

Australia
ISSP 1991 – Religion I
Questionnaire

INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS: RELIGION

>> *These questions are being asked in more than a dozen nations throughout the world, including Australia, Britain, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Japan and the United States. We need to ask them in exactly the same order as in other countries, so we'll have to go back over some topics we've already covered, as well as covering new topics. They are important questions and we think you will find them very interesting.*

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

Very happy	1
Fairly happy	2
Not very happy	3
Not at all happy	4
(Can't choose)	-

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

a. Provide a job for everyone who wants one?

Definitely should be	1
Probably should be	2
Probably should not be	3
Definitely should not be	4
(Can't choose)	-

b. Reduce income differences between rich and poor?

Definitely should be	1
Probably should be	2
Probably should not be	3
Definitely should not be	4
(Can't choose)	-

3. Here are some measures to deal with crime. Some people are in favour of them while other people are against them. Do you agree or disagree that...

a. People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences.

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree.	5
(Can't say)	-

b. People convicted of murder should be subject to the death penalty.

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree.	5
(Can't say)	-

Always	-- Always wrong
Almost	-- Almost always wrong
Sometimes	-- Wrong only sometimes
Not	-- Not wrong at all
-	(Can't choose)

4a. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a man and a woman have sexual relations before marriage? . . Always Almost Sometimes Not -

b. What about a married person having sexual relations with someone other than his or her husband or wife? . . . Always Almost Sometimes Not -

c. And what about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex? . Always Almost Sometimes Not -

5a. Do you think the law should or should not allow a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if there is a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby?

Definitely should	1
Probably should	2
Probably should not	3
Definitely should not	4
(Can't choose)	-

b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children - should the law allow a legal abortion then?

Definitely should	1
Probably should	2
Probably not	3
Definitely not.	4
(Can't choose)	-

6a. Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion if there is a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby -- wrong? Always Almost Sometimes Not -

b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children -- do you personally think it wrong? Always Almost Sometimes Not -

7.

Yes!!	-- strongly agree
Yes	-- agree
??	-- neither agree nor disagree
No	-- disagree
No!!	-- strongly disagree
-	-- (Can't say)

a. A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family. . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -

b. All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job. Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -

8. Do you feel it is wrong or not wrong if...

a. A taxpayer does not report all of his income in order to pay less income tax?

Not wrong	1
A bit wrong.	2
Wrong	3
Seriously wrong	4
(Can't choose)	-

b. A person gives the government incorrect information about himself to get government benefits that he is not entitled to?

Not wrong	1
A bit wrong.	2
Wrong	3
Seriously wrong	4
(Can't choose)	-

9.

Yes!!	-- Complete confidence
Yes	-- A great deal of confidence
??	-- Some confidence
No	-- Very little confidence
No!!	-- No confidence at all
-	(Can't choose)

a. How much confidence do you have in the Federal Parliament?	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
b. Business and industry?	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
c. The public service?	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
d. Churches and religious organizations	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
e. Courts and the legal system	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
f. Schools and the educational system	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-

10.

Yes!!	-- strongly agree
Yes	-- agree
??	-- neither agree nor disagree
No	-- disagree
No!!	-- strongly disagree
-	-- (Can't say)

a. Politicians who do not believe in God are unfit for public office	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
b. Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
c. It would be better for Australia if more people with strong religious beliefs held public office	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-
d. Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions	Yes!!	Yes	??	No	No!!	-

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

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 say)	-

12a. Please indicate which statement below comes closest to expressing what you believe about God. (Give only one answer)

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

b. How close to you feel to God most of the time?

Don't believe in God	1
Not close at all	2
Not very close	3
Somewhat close	4
Extremely close.	5
(Can't choose).	-

c. Which best describes your beliefs about God?

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 use to.	3
I believe in God now and I always have	4
(Can't choose)	-

13.

Yes!!	-- Yes, definitely
Yes	-- Yes, probably
No	-- No, probably not
No!!	-- No, definitely not
-	(Can't choose)

a. Do you believe in life after death?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
b. The Devil?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
c. And do you believe in heaven?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
d. Hell?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
e. Religious miracles?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
f. Is human life sacred?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-
g. Is suicide always wrong?	Yes!!	Yes	No	No!!	-

14. Which of these comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? (Please choose only one)

- The Bible is the actual word of God and it is to be taken literally, word for word. 1
- The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word. 2
- The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral teachings recorded by man 3
- (This does not apply to me) +
- (Can't choose) -

15.

- Yes!! -- strongly agree
 Yes -- agree
 ?? -- neither agree nor disagree
 No -- disagree
 No!! -- strongly disagree
 - -- (Can't choose)

- a. There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being, personally Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- e. The course of our lives is decided by God Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- f. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -
- g. We each make our own fate. Yes!! Yes ?? No No!! -

16.

- 1 Never in my life
 2 Once or twice
 3 Several times
 4 Often
 - (Can't choose)

- How often have you felt as though you were...
- a. Really in touch with someone who had died? 1 2 3 4 -
- b. Close to a powerful, spiritual force that seemed to lift you outside yourself? 1 2 3 4 -

- 17a. Has there ever been a turning point in your life when you made a new and personal commitment to religion? Yes No (Can't choose)
- b. Would you say 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? Yes No (Can't choose)

18. In what religion were you raised? What are you now? And what is your husband or wife?

	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>Husband or wife</u>
Catholic	01	01	01
Anglican (C of E)	03 ²⁾	03	03
Methodist	04	04	04
Presbyterian	06	06	06
Uniting Church	07	07	07
Baptist	09	09	09
Churches of Christ	11	11	11
Pentecostal	16	16	16
Orthodox	05	05	05
No religion	21	21	21
Other (Please say which) . . (Not married)			--

19.

- 1 Never
- 2 Less than once a year
- 3 About once or twice a year
- 4 Several times a year
- 5 About once a month
- 6 Two or three times a month
- 7 Nearly every week
- 8 Every week
- 9 Several times a week
- 10 Once a day
- 11 Several times a day
- (Can't say)

Never

Several
a day

- a. When you were a child -- around 11 or 12 -- how often did your mother attend religious services? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -
- b. How often did your father attend, when you were a child? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -
- c. How often did you attend religious services when you were a child? . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -
- d. Now, in the present, how often do you attend religious services? . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -
- e. About how often do you pray now?. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -
- f. How often do you take part in the activities or organizations of your church, other than attending services?. . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -

20. Would you describe yourself as...

- 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) -

21a. In your opinion, should there be
daily prayers in all government schools? Yes!! Yes No No!! -

b. Right and wrong should be
based on God's laws Yes!! Yes No No!! -

c. Right and wrong should be
decided by society Yes!! Yes No No!! -

d. Right and wrong should be a matter
of personal conscience Yes!! Yes No No!! -

22. Some books or films offend people who have strong religious beliefs.
Should books and films that attack religions be prohibited by law or should
they be allowed?

Definitely should be prohibited 1
Probably should be prohibited 2
Probably should be allowed 3
Definitely should be allowed 4
(Can't choose) -

23a. Do you believe God punishes those
who disobey his laws? Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

b. Is God a stern judge of wrong-doers? . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

c. Do you get comfort from religion Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

d. Do you get strength from religion? . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

e. Do you believe God created the world? . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

f. Do you think that most of the miracles
described in the bible really happened? . . . Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

g. Mankind was created by God,
as the bible says Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

h. Mankind evolved by natural selection
from lower animals, as Darwin's theory
of evolution says Yes!! Yes ?? No No!!

24. There are different ways of picturing God. We'd like to know the kinds
of images you are most likely to associate with God. Where would you place
your images of God between these contrasting images....

Please circle a number

Mother 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 . . . Father
Master 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 . . . Spouse
Judge. . . . 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 . . . Lover
Friend 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 . . . King
Good shepherd. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 . . . Stern judge