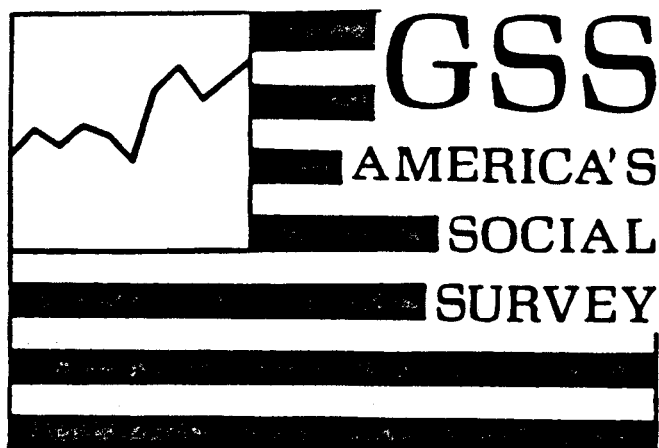


USA
ISSP 1987 – Social Inequality I
Questionnaire



NORC

University of Chicago

International Self-Administered Questionnaire

BEGIN DECK 15

CONFIDENTIAL

PUT CASE ID LABEL HERE

**TO BE USED ONLY
WITH SCIENTIFICALLY
SELECTED RESPONDENT**

1-6/

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 job.....1
- A fairly good job.....2
- A poor job.....3
- 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.

To begin, we have some questions about opportunities for getting ahead...

1. Please show for each of these how important you think it is for getting ahead in life...

- a. First, how important is coming from a wealthy family?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

07/

- b. Having well educated parents?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

08/

- c. Having a good education yourself?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

09/

- d. Ambition? -- how important is that?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

10/

- e. Natural ability? -- how important is that?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

11/

f. Hard work -- how important is that for getting ahead in life?

Essential	1	12/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

g. Knowing the right people?

Essential	1	13/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

h. Having political connections?

Essential	1	14/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

i. A person's race -- how important is that?

Essential	1	15/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

j. A person's religion?

Essential	1	16/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

k. The part of the country a person comes from?

Essential	1	17/
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

1. Being born a man or a woman -- how important is that for getting ahead in life?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

18/

- m. A person's political beliefs?

Essential	1
Very important	2
Fairly important	3
Not very important	4
Not important at all	5
Can't choose	8

19/

-
2. The way things are in America, people like me and my family have a good chance of improving our standard of living -- do you agree or disagree?

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree or disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Can't choose	8

20/

Some people earn a lot of money while others do not earn very much at all...

3. In order to get people to work hard, do you think large differences in pay are ...

Absolutely necessary	1
Probably necessary	2
Probably not necessary	3
Definitely not necessary	4
Can't choose	8

21/

4. Do you agree or disagree...

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

	Stongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. People would not want to take extra responsibility at work unless they were paid extra for it	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Workers would not bother to get skills and qualifications unless they were paid extra for having them	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Inequality continues to exist because it benefits the rich and powerful.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. No one would study for years to become a lawyer or doctor unless they expected to earn a lot more than ordinary workers ...	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. Large differences in income are necessary for America's prosperity.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
f. Allowing business to make good profits is the best way to improve everyone's standard of living.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
g. Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it....	1	2	3	4	5	8

5. We would like to know what you think people in these jobs actually earn. Please write in how much you think they usually earn, each year, before taxes. Many people are not exactly sure about this but your best guess will be close enough. This may be difficult, but it is very important. So please try.

Please write in how
much they actually
earn each year

- a. First, about how much do you
think a bricklayer earns? \$ _____
- b. A doctor in general practice? \$ _____
- c. A bank clerk? \$ _____
- d. The owner of a small shop? \$ _____
- e. The chairman of a large national corporation? \$ _____
- f. A skilled worker in a factory? \$ _____
- g. A farm laborer? \$ _____
- h. A secretary? \$ _____
- i. A city bus driver? \$ _____
- j. An unskilled worker in a factory? \$ _____
- k. A member of the cabinet in the federal government? . . . \$ _____

6. Next, what do you think people in those jobs ought to be paid -- how much do you think they should earn each year before taxes, regardless of what they actually get?

Please write in how
much they should
earn each year

- a. First, about how much do you
think a bricklayer should earn? \$ _____
- b. A doctor in general practice? \$ _____
- c. A bank clerk? \$ _____
- d. The owner of a small shop? \$ _____
- e. The chairman of a large national corporation? \$ _____
- f. A skilled worker in a factory? \$ _____
- g. A farm laborer? \$ _____
- h. A secretary? \$ _____
- i. A city bus driver? \$ _____
- j. An unskilled worker in a factory? \$ _____
- k. A member of the cabinet in the federal government? . . . \$ _____

7. Do you agree or disagree...

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

	Stongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. Differences in income in America are too large.....	1	2	3	4	5	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.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. The government should provide more chances for children from poor families to go to collge.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. The government should provide a job for everyone who wants one.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. The government should spend <u>less</u> on benefits for the poor.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
f. The government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
g. The government should provide everyone with a guaranteed basic income.....	1	2	3	4	5	8

8. Generally, how would you describe taxes in America today...

We mean all taxes together, including social security, income tax, sales tax, and all the rest.

a. First, for those with high incomes, are taxes...

Much too high	1
Too high	2
About right	3
Too low	4
Much too low	5
Can't choose	8

32

b. Next, for those with middle incomes, are taxes...

Much too high	1
Too high	2
About right	3
Too low	4
Much too low	5
Can't choose	8

33

c. Lastly, for those with low incomes, are taxes...

Much too high	1
Too high	2
About right	3
Too low	4
Much too low	5
Can't choose	8

34

9. Do you think that people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share. . . .

Much larger share	1
Larger	2
The same share	3
Smaller	4
Smaller share	5
Can't choose	8

35

10. In all countries there are differences or even conflicts between different social groups. In your opinion, in America how much conflict is there between...

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

	Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are no conflicts	Can't choose	
a. Poor people and rich people?.....	1	2	3	4	8	36/
b. The working class and the middle class?.....	1	2	3	4	8	37/
c. The unemployed and people with jobs?.....	1	2	3	4	8	38/
d. Management and Workers?.....	1	2	3	4	8	39/
e. Farmers and city people?.....	1	2	3	4	8	40/

11. In our society there are groups which tend to be towards the top and those towards the bottom. Here we have a scale that runs from top to bottom. Where would you put yourself on this scale? Please mark box below.

Top

Bottom

41-42/

12. Please think of your present job (or your last one if don't have one now). If you compare this job with the job your father had when you were 16, would you say that the level or status of your job is (or was)...

Much higher than your father's 01
 Higher 02
 About equal 03
 Lower 04
 Much lower than your father's 05
 I never had a job 06
 Did not have father/father never had job 07

43-44/

13. Here is a list of different types of jobs. Which type did your father have when you were 16? (If your father did not have a job then, please give the job he used to have.)

Professional and technical (e.g. doctor, teacher, engineer,
artist, accountant) 01

45-46/

Higher administrator (e.g. banker, executive in big business,
high government official, union official) 02

Clerical (e.g. clerk, office manager, secretary, bookkeeper) 03

Sales (e.g. Sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant,
buyer, insurance agent) 04

Service (e.g. restaurant owner, policeman, barber, janitor) 05

Skilled worker (e.g. foreman, motor mechanic, printer, seamstress
tool and die maker, electrician) 06

Semi-skilled (e.g. bricklayer, bus driver, tannery worker,
carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 07

Unskilled (e.g. laborer, porter, unskilled factory worker) 08

Farm (e.g. farmer, farm laborer, tractor driver) 09

Did not have father/father never had job 10

- a. Was your father self-employed, or did he work for someone else?

Self-employed, had own business or farm 1

47/

Worked for someone else 2

No father/father never had job 3

14. And how about your first job -- the first job you had after you finished full time education?

Professional and technical (e.g. doctor, teacher, engineer,
artist, accountant) 01

48-49/

Higher administrator (e.g. banker, executive in big business,
high government official, union official) 02

Clerical (e.g. clerk, office manager, secretary, bookkeeper) 03

Sales (e.g. Sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant,
buyer, insurance agent) 04

Service (e.g. restaurant owner, policeman, barber, janitor) 05

Skilled worker (e.g. foreman, motor mechanic, printer, seamstress
tool and die maker, electrician) 06

Semi-skilled (e.g. bricklayer, bus driver, tannery worker,
carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 07

Unskilled (e.g. laborer, porter, unskilled factory worker) 08

Farm (e.g. farmer, farm laborer, tractor driver) 09

Never had job 10

- a. Were you self-employed, or did you work for someone else?

Self-employed, had own business or farm 1

50/

Worked for someone else 2

Never had job 3

15. And how about your job now?(If you are not working now, please tell us about your last job.)Professional and technical (e.g. doctor, teacher, engineer,
artist, accountant) 01

51-52/

Higher administrator (e.g. banker, executive in big business,
high government official, union official) 02

Clerical (e.g. clerk, office manager, secretary, bookkeeper) 03

Sales (e.g. Sales manager, shop owner shop assistant,
buyer, insurance agent) 04

Service (e.g. restaurant owner, policeman, barber, janitor) 05

Skilled worker (e.g. foreman, motor mechanic, printer, seamstress
tool and die maker, electrician) 06Semi-skilled (e.g. bricklayer, bus driver, tannery worker,
carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 07

Unskilled (e.g. laborer, porter, unskilled factory worker) 08

Farm (e.g. farmer, farm laborer, tractor driver) 09

Never had job 10

a. Are (or were) you self-employed, or do you work for someone else?

Self-employed, have own business or farm 1

53/

Work for someone else 2

Never had job 3