

Northern Ireland
ISSP 1999 – Social Inequality III
Questionnaire

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Self-completion Questionnaire A



Joint Project between
The Queen's University of Belfast and
The University of Ulster



Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Q1 Please circle one number for each of these to show how important you think it is for getting ahead in life.
First, how important is coming from a wealthy family?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

Knowing the right people?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

Q2 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
In Northern Ireland people get rewarded for their effort	1	2	3	4	5	8
In Northern Ireland people get rewarded for their intelligence and skills	1	2	3	4	5	8
To get all the way to the top in Northern Ireland today, you have to be corrupt	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q3 Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Inequality continues to exist because it benefits the rich and powerful	1	2	3	4	5	8
No one would study for years to become a lawyer or doctor unless they expected to earn a lot more than ordinary workers	1	2	3	4	5	8
Large differences in income are necessary for Northern Ireland's prosperity	1	2	3	4	5	8
Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q4 Please think now about the amount of money you earn. Would you say that you earn ...
(If you are not working now, please think about your last job).

Much less than I deserve	1
Less than I deserve	2
What I deserve	3
More than I deserve	4
Much more than I deserve	5
I have never worked	6
Can't choose	8

Q5 We would like to know what you think people in these jobs actually earn.
 Please write in how much you think they usually earn each year before taxes.
*(Many people are not exactly sure about this, but your best guess will be close enough.
 This may be difficult, but it is very important, so please try.)*

Please write in how much they actually earn each year, before tax

- First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory earns?..... £ _____
 - A doctor in general practice? £ _____
 - The chairman of a large national corporation? £ _____
 - A solicitor? £ _____
 - A shop assistant? £ _____
 - The owner-manager of a large factory? £ _____
 - An Appeal Court judge? £ _____
 - An unskilled worker in a factory? £ _____
 - A cabinet minister in the UK government? £ _____
 - Someone in your occupation - about how much do they actually earn?..... £ _____
- If you are not working now, please think about your last occupation*
 If you have never worked, please tick here

Q6 Next, what do you think people in these jobs ought to be paid - how much do you think they should earn each year before taxes, regardless of what they actually get?

Please write in how much they should earn each year, before tax

- First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory should earn?..... £ _____
 - A doctor in general practice? £ _____
 - The chairman of a large national corporation? £ _____
 - A solicitor? £ _____
 - A shop assistant? £ _____
 - The owner-manager of a large factory? £ _____
 - An Appeal Court judge? £ _____
 - An unskilled worker in a factory? £ _____
 - A cabinet minister in the UK government? £ _____
 - Someone in your occupation - about how much ought they to earn? £ _____
- If you are not working now, please think about your last occupation*
 If you have never worked, please tick here

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Q7 Please show how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Differences in income in Northern Ireland are too large	1	2	3	4	5	8
It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q8 Do you think people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share?
(Please circle one number only)

Much larger share	1
Larger	2
The same share	3
Smaller	4
Much smaller share	5
Can't choose	8

Q9 Turning now to international differences, how much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Present economic differences between rich and poor countries are too large	1	2	3	4	5	8
People in wealthy countries should make an additional tax contribution to help people in poor countries	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q10 Is it right or wrong that people with higher incomes can ...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Definitely right	Somewhat right	Neither right nor wrong, mixed feelings	Somewhat wrong	Very wrong	Can't choose
Buy better health care than people with lower incomes	1	2	3	4	5	8
Buy better education for their children than people with lower incomes	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q11 In all countries, there are differences or even conflicts between different social groups. Please show how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

In your opinion, in Northern Ireland how much conflict is there between ...

(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are no conflicts	Can't choose
Poor people and rich people?	1	2	3	4	8
The working class and the middle class?	1	2	3	4	8
Management and workers?	1	2	3	4	8
People at the top of society and people at the bottom?	1	2	3	4	8
Young people and older people?	1	2	3	4	8

Q12 In our society there are groups which tend to be towards the top and groups which tend to be towards the bottom. Below is a scale that runs from top to bottom. Where would you put yourself on this scale?

(Please circle one number only)

1	Top
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Q13 And ten years ago, where did you fit in then?

(Please circle one number only)

1	Top
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Q14 Please think of your present job (or your last one if you don't have one now). If you compare this job with the job your father had when you were 16, would you say that the level or status of your job is (or was) ...

(Please circle one number only)

Much higher than your father's,	1
Higher,	2
About equal,	3
Lower,	4
or, much lower than your father's?	5
I have never had a job	6
Can't choose or does not apply	8

Q15 In deciding how much people ought to earn, how important should each of these things be, in your opinion? First, the amount of responsibility that goes with the job - how important do you think that ought to be in deciding pay?

(Please circle one number only)

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

The number of years spent in education and training?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

Whether the job requires supervising others - how important should that be in deciding pay?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

What is needed to support a family?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

Whether the person has children to support - how important should that be in deciding pay?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

How well he or she does the job - how important should that be in deciding pay?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

How hard he or she works at the job - how important do you think that ought to be in deciding pay?
(Please circle one number only)

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

Q16 Is your pay fair? We are not asking about what you do earn, or what you would like to earn - but what you feel is fair given your skills and effort. Is your pay ...
(If not working now, please tell about your last job).

Much less than is fair,	1
A little less than is fair,	2
About fair for me,	3
A little more than is fair,	4
Much more than is fair?	5
I have never had a job	6
Can't choose	8

Q17 Now some questions on research into human genes.
 Which one of these two statements comes closest to your views?
(Please circle one number only)

Scientists should be trusted to decide for themselves what genetic research to do	1
OR	
There should be an independent 'watchdog' to keep an eye on the research that scientists are doing into human genes	2
Can't choose	8

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Q18 Which one of these two statements comes closest to your views?
(Please circle one number only)

Only with freedom from government controls will genetic scientists make important new discoveries	1
OR	
Government controls are needed to watch out for new discoveries that could hold serious dangers for the future	2
Can't choose	8

Q19 Do you think that ...
(Please circle one number only)

Scientists should <u>not</u> be allowed to carry out <u>any</u> research into human genes	1
or, that the only genetic research that should be allowed is to help detect, prevent and cure diseases	2
or, that scientists should be allowed to carry out whatever genetic research they choose to do?	3
Can't choose	8

Q20 Please circle one number on each line to show how much you agree or disagree that ...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
People at risk of having a child with a serious genetic disorder should not start a family?	1	2	3	4	5	8
Research into human genes will do more harm than good?	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q21 How hopeful or worried for the future do you feel about discoveries into human genes and what these may lead to?
(Please circle one number only)

Very hopeful about the future	1
Fairly hopeful	2
Hopeful about some things, worried about others	3
Fairly worried	4
Very worried about the future	5
Haven't really thought about it	6
Can't choose	8

Now some questions about education.

Q22 Here are some statements about integrated schools in Northern Ireland. Please say how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements. *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Having separate schools for Protestants and Catholics fuels community divisions	1	2	3	4	5	8
Children who go to integrated schools don't learn enough about their own culture and traditions	1	2	3	4	5	8
The government should not fund schools that take only Catholic or only Protestant pupils	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q23 And how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Children at school should learn about the religious festivals of all religions and ethnic groups	1	2	3	4	5	8
Religious education should not be taught in schools at all but left to the parents and their churches	1	2	3	4	5	8
Catholic schools should offer their pupils the chance to take part in sports like cricket and rugby as well as the usual choices	1	2	3	4	5	8
Protestant schools should offer their pupils the chance to take part in sports like gaelic football, hurling and camogie as well as the usual choices	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q24 Here are some of the things that young people may gain from their education. In your view, how important is it that schools aim towards each of these? *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Can't choose
Skills and knowledge which will help them get a good job	1	2	3	4	5	8
Good exam results	1	2	3	4	5	8
Self-confidence	1	2	3	4	5	8
Knowledge that equips them for life in general	1	2	3	4	5	8
An ability to live among people from different backgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	8
Skills that allow them to adapt to the changing needs of the world of work	1	2	3	4	5	8
An ability to speak and write clearly	1	2	3	4	5	8
A readiness to challenge other people's ideas	1	2	3	4	5	8

Now some questions about politics and community relations.

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Q25 How much do you support or oppose having cross-border cooperation with the Irish Republic in each of these areas? *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Can't choose
Tourism	1	2	3	4	5	8
Transport	1	2	3	4	5	8
Agriculture	1	2	3	4	5	8
Health	1	2	3	4	5	8
Security	1	2	3	4	5	8
Northern Ireland's political future	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q26 Who do you think has most power over everyday life in Northern Ireland?
(Please circle one number only)

British government	1
Irish government	2
European Union	3
Local Councils	4
Northern Ireland Assembly	5
North/South Council of Ministers	6
East/West Council of the Isles	7
The people of Northern Ireland	8
Can't choose	98

Q27 And who do you think should have the most power over everyday life in Northern Ireland?
(Please circle one number only)

British government	1
Irish government	2
European Union	3
Local Councils	4
Northern Ireland Assembly	5
North/South Council of Ministers	6
East/West Council of the Isles	7
The people of Northern Ireland	8
Can't choose	98

Q28 How much do you agree with each of the following statements about devolved government in Northern Ireland ?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
Devolution will bring economic prosperity to Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
The local politicians who become ministers under devolution will never be able to work with each other	1	2	3	4	5	8
Devolution will help secure peace in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
Devolution will lead to a fall in living standards in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
Devolution will lead to the break-up of the UK	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q29 And thinking about the issue of parades, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
The right to march is an important freedom	1	2	3	4	5	8
No marches should be allowed through areas that are predominantly those of the other tradition unless the residents approve	1	2	3	4	5	8
The Parades Commission is not impartial at all	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q30 Thinking about the Protestant and Catholic traditions in Northern Ireland as well as the Chinese and Asian communities, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
Living in Northern Ireland means that we are influenced by several cultural traditions	1	2	3	4	5	8
I have my own cultural tradition and see no need to take part in any others	1	2	3	4	5	8
Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland means that there will always be conflict between them	1	2	3	4	5	8
Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland enriches us all	1	2	3	4	5	8
My cultural tradition is always the underdog	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q31 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
It should be a top priority for government to make sure that Protestants and Catholics are treated equally	1	2	3	4	5	8
There is always talk about the rights of Catholics but never about the rights of Protestants	1	2	3	4	5	8
There is always talk about the rights of Protestants but never about the rights of Catholics	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q32 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Ordinary working people get their fair share of the nation's wealth	1	2	3	4	5	8
There is one law for the rich and one for the poor	1	2	3	4	5	8
There is no need for strong trade unions to protect employee's working conditions and wages	1	2	3	4	5	8
Private enterprise is the best way to solve Northern Ireland's economic problems	1	2	3	4	5	8
Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership	1	2	3	4	5	8
It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q33 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
People like me have no say in what the government does	1	2	3	4	5	8
Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on	1	2	3	4	5	8
Generally speaking, those we elect lose touch with the people pretty quickly	1	2	3	4	5	8
It doesn't really matter which party is in power, in the end things go on much the same	1	2	3	4	5	8
Parties are only interested in people's votes, not in their opinions	1	2	3	4	5	8
Voting is the only way people like me can have any say about how the government runs things	1	2	3	4	5	8

Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 1999

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you very much for taking part in this year's Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey. The answers that you gave will help us to build up a picture of what people in Northern Ireland think about a wide range of social issues. When the results are put together they will be used by other people in the universities and within government to help develop social policy in Northern Ireland. Some of the questions that you answered are also being asked in 28 other countries as part of an international survey and results of these will be used to compare people's opinions across the world. Without your help and the help of all the other people we interviewed this year we would not be able to provide this valuable insight into the opinions of the general public in Northern Ireland today.

Thank you again,

LIZANNE DOWDS
GILLIAN ROBINSON

The Queen's University of Belfast
The University of Ulster