TV programmes
  - d) I didn't watch anything
  - e) I was in the street following all the parade
  - f) I was in the street watching the wedding on big screens

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



More than half of the people polled (53%) watched the whole wedding's coverage live on TV. These are good results for the royal family because they show that British citizens preferred to spend a great part of their day-off watching all the process of a royal wedding rather than doing something else. A 2% of the people recorded it, either to watch it later because they couldn't in that precise moment or to have it on record forever. Another 30% say that they only watched the reports in the news or in other TV programmes, which means that either

they couldn't watch it live on TV, although they wanted to, because they were busy; some people weren't interested in it and preferred to spend their time doing something different. As it was considered to be a really important event for the whole nation, they would, anyway, inevitably see some images of the wedding's highlights in the news or in other programmes. None of the people polled was in the street following all the parade, although a 2% assure that they were watching it on big screens in the street. Those who belong to the 14% left claim that they didn't watch anything about the wedding.

This last percentage is precisely the one that mostly surprises me. It means that 15 people out of 110 in total weren't interested at all in the wedding, not even feeling a dash of curiosity to know how it all went and what the just-married royal couple did. I didn't expect such a big percentage. It shows a total lack of interest not just for the royals but also for the institution of the British monarchy itself.

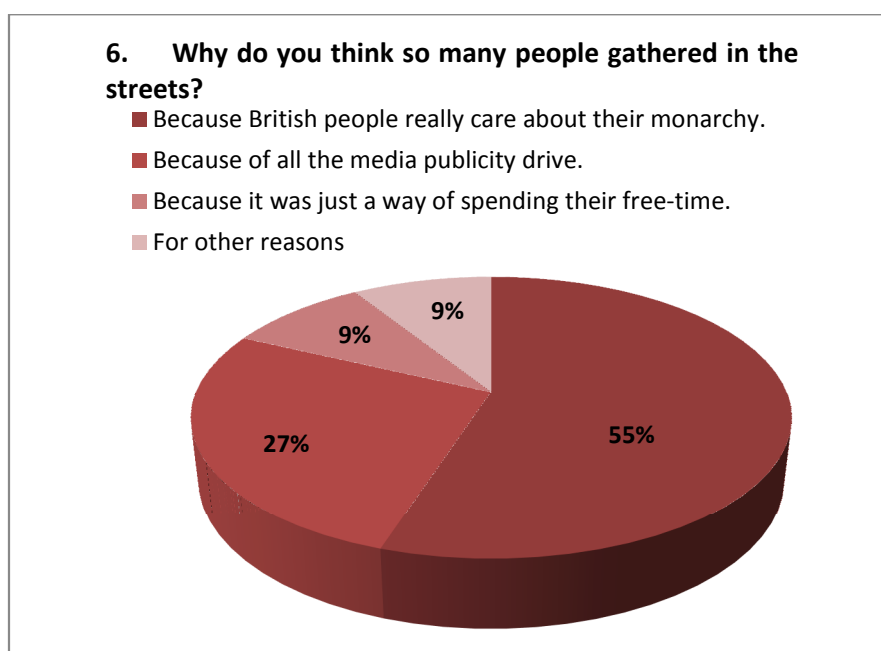
### 3.3.4.2. WHY SO MUCH INTEREST?

We have already seen in the previous question that there is a relevant percentage of people who weren't interested at all in the recently married royal couple and, therefore, in the monarchy on the whole. But what is the reason, according to them and the others, why so many people gathered in the streets to follow the parade or to watch the process on big screens in public squares? Let's discover their opinion on this aspect in my poll's next question.

Question number 6 and its possible answers read as follows:

- ❖ **6. Why do you think so many people gathered in the streets?**
  - a) Because British people really care about their monarchy
  - b) Because of all the media publicity drive
  - c) Because it was just a way of spending their free-time
  - d) For other reasons

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



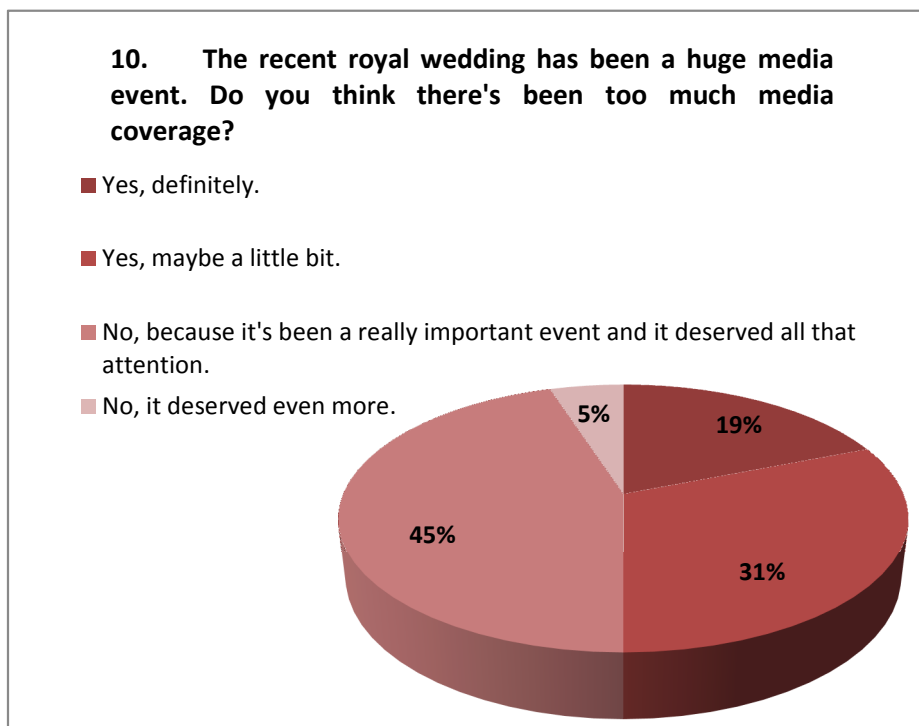
More than half of the people polled (53%) agree that it is because British people really care about their monarchy. If we compare these results with the ones from question 14, the one which asks whether the monarchy is essential for British society or not, they seem rational, as in question number 14 the 68% of the people think that the British monarchy should remain in their society. Back to the question we are now analyzing, a 27% believe that such a big amount of people gathered in the streets because of the huge media publicity drive. We have already seen how much media attention this wedding attracted, so it is no surprise that quite a high percentage of people polled think like that. A 9% suggest that it was just because people had nothing to do and it was a way of spending their day-off, joining the party. But that doesn't necessarily mean that they were actually interested in the couple or even the monarchy, it was just all about taking part in the big celebration. The 9% of the people left think that it was for other reasons which aren't specified.

### 3.3.4.3. TOO MUCH MEDIA ATTENTION?

We have already seen that the wedding received an enormous media attention all around the world. But what do British people think about it? Do they consider it was too much? Not enough? The right amount it deserved? Everyone has his own point of view, so let's see what the opinion of the 110 Britons polled is.

Question number 10 with its possible answers from the British questionnaire read as follows:

- ❖ **10. The recent royal wedding has been a huge media event. Do you think there's been too much media coverage?**
  - a) Yes, definitely
  - b) Yes, maybe a little bit
  - c) No, because it's been a really important event and it deserved all that attention
  - d) No, it deserved even more



Almost half of the people (45%) think that it wasn't too much, but the exact amount needed, as it was a really important event and it deserved all that attention. A 5% believe that it deserved even more. A 19% resolutely think all that attention was way too much, and the 31% left, the second highest percentage, agrees that maybe it was a little excessive.

I frankly can't agree with the 5% who think that the wedding deserved even more media attention, as I can't imagine how that would have been even possible. If in Spain everybody was talking about it a week before, in England the mass media were going crazy months before the big day. I am of the opinion that all the media coverage has been a little bit excessive.

#### 3.3.4.4. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH SPANISH PEOPLE'S OPINION:

##### - WHEN THE WEDDING WAS TAKING PLACE... :

As not so long ago the Spanish nation witnessed a royal wedding itself, I wanted to compare the interest people showed in it with the Britons. What did Spaniards do the day of the wedding? Did they watch the whole coverage live on TV? Didn't they watch anything? Or perhaps they watched only some repetitions of the highlights in the news?

Question number 10 from the Spanish questionnaire asks something similar to the question number 5 from the British one. Its statement and answers read as follows:

- ❖ **10. About the wedding's day of Prince Felipe and Letizia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2004:**
  - a) I watched the coverage of the Royal wedding live on TV
  - b) I recorded it
  - c) I watched the reports in the news or in other TV programmes
  - d) I didn't watch anything

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) I watched the coverage of the Royal wedding live on TV	53	13
b) I recorded it	2	0
c) I watched the reports in the news or in other TV programmes	30	48
d) I didn't watch anything	14	39
e) I was in the street following all the parade	0	--
f) I was in the street watching the wedding on big screens	2	--

As you must have noticed, there are some significant differences. Although it wasn't a national day-off, the date coincided with a Saturday, a day of the week when a lot of people don't work, and so they would have had the opportunity of watching the coverage live on TV.

However, only a 13% of the people polled did so, in comparison with the British's 53%. An additional 18% preferred to watch its repetition in the news or in other TV programmes , and another 25% assure that they didn't watch anything of it, in comparison with the Britons polled. Nobody seems to have recorded it.

A relatively low percentage of Spanish people wanted to watch the whole process of their national royal wedding. This, together with the fact that a huge amount compared to the British declare they didn't watch any of it, demonstrates, once more, what little interest Spanish people show towards their monarchy and royals.

These results are quite unbelievable and very interesting to me, because I am amazed by the big differences I encounter on my way throughout all the research regarding the support each nationality gives to its monarchy.

- TOO MUCH MEDIA ATTENTION?

At the time, the Spanish royal wedding also gave a lot to talk about, and the media was going crazy about the big event. Forcing the Spanish people polled to look back in time and remember all the fuss created, I asked them a similar question than to the Britons.

Question number 11 from the Spanish questionnaire and its possible answers read as follows:

- ❖ **11.** You think that all the media attention the Spanish royal wedding received in Spain was...:
  - a) Too much
  - b) Enough
  - c) Not enough

The results obtained were:

ANSWERS:	PERCENTAGE (%):
a) Too much	63
b) Enough	37
c) Not enough	0

More than two thirds of the people polled decisively believe that all the media attention was way too much, and amazingly they still remember it after eight years. The 37% left think that it was enough, meaning that it was the right amount of media fuss for this kind of event. Anybody finds that it would have needed more media attention, unlike the 5% of the Britons who think theirs does so. But, in contradistinction to the British wedding, the Spanish didn't cause so much admiration all around the world, although the Spanish mass media couldn't stop talking about it. In fact, the situation was the same than in Britain seven years later.

The wedding of Prince Felipe and Letizia was broadcast live on all television stations with national coverage and by all the major regional channels– with the only exception of vasque television. It was, therefore, an exceptional media occasion, as almost all of the most important Spanish stations simultaneously broadcast the event. Actually, the main signal which the various channels used was emitted from a single source – *Televisión Española* –, but



they had their own commentators and, in some cases, extra cameras and sets in the streets. Not to mention the fact that, the days before and following the event, they were at the cover of every single magazine and newspaper.

But what do Spanish people think about the media attention the British Royal wedding received? Do the majority also agree that it was too much? Or maybe they have a different point of view regarding this one? To find this out, I asked Spanish people a similar question than to Britons.

Question number 6 from the Spanish questionnaire read something similar than question number 10 from the British one:

- ❖ **6. The recent British royal wedding has been a huge media event. Do you think it's been exaggerated all the media attention it has received?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, definitely
- b) Yes, maybe a little bit
- c) No, because it's been a really important event and it deserved all that attention
- d) No, it deserved even more

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) Yes, definitely	19	46
b) Yes, maybe a little bit	31	45
c) No, because it's been a really important event and it deserved all that attention	45	9
d) No, it deserved even more	5	0

Absolutely no one from the Spanish people polled believes that it deserved even more media attention, and just a 9% are of the opinion that all the coverage wasn't too much because of the importance of such an event, in comparison with the 45% of British people. In fact, most of the Spaniards (91%) think that it was exaggerated, a 46% strongly assuring it and the 45% left assuming that maybe it was just *a little bit* exaggerated.

In the last two analysis it is clearly demonstrated that Spanish people are of the opinion that these kind of events don't deserve such a massive media attention, which according to the vast majority, is quite exaggerated and disproportionate.

#### - WHY SO MUCH INTEREST?

Having seen British people's opinion on the topic of why so many people gathered in the streets to follow the parade or to watch the process on big screens in public squares, I also

wanted to discover what is the reason Spaniards give to this fact. That's exactly why I asked them the same question than to the Britons.

Question number 5 from the Spanish questionnaire asks the same as question number 6 from the British one:

❖ **5. Why do you think so many people gathered in the streets of the British capital to monitor the bride and groom's route?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Because British people really care about their monarchy
- b) Because of all the media publicity drive
- c) Because it was just a way of spending their free-time

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

<b>ANSWERS:</b>	<b>ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):</b>	<b>SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):</b>
a) Because British people really care about their monarchy	55	48
b) Because of all the media publicity drive	27	43
c) Because it was just a way of spending their free-time	9	9
d) For other reasons	9	--

The 9% of people of both nationalities agree that there were so many people gathered in the streets because they didn't have anything better to do and it was a way of spending their free-time during their day-off. The percentage of Spanish people who believe that it was because Britons really care about their monarchy is quite high (48%), but so it is the percentage of those who assume that it was because of all the media publicity drive (43%). It's in this last percentage where we find the most significant difference, which is of a 16%. It seems that Britons don't think that the media have such a strong influence on them, contrary to the Spanish.

In my opinion, there were naturally people who really care about their monarchy piled up in the streets of London cheering the newlyweds, but I think that a lot of them were also there because of all the pageantry and media publicity drive and expectation. Mass media have a great influence and power on us, and we don't even know it.

## 3.4. AFTER THE WEDDING

### 3.4.1. STREET PARTIES:

Around 5.500 official street parties were held throughout the UK on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011, after the royal wedding. In total, it is calculated that around a million people enjoyed these street parties. This was the biggest neighbors' day since the previous royal wedding in 1981 and was a great boost for street sociability and neighborliness, even if people were royal fans or not.

For many, it was just an excuse as part of the great tradition which has been linked with royal and other national events for a century.

5500 formal road closures (825 in London) were arranged in traffic-free events, where all ages could meet together and kids could play for a change.

Also, according to the high numbers of enquiries through some websites, many people held informal 'street meets' without closing the road, as they wanted to organize something at the last minute. So with about an average number of 80 people attending each one, about 1 million people took part in them.



*A post royal wedding street party held in South Street, Swindon, England.*

### 3.4.2. THE MEDIA

The next day, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011, the Royal Wedding was featured on virtually every newspaper's cover in the world.

Of 789 front pages on the Newseum.org website, a website where newspapers' covers from all over the world are displayed every day, 688 of them – or 87 percent – covered the wedding, while 101 didn't feature the Royal Wedding whatsoever.

The most popular image used by those that did was "The Kiss" (335), though there were a few that opted for a shot of the happy couple speeding away from Buckingham Palace in a convertible Aston Martin.

Some did full, double-cover fold-outs; many, billed them as "commemorative" editions hoping to improve the sales. The Guardian, for example, a British newspaper with a republican ideology, offered print readers with Royal Wedding fatigue two supplemental magazines and "seven sections with no royal content whatsoever."

Some, at least two, chose to focus on Kate's sister, Pippa, who was effectively introduced to the world media for the first time at Friday's wedding.

As in Spain, the British newlywed couple was on the front page of virtually every newspaper and magazine, with the only exception of the sports ones.



*The UK papers were flooded with Royal Wedding coverage the day after the big event*

### **3.4.3. POST-WEDDING CRITICISM:**

Obviously, in the following weeks, although the hysteria was gradually calming down, all the British media attention was centered on what the newlywed couple was doing. After the wedding, all the talking began. A countless amount of programmes, shows, blogs, articles and webpages discussed absolutely everything, from the bride's dress to the whole organization of the event. Then, everybody put their attention on the couple's honeymoon plans, and it seemed that they would never stop to be the center of attention.

However, when the months were passing, the whole fascination was ending up. Of course there are still a lot of journalists and paparazzi who follow them everywhere they go, but nothing compared to what happened on the dates surrounding the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011.

It seems that Republicans were right in one thing: that people would get bored of hearing so much about the couple. However, their predictions haven't come true, as any debate has started yet and any questioning about the importance of the monarchy has started to emerge.

The same Republicans were of the opinion that the day was a one-off, but that it lacked wider significance. They say that it was just a well-managed show on which the curtain rose and then fell. According to them, it did not change anything, and Britain isn't now a happier or a safer place as it was before. They accept that it was a fun day, but as well as it started, it ended, but the questions which surround the monarchy and the royal family are no closer to being resolved. They think that it is all as silly – and as wrong – now as it was before, and that it all needs to change before a more destructive monarch than the present Queen sits on the throne.

As well as there was an understandable excitement associated with a very public wedding and a national occasion, there was also a public soberness this time. A lot of people spent their day-off going shopping or just relaxing at home, but weren't interested in watching the royal wedding. This can be explained by the fact that these are tough times for millions of British people and they didn't want to spend their time watching all the extravagance of such a big event. Moreover, a lot of them didn't want to be interested in the wedding because they had already been once with Prince Charles and Diana and it didn't work out well. Theirs was the supposedly fairytale wedding, which eventually became a wretched marriage with a tragic outcome.

In fact, the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton has been constantly compared to the one of William's parents, analyzing every detail.



*This is an example of the constant comparison. Prince William and Kate Middleton posed in similar fashion to that of Prince Charles and Diana's engagement photos.*

### 3.4.4. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Approaching the end of my research project, I decided to leave to the end two of the most relevant questions of my survey. Although both of them ask British people about their interest in the royal wedding, they are so important because, in an indirect way, their response also gives us information about their interest in the whole institution of the British monarchy. Therefore, the percentages of the answers given provide us with an approximate idea of how important is the British monarchy for its society, if they really care and if they show any interest for it, one of the most important aims of this research project.

#### 3.4.4.1. GENERAL INTEREST:

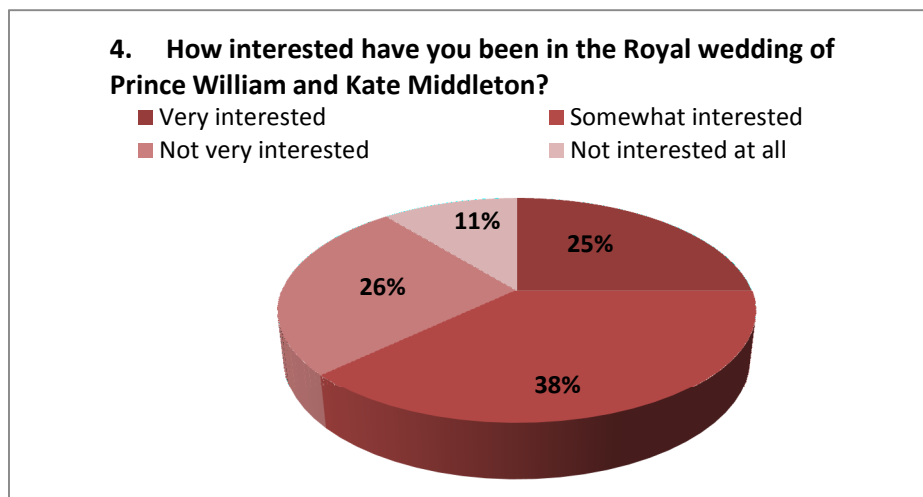
Question number 4 reads as follows:

- ❖ **4. How interested have you been in the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Very interested
- b) Somewhat interested
- c) Not very interested
- d) Not interested at all

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



The majority of the people polled, a 38%, describes themselves as being somewhat interested, neither too little nor too much; a 25%, as very interested; a 26% as not very interested; and, finally, the 11% of people left, as not interested at all.

If we simplify the percentages, we have: a 63% of the people polled who had some kind of interest in the royal wedding and, therefore, in their monarchy, and the other 37% who weren't interested in the wedding and, therefore, in their monarchy. This association is due to

the fact that if you care and are interested in your monarchy, you are also interested in a royal wedding which affects it.

My conclusion is that this 63% of people who were interested in the royal wedding are the same who think that monarchies are good for a country and that the British monarchy should remain in their society. I reach this conclusion because if we compare the percentages obtained in the analysis of the answers of the questions mentioned above, they are more or less the same. Therefore, following the same reasoning, the 37% of people who weren't interested in the wedding would be those who think that monarchies are bad for a country or that they don't do any difference, and that little would change if England didn't have one, being even much better if there was a Republic.

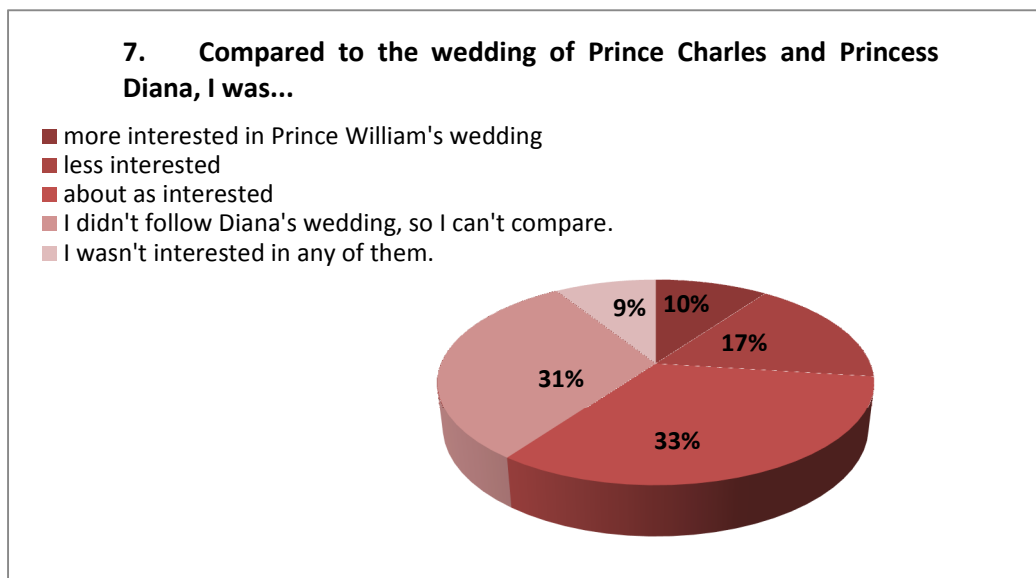
### 3.4.4.2. COMPARISON WITH THE PAST:

William's parents' ceremony in 1981 was dubbed "the fairytale wedding", and his with Kate Middleton, as the "wedding of the century". After this last one took place, there has been a constant comparison between both weddings. In order to know which one attracted more interest, I asked a question related to this in the British survey.

Question number 7 and its possible answers read as follows:

- ❖ **7. Compared to the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, I was...**
  - a) more interested in Prince William's wedding
  - b) less interested
  - c) about as interested
  - d) I didn't follow Diana's wedding, so I can't compare
  - e) I wasn't interested in any of them

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



For the analysis of this question, we must leave aside the 31% of the people polled (34 individuals) who didn't follow Prince Charles and Princess Diana's wedding in order to make a

better comparison between the interest generated for the last British royal wedding and the one that took place in 1981, when William's parents got married.

If we remove this answer, we obtain the following results:

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
a) more interested in Prince William's wedding	15%
b) less interested	25%
c) about as interested	47%
d) I wasn't interested in any of them	13%

As we can see, almost half of the people polled who followed both weddings (47% or 36 individuals) say that they were more or less equally interested in both of them. The following majority (25% or 19 individuals) is for those who believe that they were less interested in William and Kate's wedding than in the one of William's parents. Then, there is a 15% (11 individuals) who claim that they were more interested in the most recent one, and those belonging to the 13% left who assure that they weren't interested in any of them.

In my opinion, those people belonging to the 15% who assure that they were more interested in the most recent British royal wedding do so because of all the media drive. Thirty-one years ago there weren't so many types of media, and their importance and influence in everyday's life of average people wasn't so marked. Nowadays, however, it is easy to make us become interested in something if we constantly see news related it in newspapers, magazines, on TV, on the Internet, etc. Mass media have a huge power and effect on us, and maybe we don't even know it.

I think that the possible reasons why a 25% of people were less interested in this wedding could be:

- They already had lots of their own problems (e.g. economical) to take care about rather than be interested in these issues.
- They refused to show big interest in this one because they had already done that in the last one and Charles and Diana's marriage ended in a really sad way, in divorce.
- Thirty-one years is a long time, and they could have changed their point of view regarding the institution of the monarchy and having lost their faith in it.

#### **3.4.4.3. STREET PARTIES:**

We have already seen that the amount of street parties that took place during and after the royal wedding was huge, and I was curious to know if any of the people who answered my questionnaire had taken part in any of them. And if they couldn't, would they have done it if they had had the chance? Do they think it worth it or that it doesn't have any sense?

Question number 9 reads as follows:

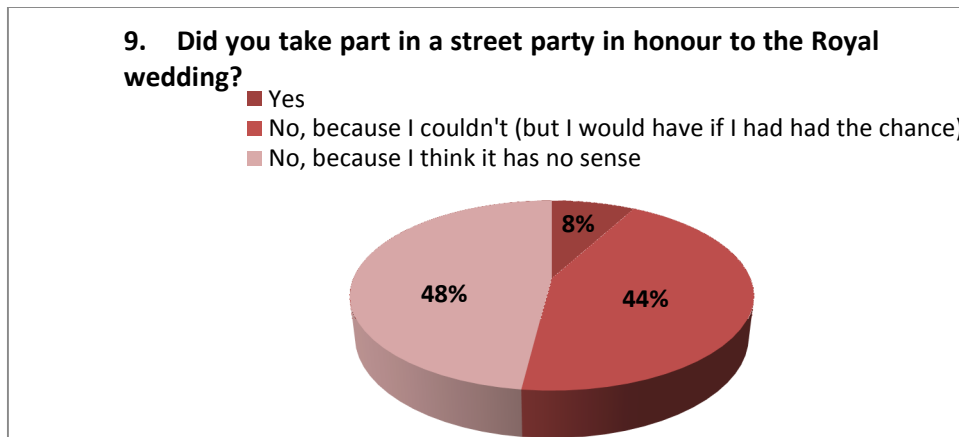
- ❖ **9. Did you take part in a street party in honour to the Royal wedding?**



The possible answers were:

- a) Yes
- b) No, because I couldn't (but I would have if I had had the chance)
- c) No, because I think it has no sense

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



The 8% of the people polled (9 individuals) attended at least one of the street parties organized all around the United Kingdom, a 44% says that they didn't take part in any but that they would have if they had had the chance, and the 48% left say that they didn't attend any of them because they think that it has no sense.

It is precisely this last 48% what truly surprises me. Before, I thought that British people would be delighted to take part in a street party, as they have always been seen as traditionalists and that would have been a great chance to meet new people, chat and have fun celebrating a national big occasion, bearing also in mind that it was a day-off for everybody. But I guess they don't think that a royal wedding needs to be celebrated by common citizens in street parties.

In my opinion, it would have been great if everybody had participated in the street parties, even the republicans. It was a national day-off, and a really good occasion to gather everybody and have fun. You don't need to be a strong monarchist to celebrate. It isn't about if you fully support the monarchy or not, it is about being happy for the union of a couple and wish them all the best, together with spending a good time with your neighbors.

#### **3.4.4.4. KEEPING INFORMED:**

It has been more than half a year since they got married. Are British people still interested in what they are doing? Do they look for extra information on the Internet apart from what they watch on TV, listen in the radio or read in newspapers or magazines? Do they care about staying up-to-date about the youngest royals? If they look extra information about them, this also means that they are interested in the monarchy, because you can't just be interested in two people who are part of a bigger institution and do not want to know more about it.

That is what I wanted to discover among the people who answered my questionnaire. In order to do so, I proposed a question related to this topic.

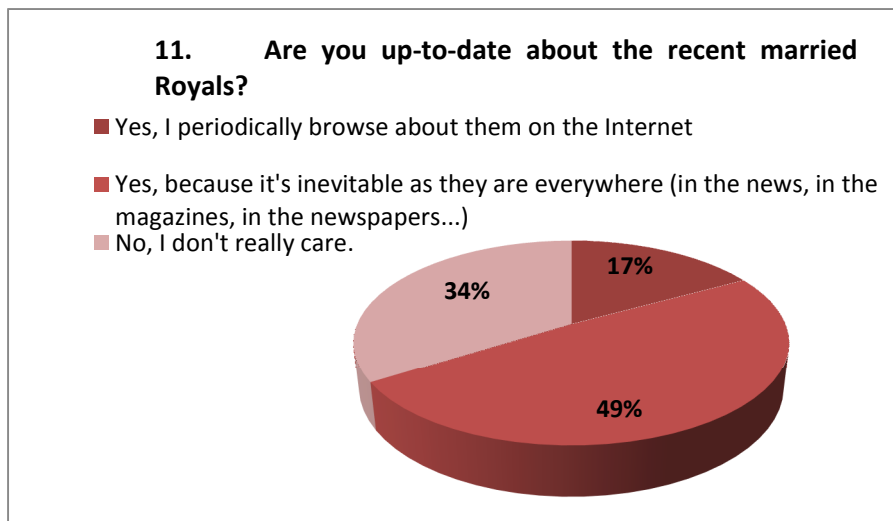
Question number 13 reads as follows:

❖ **11. Are you up-to-date about the recent married Royals?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, I periodically browse about them on the Internet
- b) Yes, because it's inevitable as they are everywhere (in the news, in the magazines, in the newspapers...)
- c) No, I don't really care

In the following graphic you can see the results obtained:



In the answers provided, we can clearly see that almost half of the people polled (a 49%, or 54 individuals) believe that they know enough, but because news related to the recently married royals constantly appear in the media and it is impossible to be misinformed. A 17% (or 19 people) admit that, apart from all the information they get from the media they usually keep informed with, they also look for extra news and details on the Internet, showing a big interest in the couple and also in the British monarchy on the whole. The 34% of the people left (37 individuals), admit that they don't really care about the recently married couple's life.

The percentage of those who don't really care about what the couple do with their lives is quite high, and I guess in some way it is fully understandable and justifiable. Unless you are one of those who like yellow journalism and being up-to-date about celebrities' lives, what is the point of wanting to know what happens in anyone else's life when you have your own problems which you need to take care of? If the news are related to some official events, like the opening of charities or hospitals, then I think it is correct wanting to know more; but if it is about knowing what restaurant did they attend or what color was Kate's Middleton dress, then it is just gossiping and nothing serious.

### 3.4.4.5. A QUICK COMPARISON WITH SPANISH PEOPLE'S OPINION:

#### - GENERAL INTEREST FOR THE BRITISH WEDDING:

We have already seen that the British royal wedding also had plenty of followers all around the world, its coverage being broadcasted live on TV in a lot of countries besides the United Kingdom. Knowing that, I wanted to discover how much importance Spanish people gave to this event. How much were they interested? Did the “Wills and Kate” madness hit Spanish people?

In order to discover that, question number 4 from the Spanish questionnaire asked the same as question number 4 from the English one:

#### ❖ **4. How interested have you been in the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton?**

The possible answers were, as well:

- a) Very interested
- b) Somewhat interested
- c) Not very interested
- d) Not interested at all

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%):
a) Very interested	25	7
b) Somewhat interested	38	13
c) Not very interested	26	30
d) Not interested at all	11	50

Here we can see some big differences between the results obtained. Simplifying them a little bit, an 80% of Spanish people weren't interested in the wedding and only a 20% were. From this 20%, only a 7% of the people polled describe themselves as very interested, and the 13% left, as just a little bit.

Thus, we can deduce that the “William and Kate fever” didn't reach Spain.

These results, however, are a little bit surprising to me, because the Spanish media was doing great efforts to get it to us. The day of the wedding, for example, three of the most important TV channels in the Spanish media, La 1, Antena 3 and Telecinco broadcasted live the whole wedding, with all-morning shows commenting it. It was followed by 4.159.000 million Spanish people, and that is why I'm so surprised with the results obtained in my survey. The explanation could be that people watched it because three of the most important channels were broadcasting it, but they weren't really interested.

Popular newspapers' webpages, like *El Mundo* or *El País*, other blogs and social networks were telling in detail everything that was happening each minute in their posts.

A study released by *Kantar Media* has shown that between 28<sup>th</sup> of April and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, coinciding with the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, there were 1.352 news in printed media, 593 in television and 350 on the radio related to this event.

- KEEPING INFORMED:

I couldn't ask in the Spanish questionnaire whether Spaniards are up-to-date about their "recently married royals" basically because the last royal wedding which took place in Spain was in 2004, and it's quite a long time ago. So, instead, I decided to ask directly the question which is indirectly asked in the English survey.

Question number 12 from the Spanish questionnaire asked something similar to question number 11 from the English one:

❖ **12. Are you up-to-date about the Spanish monarchy?**

The possible answers were:

- a) Yes, I periodically browse about it on the Internet
- b) Yes, because it's inevitable as they are everywhere (in the news, in the magazines, in the newspapers...)
- c) No, I don't really care

In the following table we can see the comparison of the percentages obtained in both questionnaires:

ANSWERS:	ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%) → about the recently married royals	SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE (%) → about their monarchy
a) Yes, I periodically browse about it on the Internet	17	5
b) Yes, because it's inevitable as they are everywhere (in the news, in the magazines, in the newspapers...)	49	50
c) No, I don't really care	34	45

The most significant results are found in the extreme positions, to say it some way. From the Spanish questionnaire, those who periodically want to find some extra information related to their monarchy are only a 5%, in comparison with the 17% from the British one. Half of the people polled, both Spanish and British, claim that they know enough about their monarchy and royals through what the media tells them periodically, so they don't have the need to research more. In the Spanish survey, however, the percentage of people who assure to not care about them rises an 11% in comparison with the Britons.

Once more, the results show that the Spanish society isn't so interested in its monarchy as the British one is.

## 3.5. MONARCHY AND STEREOTYPES

*Stereotypes* are popular beliefs about specific types of individuals, standardized and simplified conceptions of groups based on some prior assumptions. The concepts of "stereotype" and "prejudice" are synonyms.

### 3.5.1. MY ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Each nationality has some stereotypes attached to it. Knowing that, I wanted to discover what stereotypes or prejudices the British community has associated from the Spanish people's point of view. That is precisely the reason why I asked them a question related to this topic in the Spanish questionnaire.

Question number 15 reads as follows:

- ❖ **15.** **Could you mention some adjectives depicting what are British people like? (Regarding their relationship with the monarchy, good and bad features, manias, etc.)**

I didn't ask them directly about stereotypes but, indirectly, that's what they gave me. Different people used the same adjectives, meaning that that is the general established opinion.

I classified them in three broad groups:

- Monarchic/ conservationists
- Good features
- Bad features

Now I will indicate the adjectives and features of each group and will analyze whether they are confirmed or refuted according to what I have seen throughout my research project.

#### MONARCHIC/CONSERVATIONIST:

- *"They worry about their monarchy, get involved and fully support it"* → This is quite a spread impression and stereotype about British people, but it is not entirely true. Actually, the percentage of those who fully support the monarchy is gradually decreasing.
- *"They have a strong faith"* → This one is also false. According to the official statistics, the amount of nonbelievers increases year after year, and it seems that only elder people go to mass or to the church regularly.
- *"They are very nationalist, patriotic and loyal"* → This one turns out to be true. We have already seen all the interest arisen by the wedding. When it is about national celebrations, Britons are the best in organizing them.
- *"They have very strong traditions"* → That is completely true. British people are known for being very traditional. An example could be the street parties held in honor to a royal celebration.

#### GOOD FEATURES:

- *"They give a 100% of themselves when it is about something related to their monarchy"*→ This is true only if we are talking about those people who fully support the monarchy or who are fairly interested in it.
- *"They are very organized and serious"*→ When it comes to the organization of big events, they are the best. They take it very seriously. So, this feature is characteristic of them.

#### BAD FEATURES:

- *"They are very fanatical/exaggerated"*→ These two were the most repeated adjectives among the answers. I guess somehow this is true if we take into consideration all the madness before the royal wedding but, still, this was only a minority. So it is not applied to everyone.
- *"They are antiquated"*→ I think this idea is false. Of course everyone has their own point of view, but having a monarchy doesn't necessarily mean that you must be antiquated. British monarchy adapts very well to the modern times. And yet, if it still keeps some past traditions, why should it be bad?
- *"They are very set in their ways"*→ According to what we have previously seen in this project, British are open minded. A good example could be that there were thousands of tourists who came from all over the world to watch the wedding, and they bond very well with the Britons.

As we have just seen, most of the commonest stereotypes about British people aren't true. My guess is that almost all of them are perpetuated by the media, which try to sell us something which is supposedly different and odd but which doesn't completely match with the reality. First impressions are what count nowadays, and it is easy to confuse us.

## 4. CONCLUSION

We have finally reached the end of my research project. I must admit that it wasn't easy to get here, and I'm really proud of the result. Leaving aside the obvious part of the language's great improvement, it has also helped me in a lot of different aspects.

First of all, I have learned to be more open-minded. Doing a research in a social area means that you need to work with different points of view, consider them all and provide different arguments to support or refute them. But life isn't black or white; there is also a scale of greys in between. What I want to say with this is that, even if we are talking about opposite opinions, sometimes, both can make sense. A lot of different aspects must be taken into consideration to reach a good conclusion, and this research has helped me to listen to and to try to understand each of the pros and cons of a certain subject, in this case, the British monarchy and the last British royal wedding.

Secondly, it has helped me to better myself. Doing something of such a long extension and big responsibility in a language that isn't your own can be a little frustrating sometimes. Finding the right word to express myself, the meaning of a certain collocation... If I had any difficulty with the language, I looked everywhere necessary until I could find a solution. I think I have gained more patience and perseverance.

Thirdly, I have learned that timing is very important and that you can't leave everything for the last minute. This way, the results are much better and in case you find some kind of an unexpected handicap, you can calmly overcome it. Most probably this has been my biggest mistake, but at least now I will know for the next time.

I also had to face other difficulties. Achieving that 110 British people answered my questionnaire wasn't an easy task at all. In fact, I had to struggle. In total, I sent around 4.000 emails, and it is not an exaggeration. British people didn't collaborate much in that aspect. Although, when some of them answered to my email with messages of encouragement, it was really rewarding and could cheer my whole day up. There even was a really nice lady who sent me a souvenir magazine about Prince William and Kate Middleton's honeymoon by post, saying that it was her gift for me, wishing me very good luck with the project. I have never imagined that somebody would do that from his own free will. In fact, it was really nice to chat with those people who answered my emails.

I liked to do this research very much. As it is already mentioned in the *Introduction*, I have always been very interested in social behavior and in the difference of opinion, so this topic has been perfect in this aspect. Sometimes, I found myself so into it that I even started to look for extra information which I didn't need at all for my research. I remember while doing the part dedicated to religion, I spent hours reading opinions on the net about worshipping and believing in God. I didn't need it, but I just couldn't help it. It is a polemical subject, as well as the monarchy is, and I love hearing and reading about the different arguments and points of view.

But now let's see what conclusions can be extracted from the research done. I will set them out according to the objectives I arouse at the very beginning in the *Introduction*.

- **Finding out about the real support the British monarchy has among its people and the interest they show towards it.**

According to my results, around a 40% of the British population would fully support the British monarchy. Around a 15% would be against it, and the 45% left would be in between of the two extremes, not fully supporting it or wanting its abolition, but just being OK with it as long as it doesn't do any harm.

As to the interest, however, this percentage goes up. Around a 60% of Britons would be interested in them, wanting to know more about what they are doing. The rest, just doesn't bother.

- **Comparing this support and interest with the one that Spanish society shows towards their own monarchy, finding out the differences and similarities.**

Spanish society shows much less support and interest towards their own monarchy in comparison with the British one. Spanish people aren't happy with it and they are claiming for changes. While answering to my survey's questions, some of them even addressed the royals in a very rude way. There are very big differences in mentality, and the Spanish monarchy isn't so followed and admired as the British.

- **Discovering what is British people like according to their reaction and implication towards their monarchy and towards events related to it (a royal wedding).**

British people are very traditionalists and nationalists. They like the pomp and all the pageantry of a big event, so that's why they take advantage of any opportunity they have to gather together in community and celebrate something related to their history, something they are proud of. When it's something *British*, they get involved at 100%.

- **Seeing how much media interest the institution of the British monarchy generates in Britain and all over the world.**

The British monarchy is one of the most resilient institutions in the world. When you are asked to think about something British, their monarchy is the first that comes to one's mind. It represents Britain, and it is unique. That's the reason why it generates so much curiosity and media interest. A lot of countries have monarchies, but none is as the British one.

In Britain, the institution generates a lot of daily media attention. Abroad, not so much. But this attention and interest are a thousand times amplified when an important event takes place. The best example was the royal wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton, when the worldwide media went completely mad about it.

- **Confirming or refuting some of the most spread stereotypes about British people.**

Most of the commonest stereotypes about British people aren't true. Examples of these could be that British people are: antiquated, set in their ways, very religious. Others, on the other



hand, are true, such as the fact that British people are: traditionalist, loyal, patriotic or organized.

I am glad to say that I have been able to achieve all the objectives I arouse before starting the research project.

During the research's development, some of my points of view changed. I must admit that, as well as a lot of the Spanish people, before doing my research, I thought that British people are very monarchic. After doing it, however, I have realized that it isn't true. Of course there are those who are big fans of the royals and the whole institution but, year after year, the number of republicans is growing up, and more criticism appears. There is also a lot of people who just don't care, something that frankly surprised me.

I have also changed my point of view in other aspects. For example, when I saw for the first time the amazing amount of £40 million the British monarchy receives from the government, I was shocked and totally against it. But after seeing some budgets, I have realized that all this money is necessary to undertake the Queen's duties as Sovereign and Head of State. Moreover, the British monarchy brings in a lot more for the government and its people.

As to the royal wedding of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011, British people and the wider world witnessed a sumptuous, spectacular and very peculiarly British day. With an incredible setting for the ceremonials, loud music, sonorous phrases, moments of great solemnity, great clothes, famous guests, huge pageantry, extraordinary media interest, international fascination, thousands of street parties and large and delighted crowds, this will surely be remembered as the wedding of the century. But were British people so interested in the big event as it seemed? My results have shown something different.

There were naturally those strongly monarchist who were delighted with the royal wedding because it could be the revival of a decadent monarchy, but the general feeling was that of apathy. Though millions of Britons watched live on TV the coverage of the royal wedding, it wasn't because they were really interested in it. They had a day-off, and if the media had done nothing else than speaking about it for the past weeks, you will tune in the TV to catch a glimpse of it just out of curiosity. Moreover, if it is on virtually every channel, it won't be such an easy task to avoid it. A great part of the interest and buzz surrounding this wedding was manufactured by the very entities that planned to cover it on TV and in the press.

After reading and watching videos about the event, I reached the conclusion that all the fascination over the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton was mainly due to the celebrity factor rather than the traditional.

Even the spectators who were camping in their tents in front of Westminster Abbey before the wedding's day were certainly there to watch the pageantry, but they were also aware that they existed to be talked to, filmed and photographed. It was all a big show.

But although the British monarchy is mostly a ceremonial and representative unity lacking real power, it still is very important for the British community. It represents stability and tradition.

Maybe it is true that a modern society involves some kind of changes in tradition that could lead to better conditions, but I think that the British monarchy has adapted very well to the contemporary world's demands. UK's history is full of Kings and Queens, and I believe that getting rid of centuries of history and tradition would be a catastrophe, not an improvement.

British monarchy is what identifies Britain, and without it, it wouldn't be Britain anymore. The monarchy is at the heart of British identity, and it's difficult to imagine what could ever replace that.

# 5. APPENDIX

## 5.1. THE ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE:

### 1 - Sex:

Male

Female

### 2 - Age:

Under 20

21-35

36-50

51 or older

### 3 - Nationality (+ city or town):

### 4 - How interested have you been in the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton?

Very interested

Somewhat interested

Not very interested

Not interested at all

### 5 - About the wedding's day:

I watched the coverage of the Royal wedding live on TV.

I recorded it.

I watched the reports in the news or in other TV programmes.

I didn't watch anything.

I was in the street following all the parade.

I was in the street watching the wedding on big screens.

### 6 - Why do you think so many people gathered in the streets?

Because British people really care about their monarchy.

Because of all the media publicity drive.

Because it was just a way of spending their free-time.

For other reasons

**7 - Compared to the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, I was...**

more interested in Prince William's wedding

less interested

about as interested

I didn't follow Diana's wedding, so I can't compare.

I wasn't interested in any of them.

**8 - Have you bought any of the Royal wedding souvenirs?**

Yes, just one

Yes, more than one

No, I didn't have the chance.

No, I think it has no sense.

**9 - Did you take part in a street party in honour to the Royal wedding?**

Yes

No, because I couldn't (but I would have if I had had the chance)

No, because I think it has no sense

**10 - The recent royal wedding has been a huge media event. Do you think there's been too much media coverage?**

Yes, definitely.

Yes, maybe a little bit.

No, because it's been a really important event and it deserved all that attention.

No, it deserved even more.

**11 - Are you up-to-date about the recent married Royals?**

Yes, I periodically browse about them on the Internet

Yes, because it's inevitable as they are everywhere (in the news, in the magazines, in the newspapers...)

No, I don't really care.

**12 - Do you think that it is essential for the monarchy to be married by the church?**

- Yes, it has to be done with God's consent.
- It's not
- No, we're in the 21st century and it shouldn't matter getting married in church or having a civil wedding.

**13 - In your opinion, are monarchies good or bad for a country?**

- Good
- Bad
- They don't do any difference.

**14 - Do you think that the monarchy is essential for the British society?**

- Of course, it's part of our history and it should remain like that.
- Not as much as 'essential', but it would be better if it remained.
- No, and little would change if we didn't have one.
- No, actually a Republic would be better.

**15 - Looking to the future, do you think Britain will not have a monarchy in:**

- 10 years
- 25 years
- 50 years
- 100 years
- It will last for centuries

**16 - Do you agree with the statement which says that the Royal family should not receive as much money as it does (40 million pounds sterling annually)?**

**17 - And finally, could you please mention some adjectives about how do you think Spanish people are? THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR FILLING OUT THIS SURVEY! :)**

## 5.2. THE SPANISH QUESTIONNAIRE:

### 1 - *Sexo:*

Hombre

Mujer

### 2 - *Edad:*

20 o menos

21-35

36-50

51 o más

### 3 - *Comunidad autónoma:*

### 4 - *Cómo de interesado ha estado por la reciente boda británica entre Guillermo y Kate Middleton?*

Mucho

Un poco

No demasiado

Nada

### 5 - *Por qué cree que hubo tanta gente congregada en las calles de la capital británica haciendo el seguimiento de todo el recorrido de los novios?*

Porque los ingleses son gente que realmente se preocupa por su monarquía

A causa de toda la atención mediática

Porque no tenían nada más que hacer y era una forma de pasar el tiempo libre

### 6 - *La reciente boda británica fue un acontecimiento mediático enorme. Crees que fue exagerada toda la atención que recibió?*

Sí, totalmente

Sí, a lo mejor un poco

No, porque fue un acontecimiento muy importante y se merecía toda aquella atención

No, se merecía aún más

**7 - Crees que es esencial para los monárquicos casarse por la Iglesia?**

Sí, tiene que ser con el consentimiento divino

No tanto como 'esencial', pero siempre ha sido la tradición y no veo por qué tendría que cambiar ahora

No, estamos en el siglo XXI y considero que no debería importar casarse por lo civil

**8 - Crees que las monarquías son buenas o malas para un país?**

Buenas

Malas

No aportan ninguna diferencia

**9 - Ahora centrándonos en España, crees que es esencial la monarquía para la sociedad española?**

Por supuesto que sí. Es parte de nuestra Historia y siempre debería continuar así

No tanto como 'esencial', pero creo que sería mejor si permaneciera

No, y creo que cambiaría muy poco si no tuviéramos una

No, de hecho pienso que una República sería mucho mejor

**10 - Por lo que se refiere al día de la boda del príncipe Felipe y doña Letizia el 22 de mayo del 2004:**

Miré todo el seguimiento en directo por la televisión

Estaba haciendo el seguimiento en la calle

La grabé

Vi la repetición en las noticias o en otros programas de televisión

**11 - Crees que la atención mediática que recibió su boda en España fue:**

Demasiado grande

Suficiente

Insuficiente

**12 - Estás al día sobre la monarquía española?**

Sí, periódicamente busco noticias tuyas en Internet

Sí, pero porque es inevitable, ya que la familia real siempre está en todas partes (TV, periódicos, revistas...)

No, en realidad no me importa lo que hagan o dejen de hacer

**13 - Mirando hacia el futuro, cree que España no tendrá monarquía en:**

10 años

25 años

50 años

100 años

Permanecerá durante siglos

**14 - Estás de acuerdo con la afirmación que dice que la Casa Real NO debería recibir anualmente la enorme cantidad de hasta 9 millones de euros para el sostenimiento de su familia y Casa por parte del Estado, a parte de disponer de otros beneficios como por ejemplo el no pago de ciertos impuestos, de su seguridad, viajar al extranjero a costa del Estado, etc?**

**15 - Para finalizar, podrías mencionar algunos adjetivos sobre cómo ves a los británicos? (Tanto por lo que se refiere a su relación y comportamiento con la monarquía como cualidades buenas y malas, manías, etc.) MUCHAS GRACIAS POR COMPLETAR LA ENCUESTA!:)**



### 5.3. THE CATALAN QUESTIONNAIRE:

#### 1 - *Sexe*

Home

Dona

#### 2 - *Edat*

20 o menys

21-35

36-50

51 o més gran

#### 3 - *Comunitat autònoma*

#### 4 - *Com d'interessat has estat per la recent boda britànica entre el príncep Guillem i Kate Middleton?*

Molt

Una mica

No gaire

Gens

#### 5 - *Perquè creus que hi va haver tanta gent congregada als carrers de la capital britànica fent el seguiment de tot el recorregut dels nuvis?*

Perquè els anglesos són gent que realment es preocupa per la seva monarquia

A causa del gran desplegament mediàtic

Perquè no tenien res més a fer i era una forma de passar el temps lliure

#### 6 - *La recent boda britànica ha estat un esdeveniment mediàtic enorme. Creus que ha sigut exagerada tota l'atenció que ha rebut?*

Sí, clarament

Sí, potser una mica

No, perquè ha estat un esdeveniment molt important i es mereixia tota aquella atenció

No, encara se'n mereixia més

**7 - Creus que és essencial pels monàrquics casar-se per l'església?**

Sí, ha de ser amb el consentiment de Déu.

No és 'essencial', però sempre ha estat la tradició i no veig perquè s'hauria de canviar ara

No, estem al segle XXI i considero que no hauria d'importar casar-se pel civil

**8 - Creus que les monarquies són bones o dolentes per un país?**

Bones

Dolentes

No aporten cap diferència

**9 - Ara centrant-nos en Espanya... Creus que la monarquia és essencial per a la societat espanyola?**

Per suposat que sí. És part de la nostra Història i hauria de continuar així

No tant com 'essencial', però crec que seria millor si romangués

No, i crec que canviaria molt poc si no tinguéssim una

No, de fet una República seria molt millor

**10 - Pel que fa al dia de la boda del príncep Felip i Letizia el 22 de maig del 2004:**

Vaig mirar tot el seu seguici en directe per la televisió

La vaig gravar

Vaig veure'n la repetició a les notícies o en altres programes de TV

No vaig mirar-ne res

**11 - Creus que l'atenció mediàtica que va rebre el seu casament a Espanya va ser:**

Massa gran

Suficient

Insuficient

**12 - Estàs al dia sobre la monarquia espanyola?**

Sí. Periòdicament busco notícies seves a Internet

Sí, però perquè és inevitable, ja que sempre estan a tot arreu (televisió, diaris, revistes...)

No, en realitat no m'importa el que facin o deixin de fer

**13 - Mirant cap al futur, creus que Espanya no tindrà monarquia en:**

10 anys

25 anys

50 anys

100 anys

Romandrà durant segles

**14 - Estàs d'acord amb l'afirmació que diu que la Casa Reial no hauria de rebre anualment la gran quantitat de quasi 9 milions d'euros pel sosteniment de la seva família i Casa per part de l'Estat, a part de disposar d'altres beneficis com ara el no pagament de certs impostos, de la seva seguretat, viatjar a l'estranger a costa de l'Estat, etc?**

**15 - Per acabar, podries mencionar alguns adjectius sobre com veus a la gent britànica? (Tant pel que fa a la relació que tenen amb la seva pròpia monarquia, qualitats tant bones com dolentes, manies, etc.) MOLTES GRÀCIES PER COMPLETAR L'ENQUESTA!:)**

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