

USA
ISSP 1991 – Religion I
Questionnaire



NORC
5344
01/91

NORC

University of Chicago

International Self-Administered Questionnaire

CONFIDENTIAL

TO BE USED ONLY
WITH SCIENTIFICALLY
SELECTED RESPONDENT

BEGIN DECK 24

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01-06/

PUT CASE ID LABEL HERE

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

CONFIDENTIAL

In this part of the survey we are interested in your opinions about politics, social issues and other things that affect our way of life in America.

We would like you to fill out this questionnaire on your own using a pencil. When you are finished please return the questionnaire to our interviewer.

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

To answer most questions you need only circle a number. Here are two examples:

Example A:

Do you think the government is doing a good job or a poor job?

A very good job1

A fairly good job.....(2)

A poor job3

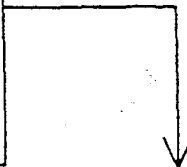
A very poor job.....4

(IF YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING A "FAIRLY GOOD JOB", CIRCLE "2",
CIRCLE ONE ANSWER ONLY).

Example B:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH STATEMENT)

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1. Strongly agree |
| 2. Agree |
| 3. Neither agree nor disagree |
| 4. Disagree |
| 5. Strongly disagree |



CIRCLE A NUMBER

It is difficult to raise children.....(1) 2 3 4 5

A woman should devote almost all
her time to her family..... 1 2 3 (4) 5

(YOU WOULD CIRCLE "1" IF YOU STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE FIRST STATEMENT, AND
"4" IF YOU "DISAGREE" WITH THE SECOND STATEMENT).

* * * * *

PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY, REMEMBER THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG
ANSWERS--WE JUST WANT TO KNOW YOUR OWN PERSONAL OPINION.

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	07/
Fairly happy	2	
Not very happy	3	
Not at all happy	4	
Can't choose	8	

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

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| a. Provide a job for everyone
who wants one | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 08/ |
| b. Reduce income differences
between the rich and poor | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 09/ |

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

- | | Strongly
Agree | Agree | Neither
Agree nor
Disagree | Dis-
agree | Strongly
Disagree | Can't
Choose | |
|---|-------------------|-------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----|
| a. People who break
the law should be
given stiffer
sentences | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 10/ |
| b. People convicted of
murder should be
subject to the
death penalty | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 11/ |

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

Always wrong	1	12/
Almost always wrong	2	
Wrong only sometimes	3	
Not wrong at all	4	
Can't choose	8	

5. What about a *married* person having sexual relations with someone *other* than his or her husband or wife, is it. . .

Always wrong	1	13/
Almost always wrong	2	
Wrong only sometimes	3	
Not wrong at all	4	
Can't choose	8	

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

Always wrong	1	14/
Almost always wrong	2	
Wrong only sometimes	3	
Not wrong at all	4	
Can't choose	8	

7. Do you think the law should or should not allow a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion. . .

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Definitely should allow it |
| 2. Probably should allow it |
| 3. Probably should not allow it |
| 4. Definitely should not allow it |
| 8. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- a. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby 1 2 3 4 8 15/
- b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children 1 2 3 4 8 16/

8. Do you *personally* think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion . . .

	Always Wrong	Almost Always Wrong	Wrong Only Sometimes	Not Wrong at All	Can't Choose	
a. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby	1	2	3	4	8	17/
b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children	1	2	3	4	8	18/

9. Do you agree or disagree. . .

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Dis- agree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose	
a. A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family	1	2	3	4	5	8	19/
b. All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job	1	2	3	4	5	8	20/

10. Consider the situations listed below. Do you feel it is wrong or not wrong if. . .

	Not Wrong	A Bit Wrong	Wrong	Seriously Wrong	Can't Choose	
a. A taxpayer does not report all of his income in order to pay less income taxes	1	2	3	4	8	21/
b. A person gives the government incorrect information about himself to get government benefits that he is not entitled to	1	2	3	4	8	22/

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

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.	U.S. Congress	1	2	3	4	5	8	23,
b.	Business and industry	1	2	3	4	5	8	24,
c.	Government departments	1	2	3	4	5	8	25,
d.	Churches and religious organizations	1	2	3	4	5	8	26,
e.	Courts and the legal system	1	2	3	4	5	8	27,
f.	Schools and the educational system	1	2	3	4	5	8	28,

12. How much do you agree or disagree with each of 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.	Politicians who do not believe in God are unfit for public office	1	2	3	4	8	2
b.	Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections	1	2	3	4	8	3
c.	It would be better for America if more people with strong religious beliefs held public office	1	2	3	4	8	3
d.	Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions	1	2	3	4	8	3

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

Far too much power	1	33/
Too much power	2	
About the right amount of power	3	
Too little power	4	
Far too little power	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

I don't believe in God	1	34/
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	

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

Don't believe in God	1	35/
Not close at all	2	
Not very close	3	
Somewhat close	4	
Extremely close	5	
Can't choose	8	

16. Which best describes your beliefs about God?

I don't believe in God now and I never have	1	36/
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	

17. Do you believe in . . .

	Yes, Definitely	Yes, Probably	No, Probably Not	No, Definitely Not	Can't choose	
a. Life after death	1	2	3	4	8	37
b. The Devil	1	2	3	4	8	38
c. Heaven	1	2	3	4	8	39
d. Hell	1	2	3	4	8	40
e. Religious miracles	1	2	3	4	8	41

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

a.	The Bible is the actual word of God and it is to be taken literally, word for word	1	42
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	

19. 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	43/
b.	There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives	1	2	3	4	5	8	44/
c.	To me, life is meaningful only because God exists	1	2	3	4	5	8	45/
d.	In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose	1	2	3	4	5	8	46/
e.	The course of our lives is decided by God	1	2	3	4	5	8	47/
f.	Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself	1	2	3	4	5	8	48/
g.	We each make our own fate	1	2	3	4	5	8	49/

20. How often have you felt as though you were. . .

	Never in my life	Once or Twice	Several times	Often	Can't say		
a.	Really in touch with someone who had died	1	2	3	4	8	50/
b.	Close to a powerful, spiritual force that seemed to lift you out of yourself	1	2	3	4	8	51/

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

Yes	1	52/
No	2	

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

Protestant	1	53/
Catholic	2	
Jewish	3	
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	4	
Moslem	5	
Other (Please Specify)	6	
No religion	7	
Don't know	8	

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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

Protestant	1	54/
Catholic	2	
Jewish	3	
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	4	
Moslem	5	
Other (Please Specify)	6	
No religion	7	
Don't know	8	

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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

Protestant	1	55/
Catholic	2	
Jewish	3	
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	4	
Moslem	5	
Other (Please Specify)	6	
No religion	7	
Don't know	8	

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

If you are currently married or living as married, answer Q. 25:

If you are not currently married or living as married, go to Q.26:

25. What is your husband's/wife's religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

Protestant	1	56/
Catholic	2	
Jewish	3	
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	4	
Moslem	5	
Other (Please Specify)	6	
No religion	7	
Don't know	8	

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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

Never	1	57-58/
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	

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

Never	1	59-60/
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	

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

Never	1	61-62/
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	

Now thinking about the present...

29. About how often do you pray?

Never	1	63-64/
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	

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

Never	1	65/
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	

31. Would you describe yourself as...

Extremely religious	1	66/
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	

32. In your opinion, should there be daily prayers in all public schools?

Yes, definitely	1	67/
Yes, probably	2	
No, probably	3	
No, definitely	4	
Can't choose	8	

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

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

a. Right and wrong should be based on God's laws	1	2	3	4	5	8	68/
b. Right and wrong should be decided by society	1	2	3	4	5	8	69/
c. Right and wrong should be a matter of personal conscience ...	1	2	3	4	5	8	70/

34. 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	71/
Probably should be prohibited	2	
Probably should be allowed	3	
Definitely should be allowed	4	
Can't choose	8	

35. 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?

Yes	1	72/
No	2	

36. There are many different ways of picturing God. We'd like to know the kinds of images you are most likely to associate with God.

Below are sets of contrasting images. On a scale of 1-7 where would you place your images of God between the two contrasting images?

The first set of contrasting images shows Mother at 1 on the scale and Father at 7. If you imagine God as a Mother you would place yourself at 1. If you imagine God as a Father, you would place yourself at 7. If you imagine God as somewhere between Mother and Father, you would place yourself at 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Where would you place your image of God on the scale for each set of images?

A.	Mother	_____	Father	07/
	01	02 03 04 05 06	07	
B.	Master	_____	Spouse	08/
	01	02 03 04 05 06	07	
C.	Judge	_____	Lover	09/
	01	02 03 04 05 06	07	
D.	Friend	_____	King	10/
	01	02 03 04 05 06	07	

37. People have different images of the world and human nature. We'd like to know the kinds of images you have.

Below are sets of contrasting images. On a scale of 1-7, where would you place your image of the world and human nature between the two contrasting images?

Look at the first set of contrasting images. If you think that "The world is basically filled with evil and sin," you would place yourself at 1. If you think "There is much goodness in the world which hints at God's goodness," you would place yourself at 7. If you think things are somewhere in between these two, you would place yourself at 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Where would you place your image of the world on each of the scales below?

A.	The world is basically filled with evil and sin.	_____	There is much goodness in the world which hints at God's goodness.	11/
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7		
B.	Human nature is basically good.	_____	Human nature is fundamentally perverse and corrupt.	12/
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7		

38. Did you get any of your grade school or high school education in parochial schools or other schools run by religious groups?

Yes 1 13/

No 2

If "YES":

How many years did you attend religious schools? 14-15/