

**Ireland**  
**ISSP 1990 – Role of Government II**  
**Questionnaire**



# The Economic and Social Research Institute

Limited Company No. 18269

4 Burlington Road Dublin 4 Ireland 90/91

Telephone: 353-1-760115

Fax: 353-1-686231

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We have been commissioned to carry out a study of people's feelings and opinions about a variety of important issues. The study is being conducted in a number of other countries and the objective is to see how people's values and opinions vary across the different countries. The interview will take about 45 minutes to complete and I would be very grateful if you could spare me this much time. All the information that you give will be treated in the strictest confidence and only aggregated results will be published. We very much hope that you will be able to co-operate since we are interviewing only a sample of the population, and your views will represent those of many people we will not be able to interview.

Area Code

ID1

Resp. Code

ID2

Interviewer's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer No.

INTVR

Size of Town:

SIZE

Open Country

1

Village (Less than 500 persons)

2

500 - 1,499 persons

3

1,500 - 4,999 persons

4

5,000 - 9,999

5

10,000 - 99,999

6

100,000 or more

7

- Q.32 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 CIRCLE ONE CODE 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	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.1
B. Control of prices by law	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.2
C. Cuts in government spending	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.3
D. Government financing of projects to create new jobs	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.4
E. Less government regulation of business	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.5
F. Support for industry to develop new products and technology	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.6
G. Support for declining industries to protect jobs	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.7
H. Reducing the working week to create more jobs	1	2	3	4	5	Q32.8

Q.33 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 CIRCLE ONE CODE  
ON EACH LINE

	Spend much more	Spend more	Spend the same as now	Spend less	Spend much less	Can't choose	
A. The environment	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.1
B. Health	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.2
C. The police and law enforcement	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.3
D. Education	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.4
E. The military and defence	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.5
F. Old age pensions	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.6
G. Unemployment benefits	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.7
H. Culture and the arts	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q33.8

33-40

Q.34 Please show whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Agree	Disagree	Can't Choose	
A. The public has little control over what politicians do in office	1	2	3	Q34.1
B. The average person can get nowhere by talking to public officials	1	2	3	Q34.2
C. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics	1	2	3	Q34.3
D. The average person has a lot to say about running local government	1	2	3	Q34.4
E. People like me have a lot to say about government	1	2	3	Q34.5
F. The average person has a great deal of influence on government decisions	1	2	3	Q34.6
G. The government is generally responsive to public opinion	1	2	3	Q34.7
H. I am usually interested in local elections	1	2	3	Q34.8
J. By taking an active part in political and social affairs the people can control world affairs	1	2	3	Q34.9
K. Taking everything into account, the world is getting better	1	2	3	Q34.10
* L. People like me can get what they are entitled to from government without going through their T.D.	1	2	3	Q34.11

\* Not included for ZA

\* Not included for 2H

2  
0

Q.35. Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly with each statement.  
CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	Don't Know	
* A. Those who violate God's rules must be punished	1	2	3	4	8	Q35.1
* B. Even when we regard an action as wrong, we should be tolerant towards those who do it	1	2	3	4	8	Q35.2

1  
✓

Q.36 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?  
(CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY)

4  
Q36.1

U4

- Obey the law without exception..... 1
- Follow conscience on occasion ..... 2
- Can't choose ..... 3

7

Q.37 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 circling a number after each question.

U5-10

	Definitely Allowed	Probably Allowed	Probably not Allowed	Definitely not Allowed	Can't Choose	
A. Organizing public meetings to protest against the government .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.1
B. Publishing pamphlets to protest against the government .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.2
C. Organizing protest marches and demonstrations .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.3
D. Occupying a government office and stopping work there for several days .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.4
E. Seriously damaging government buildings .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.5
F. Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q37.6

5-10

- Q.38 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 CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Keeping down inflation ..... 1  
 Keeping down unemployment ..... 2  
 Can't choose ..... 8

41  
 Q38.1

- Q.39 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 . . .

23  
 Q39.1

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

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  
 Pay a much smaller proportion ..... 5  
 Can't choose ..... 8

- Q.40 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.

24  
 Q40.1

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Agree strongly ..... 1  
 Agree ..... 2  
 Neither agree or disagree ..... 3  
 Disagree ..... 4  
 Disagree strongly ..... 5

Q.41 What are your personal *feelings* about ...

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

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Extremely favourable ..... 1  
Favourable ..... 2  
Neither favourable or unfavourable ..... 3  
Unfavourable ..... 4  
Extremely unfavourable ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

B. People who want to overthrow the government by revolution

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Extremely favourable ..... 1  
Favourable ..... 2  
Neither favourable or unfavourable ..... 3  
Unfavourable ..... 4  
Extremely unfavourable ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

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

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Extremely favourable ..... 1  
Favourable ..... 2  
Neither favourable or unfavourable ..... 3  
Unfavourable ..... 4  
Extremely unfavourable ..... 5  
Can't choose ..... 8

Q.42 Suppose the police get an anonymous tip that a man with a long criminal  
record is planning to break into a warehouse.

Please circle a number for *each* statement to show if (Do) you think the police  
should be allowed without a court order to . . .

	Definitely Allowed	Probably Allowed	Probably not Allowed	Definitely not Allowed	Can't Choose	
A. Keep the man under surveillance .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q42.1
B. Tap his telephone .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q42.2
C. Open his mail .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q42.3
D. Detain the man overnight for questioning .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q42.4

70  
Q41.1

71  
Q41.2

72  
Q41.3

15-18



Q.43 All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

To convict an innocent person ..... 1

or

To let a guilty person go free ..... 2

Can't choose ..... 8

19  
Q43.1

Q.44 There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority.

First, consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution.

Please circle a number after *each* statement to show if (Do) you think such people should be allowed to . . .

	<i>Definitely Allowed</i>	<i>Probably Allowed</i>	<i>Probably not Allowed</i>	<i>Definitely not Allowed</i>	<i>Can't Choose</i>
A. Hold public meetings to express their views .....	1	2	3	4	8
B. Publish books expressing their views .....	1	2	3	4	8

11-12

Q44.1

Q44.2

Q.45 Second, consider people who believe that whites are racially superior to all other races.

Please circle a number after each statement to show if (Do) you think such people should be allowed to . . .

	<i>Definitely Allowed</i>	<i>Probably Allowed</i>	<i>Probably not Allowed</i>	<i>Definitely not Allowed</i>	<i>Can't Choose</i>
A. Hold public meetings to express their views .....	1	2	3	4	8
B. Publish books expressing their views .....	1	2	3	4	8

13-14

Q45.1

Q45.2

Q.46(a) Do you think that trade unions in this country have too much power or too little power?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN A*

Q.46(b) How about business and industry, do they have too much power or too little power?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN B*

Q.46(c) And what about the government, does it have too much power or too little power?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN C*

	A Trade Unions	B Business and Industry	C The Government
Far too much power	1	1	1
Too much power	2	2	2
About the right amount of power	3	3	3
Too little power	4	4	4
Far too little power	5	5	5
Can't choose	8	8	8

42

Q46.1  
(A)

43

Q46.2  
(B)

44

Q46.3  
(C)

45

Q.47 In general, how good would you say trade unions are for the country as a whole?

Q47.1

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

- Excellent ..... 1
- Very good ..... 2
- Fairly good ..... 3
- Not very good ..... 4
- Not good at all ..... 5
- Can't choose ..... 8

+

Q.48 What do you think the government's role in each of these industries should be? (Show Card 6)

1. Own it
2. Control prices and profits but not own it
3. Neither own it nor control its prices and profits
8. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Own it	Control prices and profits but not own it	Neither own it nor control its prices and profits	Can't choose	
A. Electric power .....	1	2	3	8	Q48.1
B. The steel industry .....	1	2	3	8	Q48.2
C. Banking and insurance .....	1	2	3	8	Q48.3

46-48

Q.49 On the whole do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	<i>Definitely should be</i>	<i>Probably should be</i>	<i>Probably should not be</i>	<i>Definitely should not be</i>	<i>Can't Choose</i>	
A. Provide a job for everyone who wants one .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.1
B. Keep prices under control .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.2
C. Provide health care for the sick .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.3
D. Provide a decent standard of living for the old .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.4
E. Provide industry with the help it needs to grow .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.5
F. Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.6
G. Reduce income differences between the rich and poor .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.7
H. Give financial help to college (university) students from low-income families .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.8
I. Provide decent housing for those who can't afford it .....	1	2	3	4	8	Q49.9

49-53

Q.50 How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

Very interested .....	1
Fairly interested .....	2
Somewhat interested .....	3
Not very interested .....	4
Not at all interested .....	5
Can't Choose .....	8

Q50.1

58

Q.51 And finally we would like to obtain some general information about yourself.  
This will allow us to classify the answers we get in order to see if there are  
important differences between the opinions of men and women, young and old etc.

Sex: Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2

Q51.1