

A poll for the BBC World Service released on 30 December 2005 asked citizens of 27 countries from around the world: "In the future, when historians think about the year 2005, what event of global significance do you think will be seen as most important?" The table below shows the percentage of respondents in each country who, unprompted, mentioned the events shown.

A total of 59% of respondents across all the countries surveyed mentioned one of the events in the table as being the most significant. The other 41% of respondents either did not give an answer or mentioned an event that was not chosen by a large number of people.

A sample of 32,439 people was polled during October, November and December 2005. The margin of error per country ranged from +/-2.5 to 4%.

MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 2005

Countries	Asian tsunami	War in Iraq	US hurricanes	Death of Pope	London bombings	Global warming	Avian flu	Bali bombings	Pakistan quake
Afghanistan	2	5	18	0	2	*	0	0	42
Argentina	7	25	18	7	4	1	1	*	*
Australia	27	20	6	1	8	5	*	5	0
Brazil	17	11	14	7	1	1	1	0	1
Canada	12	17	14	1	1	8	1	0	*
DR Congo	3	12	8	29	2	1	2	0	0
Finland	12	8	5	*	3	11	1	0	1
France	14	12	5	2	4	4	2	*	0
Germany	14	4	9	5	1	2	1	0	2
Ghana	6	18	13	9	11	1	1	*	0
Great Britain	16	9	6	*	7	10	*	*	2
India	31	8	7	1	3	8	0	*	0
Indonesia	30	2	2	*	*	*	5	48	0
Iraq	5	43	11	*	2	1	9	*	0
Italy	17	19	5	17	6	1	2	0	*
Kenya	20	3	9	10	4	2	2	0	0
Mexico	4	8	4	2	1	13	6	0	0
Philippines	21	10	9	3	2	*	1	1	*
Poland	1	4	1	48	3	*	*	0	0
Russia	9	8	14	9	4	3	12	*	0
Saudi Arabia	9	25	6	1	3	1	21	0	0
South Africa	28	9	7	3	4	1	1	*	0
South Korea	24	31	10	*	8	5	2	4	1
Spain	7	28	8	6	8	3	*	1	0
Sri Lanka	57	3	8	1	3	1	2	0	0
Turkey	10	26	3	2	3	6	10	*	0
United States	8	27	15	*	1	4	*	0	1
Average of 27 countries	15	15	9	6	4	3	3	2	2

*represents less than 1%

SOURCE: BBC World Service/ GlobeScan/ Program on International Policy Attitudes