**Interview Questions: The UK Citizenship Process - Exploring Immigrants’ Experiences**

**Opening questions:**

* What was your life like before you came to Britain? (job, location, family etc).
* How do you find life here?
* Are there differences between life here and where you are from? If yes, what are they?

As you know, our project is about the citizenship process. Can you tell us the story of when and how you first heard about the LUK test?

Have you taken the LUK test? Go to section 1

IF planning to take the LUK test: Are you taking it for ILR or Citizenship? Go to section 2

If ESOL route without the LUK test, go to section 3

**Section 1. Your experience of the citizenship process**

1. The decision to engage in the process

* Tell me about when you took the test – prompts, when, how long, why?
* Do you know other people who have taken the test?
* Do you know why they decided to take the test? Prompt: assess other people’s reasons
* Do you know people who chose not to take the test? Why?
* Did the experience of people you know influence your decision to take the test?

1. The preparation phase for the LUK test?

* At what stage in preparing for the test are (if at this stage)
* How do you prepare for the test? (how many courses in a week, hours, evening/day, materials, resources, time, people/support, online resources, hours?)
* How much is this test preparation costing you? (breaking down).
* How long do you think the test preparation is going to take you?
* How did you choose to come to this organisation? (if preparing through an organisation/company)
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking the test?

1. ESOL

* Why did you choose the ESOL route?
* How long was the ESOL course?
* How did you decide which college to attend?
* Tell us about your college? Class mates?
* Was it useful? Why?
* What were the most useful things that you learnt?
* Are this things useful in your everyday life? Prompt: for example?
* Has it helped you?

1. The test itself

* What was the test day like?
* Could you tell us how you felt during the test?
* How do you feel about taking the test? Or What do you feel the results will be?
* Did you take the computer or listening version of the test?
* Had you taken a computer based test before?
* What was easy/difficult?
* Do the people you know seem to take it more than once?

1. After the test (for those taking indefinite leave to remain).

* How many times did you take the test?
* How did you feel when you completed the test?
* How did you feel when you knew you passed it?
* Do you think this has made a difference to people around you who have passed/taken the test?
* Do you know people who failed the test? What happened to them

For ILR

* Do you envisage applying for citizenship? Why?

If going for citizenship, proceed:

For those going to the citizenship ceremonies:

* Tell us about the ceremony?
* What do you remember most about it? (location, room, music etc)
* How did you feel during the ceremony?
* Did they give you a gift?

Naturalization

* How long did you have to wait to get your passport?
* How did you feel when you got the passport?
* Did you have to do a passport interview after the ceremony? What was it like?

1. Overall experience:

* Have you spoken to people from your community? What did they say about their overall experience of the process? (Prompt: knowledge of pass/fail rates influences perception/experience of the process?)
* What/who helped you most in the process? E.g community, internet, courses etc
* What have been the advantages/disadvantages of the whole process?
* Has becoming a citizen made it easier to work or to find better jobs?
* Do you think this experience is different from the experience of other communities?
* Are you aware of changes in the citizenship test – in the past and now? Was it easier before?
* Within groups, people are different. From what you have seen, is it easier for come people/groups than others. E.g. men/women, refugees/non-refugees, Anglophone/non-Anglophones, Muslims/non-Muslims?
* Who do you think the process is most difficult for?

**Section 2.**

Your views about the citizenship test and the notion of citizenship

* The test was introduced by the British government in 2005. According to you, for what reasons was it introduced? Why are immigrants asked to do it?
* What do you think of this?

For people who have taken the test:

* If something could be changed about the test, what would it be? And about the overall process?
* In the process, what are the most interesting and useful things you have learned?
* Did you imagine that you would become British one day?
* What memories do you have of becoming British?

Politics

* What did you learn about politics? What was the most useful thing?
* Did you think the process was useful in learning about politics in this country? Is this information you can use in your daily life? (Prompt)
* Was there a specific moment when you felt like you became British?
* Imagine/think about life before and after the citizenship? How is it different?
* Is it possible for migrants to make a difference or to influence politics? E.g. voting, meeting councillors/MPs
* It is possible to have passports from two countries, but do you think you can feel both British and X [your nationality]?

Belonging

* Who do you know in your neighbourhood? socialise with? (Aim: to know about their networks etc. to gain a greater insight into their lives)
* Is it important to be a British citizen? Why?
* Do you feel you are accepted by other British people?
* What do you plan to do in the future here in the UK? Does being/Did becoming British make a difference to your plans?

Other:

Is there anything else that you’d like to add?

What would you like to see come out of this study?

If you’d like to know more about the results, please let us know

Do you know anyone else we could contact?