

Great Britain
ISSP 1990 – Role of Government II
Questionnaire

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P.1090/GB

BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES 1990 SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE

Spring 1990

To the selected respondent:

OFFICE USE ONLY:		Area No.			
Interviewer	2108-11	0			
to enter:		Serial No.			
	2112-15				
Rec.		Interviewer No.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	2116	2117-20			

Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in this important study— the seventh 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 ten 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 should 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 complete it 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.

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 has been funded mainly by the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, with contributions also from government departments, the Nuffield Foundation, universities and industry. Please contact us if you would like further information.

L.

- 20.1 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

(✓)

Obey the law without exception ☐ 1

Follow conscience on occasions ☐ 2

Can't choose ☐ 3

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- 20.2 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?

	Defin- itely	Prob- ably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
Organising public meetings to protest against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Publishing pamphlets to protest against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Organising protest marches and demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Occupying a government office and stopping work there for several days	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Seriously damaging government buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Organising a nationwide strike of all workers against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

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Please continue

L.

20. 3 There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority.

First, 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

	Defin- itely	Prob- ably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
i) ... hold public meetings to express their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
ii) ... publish books expressing their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

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20. 4 Second, consider people who believe that whites are racially superior to all other races. Do you think such people should be allowed to ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Defin- itely	Prob- ably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
i) ... hold public meetings to express their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
ii) ... publish books expressing their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

13-14

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20. 5 Suppose the police get an anonymous tip that a man with a long criminal record is planning to break into a warehouse.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

Do you think the police should be allowed, without a Court Order ...

	Defin- itely	Prob- ably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
i) ... to keep the man under surveillance?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
ii) ... to tap his telephone?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
iii) ... to open his mail?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
iv) ... to detain the man overnight for questioning?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

15-18

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L.

20. 6 All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse:

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

(✓)
to convict an innocent person, ☐ 1

OR

to let a guilty person go free? ☐ 2

Can't choose ☐ 8

19
2136

20. 7 What are your personal feelings about ...

A. People who organise protests against a government action they strongly oppose?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

(✓)
Extremely favourable ☐ 1

Favourable ☐ 2

Neither favourable or unfavourable ☐ 3

Unfavourable ☐ 4

Extremely unfavourable ☐ 5

Can't choose ☐ 8

20
2137

B. People who want to overthrow the government by revolution?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

(✓)
Extremely favourable ☐ 1

Favourable ☐ 2

Neither favourable or unfavourable ☐ 3

Unfavourable ☐ 4

Extremely unfavourable ☐ 5

Can't choose ☐ 8

21
2138

C. People who believe whites are racially superior to all other races?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

(✓)
Extremely favourable ☐ 1

Favourable ☐ 2

Neither favourable or unfavourable ☐ 3

Unfavourable ☐ 4

Extremely unfavourable ☐ 5

Can't choose ☐ 8

22
2139

Please continue

20. 8 Some people think those with high incomes should pay a larger proportion (percentage) of their earnings in taxes than those who earn low incomes. Other people think that those with high incomes and those with low incomes should pay the same proportion (percentage) of their earnings in taxes.

Do you think those with **high** incomes should ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX.

... pay a **much larger** proportion, ☒ 1

pay a **larger** proportion, ☐ 2

pay the **same** proportion as those who earn low incomes, ☐ 3

pay a **smaller** proportion, ☐ 4

or - pay a **much smaller** proportion? ☐ 5

Can't choose ☐ 6

23
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20. 9 What is your opinion of the following statement:
It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Agree strongly ☒ 1

Agree ☐ 2

Neither agree nor disagree ☐ 3

Disagree ☐ 4

Disagree strongly ☐ 5

24
2141

L.

2. 10 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	
A. Control of wages by law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2142
B. Control of prices by law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2143
C. Cuts in government spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2144
D. Government financing of projects to create new jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2145
E. Less government regulation of business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2146
F. Support for industry to develop new products and technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2147
G. Support for declining industries to protect jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2148
H. Reducing the working week to create more jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2149

25-32

2. 11 Listed below are various areas of government spending. Please show whether you would like to see more or less government spending in each area.

Remember that if you say "much more", it might require a tax increase to pay for it.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Spend much more	Spend more	Spend the same as now	Spend less	Spend much less	Can't choose	
A. The environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2150
B. Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2151
C. The police and law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2152
D. Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2153
E. The military and defence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2154
F. Old age pensions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2155
G. Unemployment benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2156
H. Culture and the arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2157

33-40

Please continue

. 12 If the government had to choose between keeping down inflation or keeping down unemployment, to which do you think it should give highest priority?

PLEASE TICK *ONE* BOX

Keeping down inflation ☒ 1

Keeping down unemployment ☐ 2

Can't choose ☐ 8

41
2158

. 13 Do you think that trade unions in this country have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE TICK *ONE* BOX

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

42
2159

. 14 How about business and industry? Do they have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE TICK *ONE* BOX

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

43
2160

L.

2. 15 And what about the government, does it have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Far too much power	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Too much power	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
About the right amount of power	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Too little power	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Far too little power	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

44
2161

2. 16 In general, how good would you say trade unions are for the country as a whole?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly good	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very good	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not good at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

45
2162

2. 17 What do you think the government's role in each of these industries and services should be?

The government should:

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Own it	Control prices and profits but not own it	Neither own it nor con- trol its prices & profits	Can't choose
A. Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
B. The steel industry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
C. Banking and insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

46-48
2163
2164
2165

Please continue

L.

2. 18 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"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2166
B.	... keep prices under control	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2167
C.	... provide health care for the sick	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2168
D.	... provide a decent standard of living for the old	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2169
E.	... provide industry with the help it needs to grow	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2170
F.	... provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2171
G.	... reduce income differences between the rich and poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2172
H.	... give financial help to university students from low-income families	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2173
I.	... provide decent housing for those who can't afford it	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	2174

49-57

2. 19 How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Very interested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Fairly interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Somewhat interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not at all interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

58

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2176-80