

**USA**  
**ISSP 2004 – Citizenship**  
**Questionnaire**

**GSS 2004 QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION E – ISSP CITIZENSHIP (Versions 4-6)**

There are different opinions as to what it takes to be a good citizen. As far as you are concerned personally on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is not at all important and 7 is very important, how important is it:

**SHOWCARD E1**

	Not at all Important	Very Important	Can't Choose
1. Always to vote in elections VOTEELEC	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
2. Never to try to evade taxes PAYTAXES	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
3. Always to obey laws and regulations OBEYLAWS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
4. To keep watch on the actions of government WATCHGOV	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
5. To be active in social or political associations ACTASSOC	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
6. To try to understand the reasoning of people with other opinions OTHREASN	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
7. To choose products for political, ethical or environmental reasons, even if they cost a bit more. BUYPOL	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
8. To help people in America who are worse off than yourself HELPUSA	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
9. To help people in the rest of the world who are worse off than yourself HELPWRLD	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	
10. To be willing to serve in the military at a time of need MILSERVE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8	

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There are a number of groups in society.

**11. Should religious extremists be allowed to hold public meetings?**

**RELMEET**

- Should definitely be allowed ..... 1
- Should probably be allowed ..... 2
- Should probably not be allowed ..... 3
- Should definitely not be allowed ..... 4
- Can't Choose ..... 8

**12. Should people who want to overthrow the government by force be allowed to hold public meetings?**

**REVMEET**

- Should definitely be allowed ..... 1
- Should probably be allowed ..... 2
- Should probably not be allowed ..... 3
- Should definitely not be allowed ..... 4
- Can't Choose ..... 8

**13. Should people prejudiced against any racial or ethnic group be allowed to hold public meetings?**

**RACMEET**

- Should definitely be allowed ..... 1
- Should probably be allowed ..... 2
- Should probably not be allowed ..... 3
- Should definitely not be allowed ..... 4
- Can't Choose ..... 8

Here are some different forms of political and social action that people can take. Please indicate, for each one,

- ✍ whether you have done any of these things in the past year,
- ✍ whether you have done it in the more distant past,
- ✍ whether you have not done it but might do it
- ✍ or have not done it and would never, under any circumstances, do it.

**SHOWCARD E2**

	Have done it in the past year	Have done it in the more distant past	Have not done it but might do it	Have not done it and would never do it	Can't choose
<b>14. Signed a petition</b> <b>SIGNPET</b>	1	2	3	4	8

<b>15. Boycotted, or deliberately bought, certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons</b> <b>AVOIDBUY</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>16. Took part in a demonstration</b> <b>JOINDEM</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>17. Attended a political meeting or rally</b> <b>ATTRALLY</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>18. Contacted, or attempted to contact, a politician or a civil servant to express your views</b> <b>CNTCTGOV</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>19. Donated money or raised funds for a social or political activity</b> <b>POLFUNDS</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>20. Contacted or appeared in the media to express your views</b> <b>USEMEDIA</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>21. Joined an Internet political forum or discussion group</b> <b>INTERPOL</b>	1	2	3	4	8

People sometimes belong to different kinds of groups or associations. For each type of group, please indicate whether you,

- ☐ belong and actively participate,
- ☐ belong but don't actively participate,
- ☐ used to belong but do not any more,
- ☐ or have never belonged to it.

### SHOWCARD E3

	Belong and actively participate	Belong but don't participate	Used to belong	Never belonged	Can't Choose
<b>22. A political party</b> <b>GRPPARTY</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>23. A trade union, business, or professional association</b> <b>GRPWORK</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>24. A church or other religious organization</b> <b>GRPRELIG</b>	1	2	3	4	8

<b>25. A sports, leisure or cultural group</b> <b>GRPSPTS</b>	1	2	3	4	8
<b>26. Another voluntary association</b> <b>GRPOTHER</b>	1	2	3	4	8

There are different opinions about people's rights in a democracy. On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is not at all important and 7 is very important, how important is it:

#### SHOWCARD E4

	Not at all Important				Very Important			Can't Choose
<b>27. That all citizens have an adequate standard of living</b> <b>SOLOK</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>28. That government authorities respect and protect the rights of minorities</b> <b>RGHTSMIN</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>29. That government authorities treat everybody equally regardless of their position in society</b> <b>EQTREAT</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>30. That politicians take into account the views of citizens before making decisions</b> <b>CITVIEWS</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>31. That people be given more opportunities to participate in public decision-making</b> <b>POLOPTS</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>32. That citizens may engage in acts of civil disobedience when they oppose government actions.</b> <b>OPPSEGOV</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**SHOWCARD E5**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
33. People like me don't have any say about what the government does POLEFF11	1	2	3	4	5	8
34. I don't think the government cares much what people like me think POLEFF18	1	2	3	4	5	8
35. I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing America. POLEFF19	1	2	3	4	5	8
36. I think most people in America are better informed about politics and government than I am. POLEFF20	1	2	3	4	5	8

Suppose a law were being considered by the Congress that you considered to be unjust or harmful.

37. If such a case arose, how likely is it that you, acting alone or together with others, would be able to try to do something about it?

**ACTLAW**

Very likely ..... 1  
 Fairly likely ..... 2  
 Not very likely..... 3  
 Not at all likely ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

38. If you made such an effort, how likely is it that the Congress would give serious attention to your demands?

**AFFCTLAW**

Very likely ..... 1  
 Fairly likely ..... 2  
 Not very likely..... 3  
 Not at all likely ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

39. How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

**POLINT**

Very interested ..... 1  
 Fairly interested ..... 2  
 Not very interested ..... 3  
 Not at all interested ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**SHOWCARD E5**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
<b>40. Most of the time we can trust people in government to do what is right</b> <b>GOVDOOK</b>	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>41. Most politicians are in politics only for what they can get out of it personally</b> <b>POLGREED</b>	1	2	3	4	5	8

**42. How often do you think that people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, and how often would they try to be fair?**

**BEFAIR**

Try to take advantage almost all of the time ..... 1  
 Try to take advantage most of the time ..... 2  
 Try to be fair most of the time ..... 3  
 Try to be fair almost all of the time ..... 4  
 Can't Choose ..... 8

**43. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?**

**CANTRUST**

People can almost always be trusted ..... 1  
 People can usually be trusted ..... 2  
 You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people ..... 3  
 You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people ... 4  
 Can't Choose ..... 8

**44. When you get together with your friends, relatives or fellow workers, how often do you discuss politics?**

**DISCPOL**

Often ..... 1  
 Sometimes ..... 2  
 Rarely ..... 3  
 Never ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

**45. When you hold a strong opinion about politics, how often do you try to persuade your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views?**

**CHNGEOTH**

Often ..... 1  
 Sometimes ..... 2  
 Rarely ..... 3  
 Never ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

Now we would like to ask your opinion about international issues.

**46. Thinking about the United Nations, which comes closest to your view?**

**UNPOWER**

- The United Nations has too much power ..... 1  
or  
The United Nations has about the right amount of power .. 2  
or  
The United Nations has too little power ..... 3  
or  
Don't know what the United Nations is ..... 4  
or  
Can't Choose ..... 8

**47. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view?**

**GOVNGOS**

- In international organizations, decisions should be left to  
national government representatives ..... 1  
or  
In international organizations, citizens' organizations  
should be involved directly in the decision-making process ..... 2  
or  
Can't choose..... 8

**48. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view?**

**UNRGHTS**

- If a country seriously violates human rights, the United  
Nations should intervene ..... 1  
or  
Even if human rights are seriously violated, the country's  
sovereignty must be respected, and the United Nations  
should not intervene ..... 2  
or  
Don't know what the United Nations is ..... 3  
or  
Can't choose ..... 8

Thinking now about politics in America, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**SHOWCARD E5**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
<b>49. Political parties encourage people to become active in politics</b> <b>POLACTIVE</b>	1	2	3	4	5	8



<b>50. Political parties do not give voters real policy choices CHOICES</b>	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>51. Referendums are a good way to decide important political questions. REFRNDMS</b>	1	2	3	4	5	8

**52. Thinking of the last national election in America, how honest was it regarding the counting and reporting of the votes?**

**ELECVOTE**

Very honest ..... 1  
Somewhat honest ..... 2  
Neither honest or dishonest ..... 3  
Somewhat dishonest ..... 4  
Very dishonest ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

**53. Thinking of the last national election in America, how fair was it regarding the opportunities of the candidates and parties to campaign?**

**ELECFAIR**

Very fair ..... 1  
Somewhat fair ..... 2  
Neither fair nor unfair ..... 3  
Somewhat unfair ..... 4  
Very unfair ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

**54. Thinking of government administrators in America, how committed are they to serve the people?**

**SERVEPEO**

Very committed ..... 1  
Somewhat committed ..... 2  
Not very committed ..... 3  
Not at all committed ..... 4  
Can't choose ..... 8

**55. When the government administrators make serious mistakes in America how likely is it that they will be corrected?**

**FIXMISTKS**

Very likely ..... 1  
Somewhat likely ..... 2  
Not very likely ..... 3  
Not at all likely ..... 4  
Can't choose ..... 8

**56. How widespread do you think corruption is in the public service in America?**

**CORRUPTN**

Hardly anyone is involved ..... 1  
A small number of people are involved ..... 2  
A moderate number of people are involved ..... 3  
A lot of people are involved ..... 4  
Almost everyone is involved ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

On the whole, on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is very poorly and 10 is very well.

**SHOWCARD E6**

	Very Poorly	Very Well	Can't Choose
57. How well does democracy work in America today? <b>DEMTODAY</b>	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		98
58. And what about 10 years ago? How well did democracy work in America then? <b>DEM10PST</b>	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		98
59. And how about 10 years from now? How well do you think democracy will work in America then? <b>DEM10FUT</b>	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		98

60. Here are some views regarding America's political system. Which of these statements is closer to your view?

**DEMRGHTS**

- Under no circumstances should democratic rights be restricted by the government..... 1  
or  
When the government thinks it is necessary it should restrict democratic rights. .... 2  
or  
Can't choose ..... 8

61. After I read off three statements, please tell me which one comes closest to your views about the origin and development of man.

**CREATION**

1. God created man pretty much in his present form at one time within the last 10,000 years
2. Man have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life. God had no part in this process
3. Man has developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, including man's creation
4. OTHER/DON'T KNOW

62. From the statement I'll read, look at this card and tell me which answer comes closest to your opinion on how true it is.

Human beings developed from earlier species of animals.

**SCITESTY**

**HANDCARD E7**

1. Definitely true
2. Probably true
3. Probably not true
4. Definitely not true
5. Can't choose