

# School Students Opinion Poll

## School Students in Lebanon favor Gibran, Ahmadi Najad, Adel Imam and Are With Emigration

### Part 2: Students and Religion in School, Gender Equality, Immigration, Extracurricular Activities, Politics, Corruption, Foreign Countries, Priorities, Most Preferred Personalities, Current Events and Israel.

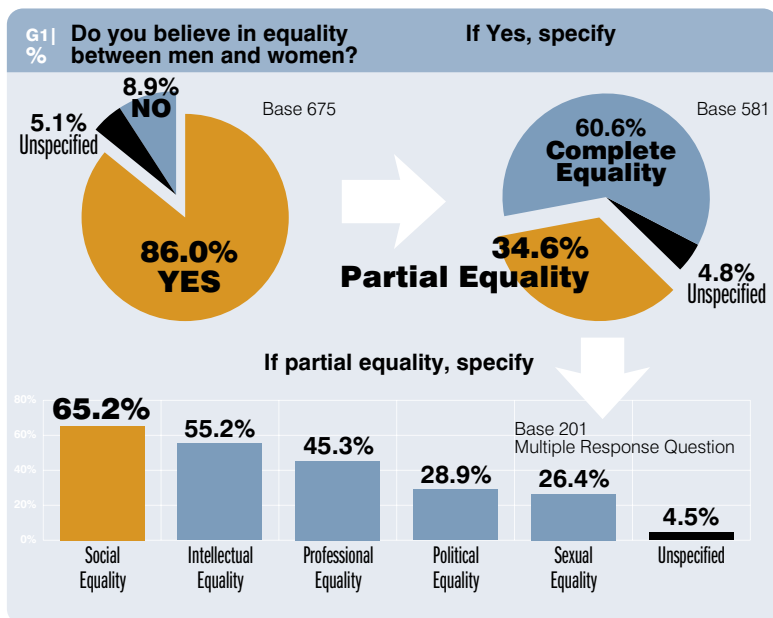
In its previous issue, *Ii Monthly* published “School Students and Religion, Outings, Love, Family, Drugs, Smoking, Alcohol, Self-Perceptions”. In this issue, *Ii Monthly* presents the second part of the survey results that was conducted with school students in the intermediate and secondary levels.

#### Students and Religion in School

78.6% of the students support the freedom of wearing the veil in school, 9.8% oppose this practice and 11.6% said they did not know. As for the freedom of practicing religious rituals in school, 63.2% of the students support it while 24% oppose this practice and 12.8% said they did not know.

#### Students and Gender Equality

The results of the opinion poll indicate that the majority of the respondents (86%) believe in equality between men and women while 8.9% do not and 5.1% said they did not know. Of the total respondents that believe in equality, 60.6% believe in complete equality, 4.8% did not specify an answer and 34.6% believe that the equality between men and women is only partial. The last category can be further divided with 65.2% believing in social equality, 55.2% believing in intellectual equality, 45.3% in professional equality, 28.9% in political equality, 26.4% in sexual equality and 4.5% did not specify an answer (Graph 1).



#### Students and Emigration

The students were asked to choose between staying in Lebanon and migrating. The majority, 45.9% preferred to stay in Lebanon, 38.4% of the students said that they would emigrate to a foreign country, 14.8% said they would emigrate to an Arab country and 0.9% refused to answer. The students who answered that they would rather emigrate justified their choice as follows: 64.1% mentioned the hard economic conditions, 29.2% lack of security, 22.6% mentioned a poor educational level, 20.3% said the spread of sectarianism and 2.5% said that there were not enough job opportunities in Lebanon. (Graph 2)

#### Students and Extracurricular Activities

A majority, 75.3% of the respondents, said they are involved in extracurricular activities, 22.5% said they are not involved and 2.2% refused to answer. More specifically, 68.9% said they are involved in sports, 22.4% in cultural activities, 20.7% in family activities, 19.9% said they are involved in political activities, 18.5% in artistic activities, 11.8% are involved in environmental activities, 11.6% are involved in activities with NGOs, 1.4% partake in religious activities, another 1.4% said they partake in scout activities, 0.8% are involved in other sorts of activities and 1.6% did not specify any activities.

#### Students and Politics

82.3% of the respondents said they follow political news and events while 17.3% do not. As for the media outlet they use to stay informed, television was the most common reply (96%), followed by newspapers (21.6%), internet (21.1%), radio (9.7%), and political sessions (0.9%), while 1.1% did not specify an outlet (Graph 3 - multiple response question).

#### Students and Corruption

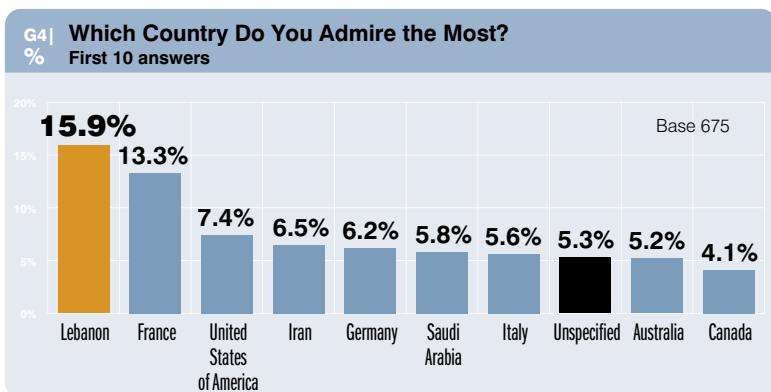
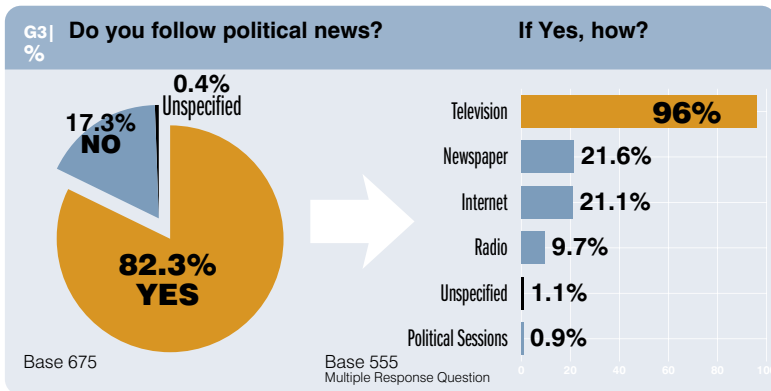
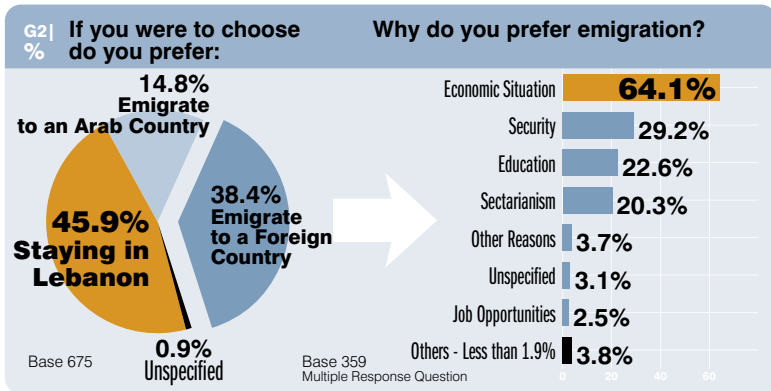
The majority, 74.2%, of the respondents believe that corruption is widespread in Lebanon, 22.4% said that corruption is limited, 0.9% replied that corruption is nonexistent in Lebanon and 2.5% refused to answer.

#### Students and their Positions from Foreign Countries

The respondents expressed their admiration for some countries as follows: 13.3% admire France, the United States of America (7.4%), Iran (6.5%), Germany (6.2%), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (5.8%), Italy (5.6%), Australia (5.2%), Canada (4.1%), 5.3% did not specify an answer, while 15.9% expressed their admiration for Lebanon. (Graph 4).

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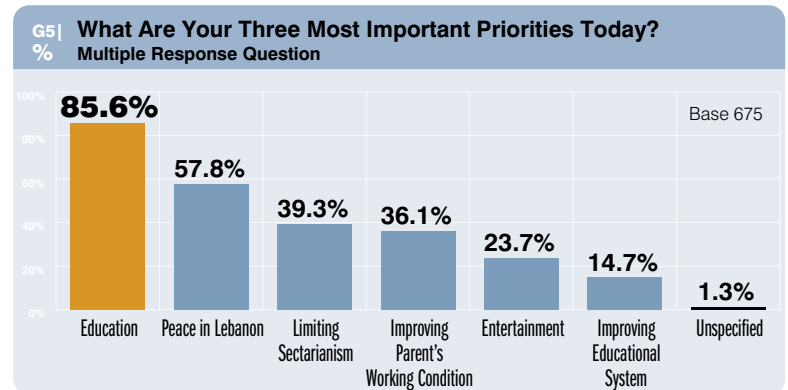


As for the countries that are not admired by the Lebanese students, they include: the United States of America (30.5%), Israel (22.8%), Syria (19.4%), Denmark (3.3%), Saudi Arabia (1.8%), Iran (1.5%), Lebanon (5.3%) and 9.9% did not specify any country.

### Students and Their Priorities

According to 85.6% of the respondents, the most important priority is the completion of their education. Other answers included resolving peace in Lebanon (57.8%), limiting the spread of sectarianism (39.3%),

improving their parents' working conditions (36.1%), finding new ways for entertainment (23.7%), and improving the educational system (14.7%), while 1.3% did not specify any priorities. (Graph 5)

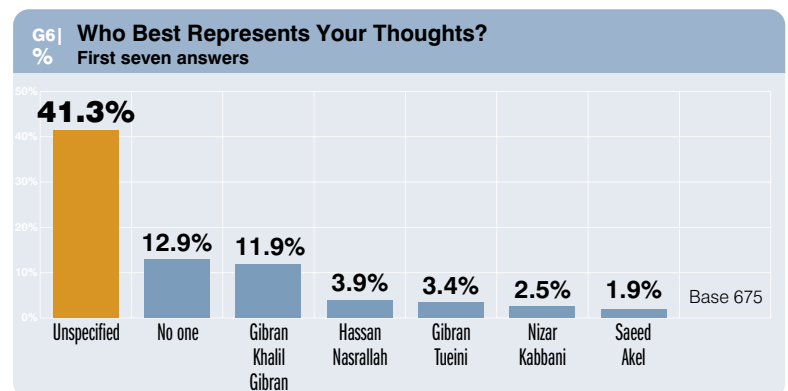


### Students and Most Preferred Personalities

In terms of intellectual and philosophical figures who best represent the students' thoughts, Gibran Khalil Gibran ranked the highest with 11.9%, followed by Hassan Nasrallah (3.9%), Gibran Tueini (3.4%), Nizar Kabbani (2.5%) and Saeed Akel (1.9%). However, it was noticeable that 41.3% of the respondents did not answer this question and 12.9% said there was no intellectual figure who represented their thoughts and interests. (Graph 6)

In terms of Arab politicians, 44% of the respondents do not admire anyone, 7% admire Gamal Abdel Nasser and 4.4% Bashar Assad.

When asked about their admiration for international politicians, 10.1%

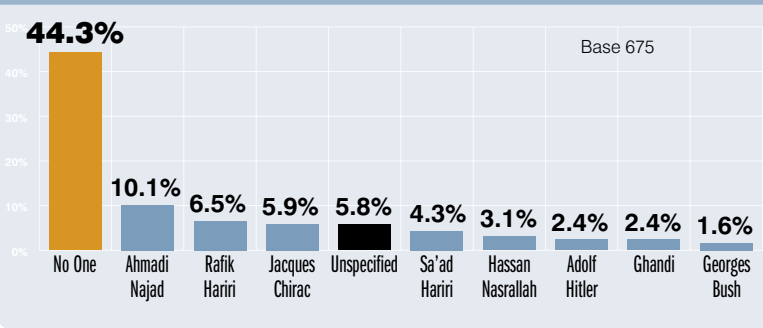


stated Ahmadi Najad, 6.5% Rafik Hariri, 5.9% Jacques Chirac, 4.3% Sa'ad Hariri, 3.1% Hassan Nasrallah, 2.4% Hitler, 2.4% Gandhi, 1.6% Bush, while 44.3% said that there was no international politician whom they admire. (Graph 7)

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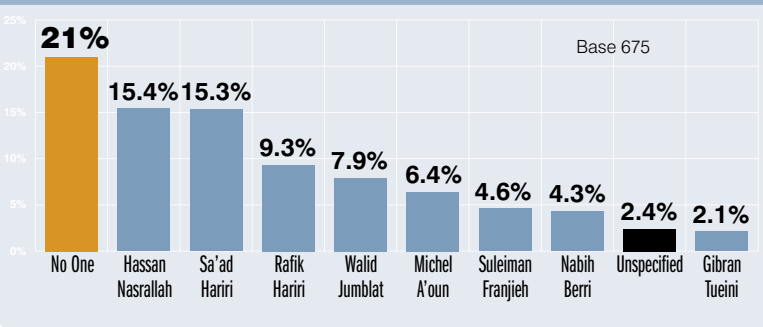
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**G7 | Who Is the International Politician You Admire the Most?**  
First 10 Answers



As for the Lebanese politicians admired by the school students, 15.4% named Hassan Nasrallah, 15.3% named Sa'ad Hariri, 9.3% named Rafik Hariri, 7.9% named Walid Jumblat, 6.4% named Michel A'oun, 4.6% named Suleiman Franjeh, 4.3% named Nabih Berri, and 2.1% named Gibran Tueini. (Graph 8)

**G8 | Who Is the Lebanese Politician You Admire the Most?**  
First 10 Answers



It is noteworthy that many school students thought of some Lebanese politicians as Arab or international leaders.

The school students were also asked if there was any artistic personality whom they admired. Singer Wael Kfoury proved to be the most popular according to 15.3% of the respondents, followed by Nancy Ajram (11%), Haifa Wehbe (7.9%), Elissa (7.3%), Hani Shaker (6.2%), Georges Wassouf (5.2%) and Kazem Al-Sاهر (4.9%), while 5.9% do not like any singer and 9.3% refused to answer.

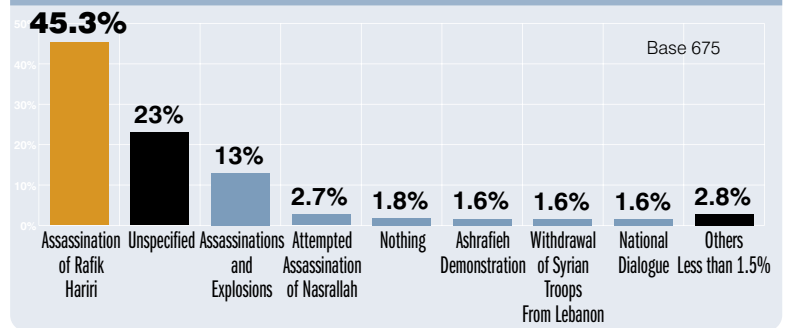
As for actors, Adel Imam proved to be the most preferred amongst school students with 19.1%, followed by Angelina Jolie (6.8%), Ahmad Al-Saka (3.4%), Tom Cruise (3.1%), Mahmoud Sa'eed (3.1%), A'amar Shalak (3%) and Brad Pitt (2.2%). 3.7% do not admire any actors and 14.5% refused to answer.

### Students and Current Events

In terms of recent local events that have left a significant mark on the respondents, Rafik Hariri's assassination ranked first with 45.3%,

followed by the other assassinations and explosions that Lebanon witnessed (13%), the attempted assassination of Hassan Nasrallah (2.7%), the Ashrafieh demonstration (1.6%), the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon (1.6%), in addition to other events that only affected a small percentage of the respondents, while 23% did not specify any event that marked them. (Graph 9)

**G9 | What Is the Last Event that Left a Significant Mark on You?**  
First eight answers



In terms of recent events in the Arab world, more than half of the respondents (52.4%) did not specify an event, 15.1% mentioned the war in Iraq and the human toll associated with it, 4% mentioned the death of Yasser A'arafat and 3.4% mentioned the Palestinian issue.

As for international events, 52% of the respondents did not consider any international event to be of enduring political importance, while 13.3% mentioned the drawings that were published about Prophet Muhammad, and 8% mentioned the bird flu.

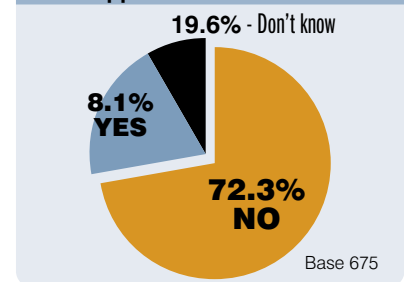
### Religious Figures and Politics

When asked about the interference of religious figures in political issues, 50.5% of the respondents were against it, while 35.3% support it and 14.2% did not know.

### Lebanon and Israel

As for Lebanon's relationship with Israel, a high percentage of respondents (81.9%) refuse any peace project between Lebanon and Israel, 11.6% approve of it, and 6.5% said they did not know. Even if certain conditions led to a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel, the majority (72.3%) would refuse normalization, while 8.1% said they would support it and 19.6% said they did not know. (Graph 10)

**G10 | In Case a Peace Treaty Was Signed Between Lebanon and Israel, Would You Support Normalization?**



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“50.5% of the respondents refuse the intervention of religious figures in political issues.”

### Observations and Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1- 78.6% of school students tolerate the practice of wearing veils in school, while 63.2% oppose the practice of religious rituals in school.
- 2- 53.2% (more than half of the respondents) wish to emigrate compared to 45.9% who prefer to stay in Lebanon. The main reason stated for emigration (66.6%) is economic in nature.
- 3- 82.3% of school students follow politics and television is the most utilized medium for that purpose (96%).
- 4- 74.2% of school students believe that corruption is widespread in Lebanon.
- 5- 45.3% of school students believe that the most important local event that affected them was the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.
- 6- 15.4% of school students ranked Hassan Nasrallah as the most admired Lebanese politician while 21% of them do not admire any politician.
- 7- 11.9% of the respondents ranked Gibran Khalil Gibran as the best intellectual figure representing their thoughts the most, 41.3% did not specify anyone.
- 8- Around 44% of the respondents do not admire any Arab or World politician. However, for Arab politicians, the Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser was favored by 7%, and for international politicians, Ahmadi Najad was favored by 10.1%.
- 9- 19.1% of the respondents ranked Adel Imam as the most preferred actor and 15.3% ranked Wael Kfoury as their most popular singer.
- 10- 50.5% of the respondents refuse the intervention of religious figures in political issues.
- 11- 81.9% oppose peace between Lebanon and Israel, and even if peace was attained, 72.3% would refuse normalization.

### Special Thanks

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- Abi Bakr Al-Sadeeq High School (A'akkar)
- Ali Bin Abi Taleb High School (A'akkar)
- International School (Batroumine – Al-Koura)
- Bshamzine High School (Bshamzine – Al-Koura)
- Green Lebanon High School (Zoqaq El-Blat – Beirut)
- Al-A'abassieh Public High School (Sour-South Lebanon)
- Manarat Jabal A'amel High School (Al-Marwanieh - South Lebanon)
- Jamil Al-Rawwas High School (Tarik Al-Jdideh - Beirut)
- Saida Public High School for Boys (Saida – South Lebanon)
- Deir Al-Moukhalles High School (Joun - Chouf)
- Fakhr Al-Deen Public High School (Beirut)
- Saba Zreik Public High School (Al-Mina – Trablous)
- Beirut Arab High School (Beirut)

“45.3% of school students believe that the most important local event that affected them was the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.”

### Sample and Methodology

This opinion poll was conducted between April and May 2006. The sample included 675 students of 13 private and public schools in the different Lebanese governorates. The sample represents the real distribution of students between the private (52%) and public schools (48%). Breakdown of the sample by age: 14.7% between 12-14 years old and 85.3% between 15 and 18 years old. The random sample selected from the schools did not include any druze students.

The margin of error amounts to  $\pm 1.9\%$ .