

# **ISSP 1993 – Environment**

## **Basic Questionnaire**

P.1235/GB *Environment*

**BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES 1993/  
SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Spring 1993

OFFICE USE ONLY		INTERVIEWER TO ENTER			
1	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Sampling point			
2-5	S.N.	9-12	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6-8	C.N.	Serial No.			
21-25	BATCH NO.	13-16	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Interviewer No.			
		17-20	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**To the selected respondent:**

Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in this important study - the ninth in this annual series. The study consists of this self-completion questionnaire, and the interview you have already completed. The results of the survey are published in a book each autumn; some of the questions are also being asked in twenty other countries, as part of an international survey.

**Completing the questionnaire:**

The questions inside cover a wide range of subjects, but each one can be answered simply by placing a tick (✓) or a number in one or more of the boxes. No special knowledge is required: we are confident that everyone will be able to take part, not just those with strong views or particular viewpoints. The questionnaire should not take very long to complete, and we hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable. **It must be filled in only by the person actually interviewed at your address.** The answers you give will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

**Returning the questionnaire:**

Your interviewer will arrange with you the most convenient way of returning the questionnaire. If the interviewer has arranged to call back for it, please fill it in and keep it safely until then. If not, please complete it and post it back in the pre-paid, addressed envelope, **AS SOON AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.**

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP.**

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*Social and Community Planning Research is an independent social research institute registered as a charitable trust. Its projects are funded by government departments, local authorities, universities and foundations to provide information on social issues in Britain. The British Social Attitudes survey series is funded mainly by one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, with contributions also from other grant-giving bodies and government departments. Please contact us if you would like further information.*

2.01 Which of these would you say is more important in preparing children for life ...

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

(✓)

... to be obedient,  1

OR

... to think for themselves?  2

Can't choose  8

31

2.02 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX**  
ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. Private enterprise is the best way to solve Britain's economic problems	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

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33

2.03a Looking at the list below, please tick a box next to the **one** thing you think should be Britain's **highest priority**, the most important thing it should do.

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

Britain should...

**Highest  
priority**

(✓)

Maintain order in the nation  1

Give people more say in government decisions  2

Fight rising prices  3

Protect freedom of speech  4

Can't choose  8

34

b. And which **one** do you think should be Britain's **next highest priority**, the second most important thing it should do?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

Britain should ...

**Next highest  
priority**

(✓)

Maintain order in the nation  1

Give people more say in government decisions  2

Fight rising prices  3

Protect freedom of speech  4

Can't choose  8

35

2.04 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ONE EACH LINE**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>	
a. We believe too often in science, and not enough in feelings and faith	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	36
b. Overall, modern science does more harm than good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	37
c. Any change humans cause in nature - no matter how scientific - is likely to make things worse	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	38
d. Modern science will solve our environmental problems with little change to our way of life	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	39

2.05 And please tick one box for each of **these** statements to show how much you agree or disagree with it.

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ON EACH LINE**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>	
a. We worry too much about the future of the environment and not enough about prices and jobs today	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	40
b. Almost everything we do in modern life harms the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	41
c. Animals should have the same moral rights that human beings do	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	42
d. Human beings should respect nature because it was created by God	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	43

2.06 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ONE BOX ONLY**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>	
a. People worry too much about human progress harming the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	44
b. Nature would be at peace and in harmony if only human beings would leave it alone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	45
c. In order to protect the environment Britain needs economic growth	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	46
d. It is right to use animals for medical testing if it might save human lives	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	47
e. Nature is really a fierce struggle for survival of the fittest	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	48
f. Economic growth always harms the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	49

2.07 Please tick **one** box to show which statement is closest to your views.

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- Nature is sacred because it is created by God  1
- Nature is spiritual or sacred in itself  2
- Nature is important, but not spiritual or sacred  3
- Can't choose  8

50

2.08a How willing would **you** be to pay **much higher prices** in order to protect the environment?

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- Very willing  1
- Fairly willing  2
- Neither willing nor unwilling  3
- Fairly unwilling  4
- Very unwilling  5
- Can't choose  8

51

b. And how willing would **you** be to pay **much higher taxes** in order to protect the environment?

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- Very willing  1
- Fairly willing  2
- Neither willing nor unwilling  3
- Fairly unwilling  4
- Very unwilling  5
- Can't choose  8

52

c. And how willing would **you** be to **accept cuts in your standard of living** in order to protect the environment?

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- Very willing  1
- Fairly willing  2
- Neither willing nor unwilling  3
- Fairly unwilling  4
- Very unwilling  5
- Can't choose  8

53

2.09 How much do you agree or disagree with **each** of **these** statements?

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ON EACH LINE*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose	
a. It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	54
b. I do what is right for the environment, even when it costs more money or takes more time	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	55

2.10 For each statement below, just tick the box that comes closest to your opinion of how true it is.

SPARE  
56-60

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ON EACH LINE*

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true	Can't choose	
<b>In your opinion, how true is this?</b>						
a. 'All radioactivity is made by humans'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	61
b. 'Antibiotics can kill bacteria but not viruses'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	62
<b>In your opinion, how true is this?</b>						
c. 'Astrology - the study of star signs - has some scientific truth'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	63
d. 'Human beings developed from earlier species of animals'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	64
e. 'All man-made chemicals can cause cancer if you eat enough of them'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	65

2.11 And for each of **these** statements, just tick the box that comes closest to your opinion of how true it is.

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX  
ON EACH LINE*

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true	Can't choose	
<b>In your opinion, how true is this?</b>						
a. 'If someone is exposed to any amount of radioactivity, they are certain to die as a result'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	66
b. 'Some radioactive waste from nuclear power stations will be dangerous for thousands of years'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	67
c. 'The greenhouse effect is caused by a hole in the earth's atmosphere'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	68
<b>In your opinion, how true is this?</b>						
d. 'Every time we use coal or oil or gas, we contribute to the greenhouse effect'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	69
e. 'All pesticides and chemicals used on food crops cause cancer in humans'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	70
f. 'Human beings are the main cause of plant and animal species dying out'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	71
g. 'Cars are not really an important cause of air pollution in Britain'	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	72

2.12a In general, do you think that **air pollution caused by cars** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

(✓)

- ... extremely dangerous for the environment,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for the environment?  5
- Can't choose  8

73

b. And do you think that **air pollution caused by cars** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

(✓)

- ... extremely dangerous for you and your family,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?  5
- Can't choose  8

74

c. Within the next ten years, how likely do you think it is that there will be a large increase in ill-health in Britain's cities as a result of **air pollution caused by cars**?

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

(✓)

- Certain to happen  1
- Very likely to happen  2
- Fairly likely to happen  3
- Not very likely to happen  4
- or - Certain not to happen  5
- Can't choose  8

75

3a In general, do you think that **nuclear power stations** are ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- ... extremely dangerous for the environment,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for the environment?  5
- Can't choose  8

76

b. And do you think that **nuclear power stations** are ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- ... extremely dangerous for you and your family,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?  5
- Can't choose  8

77

14a In general, do you think that **air pollution caused by industry** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- ... extremely dangerous for the environment,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for the environment?  5
- Can't choose  8

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b. And do you think that **air pollution caused by industry** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- (✓)
- ... extremely dangerous for you and your family,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?  5
- Can't choose  8

79

2.15a In general, do you think that **pesticides and chemicals used in farming** are ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

... extremely dangerous for the environment,

(✓)

1

very dangerous,

2

somewhat dangerous,

3

not very dangerous,

4

or, not dangerous at all for the environment?

5

Can't choose

6

80

b. And do you think that **pesticides and chemicals used in farming** are ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

... extremely dangerous for you and your family,

(✓)

1

very dangerous,

2

somewhat dangerous,

3

not very dangerous,

4

or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?

5

Can't choose

6

81

2.16a In general, do you think that **pollution of Britain's rivers, lakes and streams** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

... extremely dangerous for the environment,

(✓)

1

very dangerous,

2

somewhat dangerous,

3

not very dangerous,

4

or, not dangerous at all for the environment?

5

Can't choose

6

82

b. And do you think that **pollution of Britain's rivers, lakes and streams** is ...

*PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

... extremely dangerous for you and your family,

(✓)

1

very dangerous,

2

somewhat dangerous,

3

not very dangerous,

4

or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?

5

Can't choose

6

83

2.17a In general, do you think that a rise in the world's temperature caused by the 'greenhouse effect' is ...

PLEASE TICK ONE  
BOX ONLY

- (✓) ... extremely dangerous for the environment,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for the environment?  5
- Can't choose  8

84

b. And do you think that a rise in the world's temperature caused by the 'greenhouse effect' is ...

PLEASE TICK ONE  
BOX ONLY

- (✓) ... extremely dangerous for you and your family,  1
- very dangerous,  2
- somewhat dangerous,  3
- not very dangerous,  4
- or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?  5
- Can't choose  8

85

2.18a If you had to choose, which one of the following would be closest to your views?

PLEASE TICK ONE  
BOX ONLY

- (✓) Government should let **ordinary people** decide for themselves how to protect the environment, even if it means they don't always do the right thing  1
- OR
- Government should pass laws to make **ordinary people** protect the environment, even if it interferes with people's rights to make their own decisions  2
- Can't choose  8

86

b. And which one of the following would be closest to your views?

PLEASE TICK ONE  
BOX ONLY

- (✓) Government should let **businesses** decide for themselves how to protect the environment, even if it means they don't always do the right thing  1
- OR
- Government should pass laws to make **businesses** protect the environment, even if it interferes with business' rights to make their own decisions  2
- Can't choose  8

87

2.19a How often do you make a special effort to **sort glass or tins or plastic or newspapers and so on** for recycling?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

- Always  <sub>1</sub>
- Often  <sub>2</sub>
- Sometimes  <sub>3</sub>
- Never  <sub>4</sub>
- (Recycling not available where I live)  <sub>5</sub>

88

b. And how often do you make a special effort to **buy fruits and vegetables grown without pesticides or chemicals**?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

- Always  <sub>1</sub>
- Often  <sub>2</sub>
- Sometimes  <sub>3</sub>
- Never  <sub>4</sub>
- (Not available where I live)  <sub>5</sub>

89

c. And how often do you **refuse to eat meat for moral or environmental reasons**?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

- Always  <sub>1</sub>
- Often  <sub>2</sub>
- Sometimes  <sub>3</sub>
- Never  <sub>4</sub>

90

d. And how often do you **cut back on driving a car for environmental reasons**?

PLEASE TICK **ONE BOX ONLY**

- Always  <sub>1</sub>
- Often  <sub>2</sub>
- Sometimes  <sub>3</sub>
- Never  <sub>4</sub>
- (I do not have or cannot drive a car)  <sub>5</sub>

91

2.20 Are you a member of any group whose main aim is to preserve or protect the environment?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

Yes  1

No  2

92

2.21 In the last five years, have you...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Yes, I have	No, I have not	
a. ... signed a petition about an environmental issue?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	93
b. ... given money to an environmental group?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	94
c. ... taken part in a protest or demonstration about an environmental issue?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	95

2.22 Please tick one box below to show which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

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

Can't choose  8

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2.23 Would you describe the place where you live as...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

... a big city,  1

the suburbs or outskirts of a big city,  2

a small city or town,  3

a country village,  4

or, a farm or home in the country?  5

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