

2016 Role of Government questionnaire
SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE
Finalised June 2015

Drafting group: Sweden (convenor), Britain, France, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Spain.

General notes to members

1. All notes which are not part of the questionnaire and intended only for members (for example, translation notes) are enclosed in pointed, angle brackets <like these>.
2. All the elements in questions which require local adaptation are enclosed in square brackets. These instructions often relate to adding the name of the relevant country. For example, in Britain “Generally, how would you describe taxes in [Country] today?” would read “Generally, how would you describe taxes in Britain today?”
3. All the elements in questions which are optional are enclosed in double round brackets ((like these)).
4. Q-numbers in parentheses – for example **(Q1 2006)**: question number in the 2006 questionnaire. **(N)** = new in 2016.
5. Translation and clarification notes are provided after the relevant question.
6. In general, if translators have difficulty when translating answer codes, they should focus upon translating the **concepts** expressed by the codes rather than the precise **words** used.
7. In general, by government we mean the central regime within a country (that is, *any* government that has been elected into power). In some countries the meaning of questions which refer to ‘government’ can be improved by adding ‘of any party’ after ‘government’ (to stress that it does not necessarily have to be the current government).

(Q1 2006)

1. In general, would you say that people should obey the law without exception, or are there exceptional occasions on which people should follow their consciences even if it means breaking the law?

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- (✓)
- Obey the law without exception
- OR**
- Follow conscience on occasions
- Can't choose

(Q2 2006)

2. There are many ways people or organisations can protest against a government action they strongly oppose. Please show which you think should be allowed and which should not be allowed by ticking a box on each line.

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))

Should it be allowed?

- | | Definitely | Probably | Probably
not | Definitely
not | Can't
choose |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Organising public meetings to protest against the government | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Organising protest marches and demonstrations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

<Precode: the word 'allowed' has the same meaning as the word 'permitted'. The main issue is whether people should be free or have the right to show to varying degrees their discontent with a government.>
<In Q2a, a 'public meeting' refers to an assembly or gathering which everyone is allowed to attend. In the context of this particular question, the purpose of the meeting should be clear.>

(Q3 2006)

3. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution. Do you think such people should be allowed to ...

- ((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))
- | | Definitely | Probably | Probably
not | Definitely
not | Can't
choose |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. ... hold public meetings to express their views? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. ... publish books expressing their views? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

<In Q3b, 'publish books' can be translated as 'have their books published'.>

(Q4 2006)

4. All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse ...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**))

- (✓)
... to convict an innocent person,
OR
... to let a guilty person go free?
Can't choose

(Q5 a-f 2006)

5. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Please show which actions you are in favour of and which you are against.

((PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ON EACH LINE**))

	Strongly in favour of	In favour of	Neither in favour of nor against	Against	Strongly against	Can't choose
a. Cuts in government spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Government financing of projects to create new jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Less government regulation of business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Support for industry to develop new products and technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Support for declining industries to protect jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Reducing the working week to create more jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<5d refers to funding (financial aid) from government.>

<5e refers not only to direct financial aid from government (government subsidies) but could also include, for example, import restrictions imposed by government.>

<In 5f 'reducing the working week' refers to shortening the number of hours that employees are required to work in a week.>

(Q7 a-j 2006)

7. On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to ...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))

	Definitely should be	Probably should be	Probably should not be	Definitely should not be	Can't choose
a. ... provide a job for everyone who wants one	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. ... keep prices under control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. ... provide health care for the sick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. ... provide a decent standard of living for the old	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. ... provide industry with the help it needs to grow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. ... provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. ... reduce income differences between the rich and the poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. ... give financial help to university students from low-income families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. ... provide decent housing for those who can't afford it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. ... impose strict laws to make industry do less damage to the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(N) k. ... promote equality between men and women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(8)

(N) 8. People have different opinions on who should provide services in [country]. Who do you think should primarily provide....

8a. Health care for the sick?

(✓)

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private companies/for-profit organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-profit organisations/charities/cooperatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family, relatives or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>

<"Government" might also mean "state", "public sector"; both central or local government is included.>
<"Religious organizations": if necessary include "churches", "synagogues", etc.>
<"provide" is about providing the service, it is not about funding.>

8b. Care for older people?

(✓)

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private companies/for-profit organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-profit organisations/charities/cooperatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family, relatives or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>

<"Government" might also mean "state", "public sector"; both central or local government is included.>
<"Religious organizations": if necessary include "churches", "synagogues", etc.>
<"provide" is about providing the service, it is not about funding.>

8c. School education for children?

(✓)

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- Government
- Private companies/for-profit organisations
- Non-profit organisations/charities/cooperatives
- Religious organisations
- Family, relatives or friends
- Can't choose

<"Government" might also mean "state", "public sector"; both central or local government is included.>

<"Religious organizations": if necessary include "churches", "synagogues", etc.>

<"School education for children" means compulsory/formal education.>

<"provide" is about providing the service, it is not about funding.>

(N) 9. Here is a list of people and organisations that can influence government actions.

Please read through the list and write in the boxes below the letters corresponding to the ones you think have the most and the second most influence on the actions of the (COUNTRY) government?

- A. The media
- B. Trade unions
- C. Business, banks and industry
- D. Religious organisations/authorities
- E. The military/army
- F. Organised crime
- G. People who vote for the party/the parties in government
- H. Citizens in general
- I. Civic and voluntary organisations
- J. International organizations (e.g. United nations, International Monetary Fund)
- K. Can't choose

((PLEASE WRITE IN THE LETTERS OF YOUR CHOICE IN THE BOXES BELOW))

Most influence	
Second most influence	

<"Government" means the party/parties in executive office/power, e.g., cabinet.>

(N) 13. Some people think that governments should have the right to take certain measures in the name of national security. Others disagree. Do you think that the [COUNTRY] government should or should not have the right to do the following:

*((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))*

	Definitely should have right	Probably should have right	Probably should not have right	Definitely should not have right	Can't choose
<					
a. collect information about anyone living in (COUNTRY) without their knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. collect information about anyone living in other countries without their knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<"Government" means public authorities primarily involved in law enforcement.>

(Q9 2006 a-c)

14. Suppose the government suspected that a terrorist act was about to happen. Do you think the authorities should have the right to...

*((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))*

	Definitely should have right	Probably should have right	Probably should not have right	Definitely should not have right	Can't choose
a. ... detain people for as long as they want without putting them on trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. ... tap people's telephone conversations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. ... stop and search people in the street at random?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<Question text: by 'terrorist act' we mean an action organised by a group that uses terror or violence as a weapon to achieve its aims. By 'authorities' we mean that group of public officials who are primarily involved in law enforcement.>

(Q10 2006)

Now some more questions about politics

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

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- (✓)
- Very interested
- Fairly interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not very interested
- Not at all interested
- Can't choose

(Q11 2006)

16. Please tick one box on each line to show how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ON EACH LINE))

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. People we elect as MPs try to keep the promises they have made during the election	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Most civil servants can be trusted to do what is best for the country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<In 14b, by 'pretty good' we mean "rather good" and not the negative reading "quite good".>

<In 14c, 'MPs' (Members of Parliament) are people elected for national parliament.>

<In 14d, 'civil servants' are higher level non-political government paid officials. They are *not* elected to office – they applied for their posts and are senior public servants or government administrators.>

(Q12a-c 2006)

17a. Generally, how would you describe taxes in [Country] today?
((We mean all taxes together, including [wage deductions],
[income tax], [taxes on goods and services] and all the rest.))
First, for those with high incomes, are taxes ...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- (✓)
- ... much too high,
- too high,
- about right,
- too low,
- or, are they much too low?
- Can't choose

17b. Next, for those with middle incomes, are taxes ...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- (✓)
- ... much too high,
- too high,
- about right,
- too low,
- or, are they much too low?
- Can't choose

17c. Lastly, for those with low incomes, are taxes ...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

- (✓)
- ... much too high,
- too high,
- about right,
- too low,
- or, are they much too low?
- Can't choose
-

(N) 18. In general, how often do you think that the tax authorities in [country] do the following...

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX
ON EACH LINE))

	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Almost never	Can't choose
a... make sure people pay their taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b... treat everyone in accordance with the law, regardless of their contacts or position in society?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(N) 19. In general, how often do you think that major private companies in [country] do the following:

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX
ON EACH LINE))

	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Almost never	Can't choose
a.comply with laws and regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. ...try to avoid paying their taxes?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(Q17 2006)

20. In your opinion, about how many politicians in [COUNTRY] are involved in corruption?

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

(✓)

Almost none	<input type="checkbox"/>
A few	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quite a lot	<input type="checkbox"/>
Almost all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/>

<Precode: if necessary, the difference between 'a few' and 'some' can be clarified by using a term such as 'only a few'.>

(Q18 2006)

21. And in your opinion, about how many public officials in [Country] are involved in corruption?

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

(✓)

- Almost none
- A few
- Some
- Quite a lot
- Almost all
- Can't choose

<Precode: if necessary, the difference between 'a few' and 'some' can be clarified by using a term such as 'only a few'.>

(Q19 2006)

22. In the last five years, how often have you or a member of your immediate family come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or favour in return for a service?

((PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX ONLY))

(✓)

- Never
 - Seldom
 - Occasionally
 - Quite often
 - Very often
 - Can't choose
-

OPTIONAL ITEMS

(Q8 a-c 2006)

23. How successful do you think the government in [Country] is nowadays in each of the following areas?

<i>((PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE))</i>	Very Successful	Quite successful	Neither successful nor unsuccessful	Quite un- successful	Very un- successful	Can't Choose
a. Providing health care for the sick?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Providing a decent standard of living for the old?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Dealing with threats to [Country's] security?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<In 23c, by 'threats to [Country's] security' we mean security threats from within or outside the country in question. These threats might be posed by terrorist organisations, or organised crime (but only where this threatens national security) or by other countries. >
