

**ISSP 2018 – Religion IV**  
**Source Questionnaire**  
**(June 2017)**

2018 Religion Questionnaire - Final Draft

See Question Notes at the end.

Repeat Items      New Items

Compulsory Items

1. If you were to consider your life in general these days, how happy or unhappy would you say you are, on the whole...

1991, 1998, 2008

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

2. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your relationships with family members?

New

Completely satisfied.....	1
Very satisfied.....	2
Fairly satisfied.....	3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied....	4
Fairly dissatisfied.....	5
Very dissatisfied.....	6
Completely dissatisfied.....	7
Can't choose.....	8

3. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a married person has sexual relations with someone other than his or her husband or wife, is it...

1991, 1998, 2008

Always wrong.....	1
Almost always wrong.....	2
Wrong only sometimes.....	3
Not wrong at all.....	4
Can't choose.....	8

4. And what about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex, is it...

1991, 1998, 2008

Always wrong.....	1
Almost always wrong.....	2
Wrong only sometimes... ..	3
Not wrong at all.....	4
Can't choose.....	8

5. Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion if the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children.

**1991, 1998, 2008**

- Always wrong..... 1
- Almost always wrong..... 2
- Wrong only sometimes... ..3
- Not wrong at all..... 4
- Can't choose..... 8

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family ...

**1991, 1998, 2008**

- Strongly agree..... 1
- Agree..... 2
- Neither agree nor disagree.... 3
- Disagree..... 4
- Strongly disagree..... 5
- Can't choose..... 8

7. How much confidence do you have in ...

**1991, 1998, 2008**

- 1. Complete confidence
- 2. A great deal of confidence
- 3. Some confidence
- 4. Very little confidence
- 5. No confidence at all
- 8. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

a. [Parliament]..... <use national legislature, e.g. U.S. Congress>	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Business and industry....	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Churches and religious organizations.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. Courts and the legal system.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. Schools and the educational system.....	1	2	3	4	5	8

8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections.

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Strongly agree.....1  
 Agree.....2  
 Neither agree nor disagree.... 3  
 Disagree..... 4  
 Strongly disagree..... 5  
 Can't choose..... 8

9. Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree.

**1998, 2008**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis- agree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
a. We trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Looking around the world, religions bring more conflict than peace.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. People with very strong religious beliefs are often too intolerant of others.....	1	2	3	4	5	8

10. Do you think that churches and religious organizations in this country have too much power or too little power?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Far too much power..... 1  
 Too much power..... 2  
 About the right amount of power.... 3  
 Too little power..... 4  
 Far too little power..... 5  
 Can't choose..... 8

11. People have different religions and different religious views. Would you accept a person from a different religion or with a very different religious view from yours marrying a relative of yours.

**2008**

Definitely accept.....1  
 Probably accept.....2  
 Probably not accept.....3  
 Definitely not accept.....4  
 Can't choose.....8

12. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider religious extremists, that is people who believe that their religion is the only true faith and all other religions should be considered as enemies. Do you think such people should be allowed to...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE.

	Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely	Can't
			Not	Not	Choose
a. Hold public meetings to express their views?	1	2	3	4	8
<b>2008</b>					
b. Publish their views on the Internet or social media?	1	2	3	4	8
<b>New</b>					

13. Please indicate which statement below comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

**1991, 1998, 2008**

I don't believe in God.....	1
I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out.....	2
I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind.....	3
I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others.....	4
While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God.....	5
I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.....	6

14. Which best describes your beliefs about God?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

I don't believe in God now and I never have.....	1
I don't believe in God now, but I used to.....	2
I believe in God now, but I didn't used to.....	3
I believe in God now and I always have.....	4
Can't choose.....	8

15. Do you believe in

	Yes, Definitely	Yes, Probably	No, Probably Not	No, Definitely Not	Can't Choose
a. Life after death. <b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>	1	2	3	4	8
b. Heaven..... <b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>	1	2	3	4	8
c. Hell..... <b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>	1	2	3	4	8
d. Religious miracles <b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>	1	2	3	4	8
e. The supernatural powers of deceased ancestors <b>2008</b>	1	2	3	4	8

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following?

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree
- 4. Disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
- 8. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

a. There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>						
b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>						
c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>						
d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>						
e. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>1991, 1998, 2008</b>						
f. I have my own way of connecting with God without churches or religious services.	1	2	3	4	5	8
<b>2008</b>						

17. In your opinion, does your religion treat men and women equally, treat men better than women, or treat women better than men?

**New**

I don't belong to or follow any religion	1
Treats men and women equally	2
Treats men better than women	3
Treats women better than men	4
Can't choose	8

18. What was your mother's religious preference when you were a child? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Protestant.....	1
Catholic.....	2
Jewish.....	3
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)...	4
Muslim.....	5
Other (Please Specify)	
_____	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

If Protestant:  
What specific denomination was that?

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**<This is an example only. Use a formulation that is appropriate for your country, such as religious affiliation, belonging, following, etc.**

**List in Qs. 18-20 should be modified to include all major religions in each country.**

**It is strongly recommended that Qs. 18-20 use response categories that are fully compatible with the item on respondent's religion in the demographics.>**

19. What was your father's religious preference when you were a child? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Protestant.....	1
Catholic.....	2
Jewish.....	3
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)...	4
Muslim.....	5
Other (Please Specify)	
_____	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

If Protestant:  
What specific denomination was that?

20. What religion, if any, were you raised in? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Protestant.....	1
Catholic.....	2
Jewish.....	3
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)...	4
Muslim.....	5
Other (Please Specify)	6
<hr/>	
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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21. When you were a child, how often did your mother attend .religious services?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9
No mother/mother not present..	10
Can't say/Can't remember.....	98

22. When you were a child, how often did your father attend .religious services?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9
No father/father not present..	10
Can't say/Can't remember.....	98

23. And what about when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services then?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9
Can't say/Can't remember.....	98

**<It is strongly recommended that the item on respondent's church attendance in the demographics use the same response categories as above.>**

Now thinking about the present...

24. About how often do you pray?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9
Once a day.....	10
Several times a day.....	11

25. How often do you take part in the activities or organizations of a church or place of worship other than attending services?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9

26. During the last 12 months, have you read or listened to the reading of any holy scripture such as the Bible, Buddhist sutra, Koran, Sruti, Torah, or other religious scripture, not counting any reading that happened during a worship service?

**New**

Yes	1
No	2

27. For religious reasons do you have in your home a shrine, altar, or a religious object on display such as a [COUNTRY-SPECIFIC LIST icon, retablo, mezuzah, menorah, or crucifix]?

**2008**

Yes	1
No	2

28. How often do you visit a holy place for religious reasons such as going to [COUNTRY-SPECIFIC shrine/temple/church/mosque]? Please do not count attending regular religious services at your usual place of worship, if you have one.

**2008**

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month or more	5

29. Would you describe yourself as ...

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Extremely religious.....	1
Very religious.....	2
Somewhat religious.....	3
Neither religious nor non-religious.....	4
Somewhat non-religious.....	5
Very non-religious.....	6
Extremely non-religious.....	7
Can't choose.....	8

30. What best describes you:

**2008**

I follow a religion and consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 1

I follow a religion, but don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 2

I don't follow a religion, but consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 3

I don't follow a religion and don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 4

Can't choose 8

31. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to...

**2008**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
a. make friends?	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. gain comfort in times of trouble or sorrow?	1	2	3	4	5	8

32. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Religions are usually a barrier to equality between women and men.

**New**

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Can't choose	8

33. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**New**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis- agree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
a. Governments should not interfere with the attempts of any religion to spread its faith.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. All things considered, people belonging to different religions cannot get along with each other when living close together.....	1	2	3	4	5	8

34. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

a. In [COUNTRY], religion represents the past and not the future.

**New**

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Can't choose	8

b. In [COUNTRY], religion is just as relevant to life today as it was in the past.

**New**

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Can't choose	8

35. What is your personal attitude towards members of the following religious groups?

**New, but an optional in 2008**

1. Very positive,
2. Somewhat positive,
3. Neither positive nor negative,
4. Somewhat negative,
5. Very negative,
8. Can't choose

a. Christians	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Muslims	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Hindus	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. Buddhists	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. Jews	1	2	3	4	5	8
f. Atheists or non-believers	1	2	3	4	5	8

**Compulsory Background Variable:**

In general, would you say your health is..

Excellent.....	1
Very good.....	2
Good.....	3
Fair.....	4
Poor.....	5
Can't choose.....	8

**Optional Items**

1. Would you say that you have been "born again" or have had a "born again" experience -- that is, a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Christ?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

Yes.....1  
No.....2

2. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

**1991, 1998, 2008**

- a. The Bible is the actual word of God and it is to be taken literally, word for word..... 1
- b. The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word 2
- c. The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man..... 3
- d. This does not apply to me 4
- e. Can't choose..... 8

3. Has there ever been a turning point in your life when you made a new and personal commitment to religion?

**1991, 1998, 2008; Optional in 2008, previously required**

Yes.....1  
No.....2

4. Now please think about something different. Please check one box on each line below to show whether you think each statement is true or false.

**1991, 1998, 2008**

	Definitely True	Probably True	Probably False	Definitely False	Can't Choose
a. Good luck charms sometimes do bring good luck.	1	2	3	4	8
b. Some fortune tel- lers really can fore- see the future.....	1	2	3	4	8
c. Some faith healers do have God-given healing powers.....	1	2	3	4	8
d. A person's star sign at birth, or horoscope, can af- fect the course of their future.....	1	2	3	4	8

5. Suppose a law was passed which conflicted with your religious principles and teachings. Would you...

**1998, 2008**

Definitely follow the law.....	1
Probably follow the law.....	2
Probably follow your religious principles.....	3
Definitely follow your religious principles...	4
I have no religious principles.....	5
Can't choose.....	8

6. Do you consider those belonging to the following groups as threatening or not threatening?

**New**

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

a. Christians	1	2	3	4	8
b. Muslims	1	2	3	4	8
c. Hindus	1	2	3	4	8
d. Buddhists	1	2	3	4	8
e. Jews	1	2	3	4	8
f. Non-believers	1	2	3	4	8

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

**Compulsory in 1998, 2008**

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

8. Do you believe in

**Compulsory in 2008**

	Yes, Definitely	Yes, Probably	No, Probably Not	No, Definitely Not	Can't Choose
a. Reincarnation - being reborn in this world again and again	1	2	3	4	8
b. Nirvana	1	2	3	4	8

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
A country's laws should not be based on any religion.

**New**

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Can't choose	8

### Notes on Question Wordings

In the above text "( )" are parenthetical statements that will appear in the version administered to respondents. "[ ]" are used to show where appropriate, country-specific words will be inserted and the punctuations will be removed from the final text. "< >" are special notes or instructions to follow. The punctuations and the statements themselves will be removed from the final text.

Q. 2 - "Family members" includes both nuclear and extended relations.

Q. 3 - "sexual relations" means "sexual intercourse".

Q. 7 - "confidence" takes on several meanings, but having trust in is the main dimension.

Q. 7B - "Business and industry" - refers to large-scale businesses, but don't use an adjective like "big" in the translation.

Q. 7C - "Churches" can be substituted with a functional equivalent (one or more).

Q. 8 - "Religious leaders" include clergy and other religious leaders at both the local level and higher.

Q. 10 - "churches and religious organizations" refers to the power of organized or institutional religions collectively. The question is whether overall religious organizations (e.g. the Catholic and Lutheran churches) have too much/too little power. "Churches" can be substituted with a functional equivalent.

Q. 12B - "Social media" refers to such things as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube etc. If a respondent asks what "social media" is, these may be given as examples.

Qs. Required: 13, 14, 16a, 16c, 16f and Optionals: 2, 4C: "God" refers to a supreme being. The term should refer to an entity rather than a non-sentient force. An encompassing, non-sectarian term is desirable if possible.

Q. 13, response 3 - a "personal God" - a supreme being who cares about and is involved with individuals. This is a view of God in contrast to a deistic outlook.

Q. 15E, 30 - "supernatural" refers to beyond the physical world, should connote things of a divine or transcendental nature. Avoid if possible, terms that refer mostly to entities like ghosts, poltergeists, elves, gremlins, etc. not associated with religion.

Q. 16F - "Churches" can be substituted with a functional equivalent.

Qs 18-20 - "preference" refers to the religion that a person favors or identifies with. If a person was born a member of one religion, but then preferred or identified with another religion, this question asks about the latter.

"Religions" refers to major faiths or organized theological systems as opposed to "denominations" which are sub-divisions within a religion. What is important is that these questions distinguish all relevant faiths, religions, denominations, sects, etc. that exist in each country.

Qs. 21-23 - "religious services" generally refers to organized, group worship activities like Muslims going to the mosque on Fridays, Catholic mass, attending church on Sundays for Protestants, etc. Private prayers at home would not normally count.

Q. 25 - "Church" can be substituted with a functional equivalent.

Q. 27 - In general, list two or three examples that would be appropriate for the two or three largest religions in your country. If the country is religiously homogenous and only one type of religious object would be typical for that religion, a single example would suffice. However, we want to avoid creating the impression that we are referring only to religious objects relating to one particular religion.

Q. 28 Note that this refers to a religious visit, thus sightseeing at a shrine, temple, church, tomb, etc. without a religious purpose would not count. In general, list two or three examples of holy places that would be appropriate for the two or three largest religions in your country. If the country is religiously homogenous and only one type of holy place would be typical for that religion, a single example would suffice. However, we want to avoid creating the impression that we are referring only to holy places relating to one particular religion.

Q. 29 "extremely non-religious" - this does not mean anti-religious or attacking religion, but being without any religious feelings, beliefs, or behaviors.

"Extremely" should be translated to avoid a negative connotation and not to imply religious extremism.

Q. 30 - see Q. 15E above.

Q. 33A - "Interfere" means to take a measure to hinder, obstruct; "government" means the institutions of the state, not the party in power.

Q. 33B - "Living close together" refers to having a neighbor or living in the same small community.

Q. 34A - "represents" means stands for, is part of, is emblematic of

Q. 35 - "Christians" collectively refers to followers of all churches associated with Christianity: Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, etc. Similarly the other terms cover all sects or divisions within each of the listed major religions.

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#### Optionals

Optional Qs. 1 and 2 should be asked in countries with an appreciable number of Evangelical Protestants. They are not general questions to be asked in all countries.

Optional Qs. 3-7,9 are generally applicable for all countries.

Optional Q. 1 - "born-again" - this refers to a specific type of spiritual experience in which people accept Christ as their personal Savior and are "born-again" as a Christian on the path to salvation. If your country has Baptist or Pentecostal sects, find what they use in your language(s) for this. It does not refer to "rebirth" in the sense of reincarnation.

Optional Q. 2 - "Bible" should be used in all countries with predominantly Judeo-Christian heritage. Countries with adherents mostly from other religious traditions might either omit this item or replace "Bible" with the appropriate holy book. For example, a predominately Muslim country could rephrase the item in terms of the Koran.

"This does not apply to me." This code is largely for members of religions outside the Judeo-Christian tradition, but we want it to be flexible enough for other respondents to use it, if it seems appropriate to them.

Optional Q. 3 - "turning point" - a time or event in one's life when a change occurred resulting in a gaining of faith, becoming a believer, a rededication to one's religion or similar.

Optional Q. 6 - See note for Q.35 among compulsory items.

"Non-believers" refers to individuals without any religious belief

"Jews" refers to the followers of Jewish faith.

Optional Q. 8A - "Reincarnation - being Reborn in this world again and again"

This was mistranslated in several countries in 2008. Terms that refer to the resurrection of Christ, the rising or resurrection of the dead in end times, or being born again (see note on Option Q. 1) must be avoided.

Optional Q. 8B - "Nirvana" is a Buddhist concept that refers to the ultimate state transcending pain and desire in which individual consciousness ends.