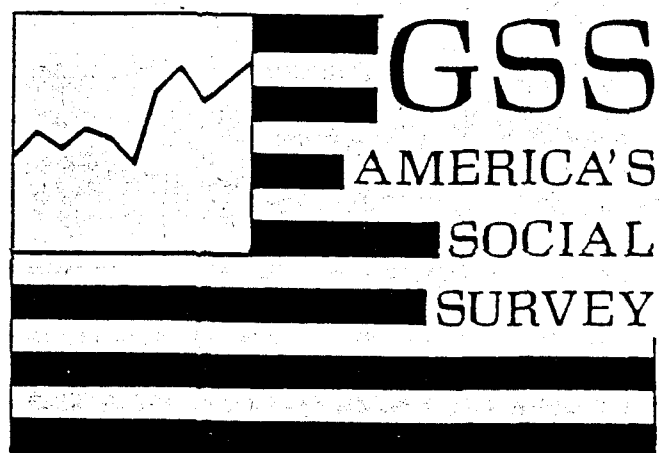


USA
ISSP 1985 – Role of Government I
Questionnaire

NORC
5199
1/85



International Self-Administered Questionnaire

NORC
University of Chicago

CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN DECK 15

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

Case Number

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01-06/

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.

3. There are many ways people or organizations 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.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 8. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. Organizing public meetings to protest against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10/ |
| B. Publishing pamphlets to protest against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 11/ |
| C. Organizing protest marches and demonstrations..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 12/ |
| D. Occupying a government office and stopping work there for several days.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 13/ |
| E. Seriously damaging government buildings..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 14/ |
| F. Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 15/ |

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

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

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 8. Can't choose |

Please circle a number after each question to show if you think such people should be allowed to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. Hold public meetings to express their views..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 16/ |
| B. Teach 18 year olds in schools..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 17/ |
| C. Publish books expressing their views.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 18/ |

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

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 8. Can't choose |

Circle a number after each question to show if you think such people should be allowed to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. Hold public meetings to express their views..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 19/ |
| B. Teach 15 year olds in schools..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 20/ |
| C. Publish books expressing their views.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 21/ |

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

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

Please circle a number for each question to show if you think police should be allowed without a court order to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. Keep the man under surveillance.....	1	2	3	4	8	22/
B. Tap his telephone.....	1	2	3	4	8	23/
C. Open his mail.....	1	2	3	4	8	24/
D. Detain the man overnight for questioning.....	1	2	3	4	8	25/

7. Now, suppose the tip is about a man without a criminal record.

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

Please circle a number for each question to show if you think police should be allowed without a court order to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. Keep the man under surveillance.....	1	2	3	4	8	26/
B. Tap his telephone.....	1	2	3	4	8	27/
C. Open his mail.....	1	2	3	4	8	28/
D. Detain the man overnight for questioning.....	1	2	3	4	8	29/

8. All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse?

To convict an innocent person.....1

or

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

30/

Can't choose.....8

9. The federal government has a lot of different pieces of information about people which computers can bring together very quickly.

Is this . . .

A very serious threat to individual privacy.....1

A fairly serious threat.....2

Not a serious threat.....3

31/

Not a threat at all to individual privacy.....4

Can't choose.....8

10. 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 . . .

Pay a much larger proportion.....1

Pay a larger proportion.....2

Pay the same proportion as those who earn low incomes.....3

32/

Pay a smaller proportion.....4

Pay a much smaller proportion.....5

Can't choose.....8

11. 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.

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

33/

12. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

1. Agree strongly
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Disagree strongly

↓
PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- A. A person whose parents are rich has a better chance of earning a lot of money than a person whose parents are poor..... 1 2 3 4 5 34/
- B. A person whose father is a professional has a much better chance of getting ahead in life than a person whose father is a factory worker..... 1 2 3 4 5 35/
- C. In America what you achieve in life depends largely on your family background..... 1 2 3 4 5 36/

13. Would you say that opportunities for a college education are, in general, better or worse, for women than for men?

Much better for women.....1
 Better for women.....2
 No difference.....3
 Worse for women.....4
 Much worse for women.....5
 Can't choose.....8

37/

14. How about job opportunities for women -- do you think they are, in general, better or worse than job opportunities for men with similar education and experience?

Much better for women.....1
 Better for women.....2
 No difference.....3
 Worse for women.....4
 Much worse for women.....5
 Can't choose.....8

38/

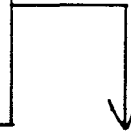
15. And how about income and wages--compared with men who have similar education and jobs--are women in general paid better or worse than men?

Women are paid much better.....1
 Women are paid better.....2
 No difference.....3
 Women are paid worse.....4
 Women are paid much worse.....5
 Can't choose.....8

39/

16. Here are three things the government might do. Some people are in favor of them while other people are against them. Please circle one number for each statement to show how you feel.

1. Strongly in favor of
2. In favor of
3. Neither in favor of nor against
4. Against
5. Strongly against



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. The government should increase opportunities for women in business and industry..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 40/ |
| B. The government should increase opportunities for women to go to college..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 41/ |
| C. Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs or promotions..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 42/ |

And now a few questions about education:

17. Here are some things that might be taught in school. How important is it that schools teach each of these to 15 year olds?

1. Essential, must be taught
 2. Very Important
 3. Fairly Important
 4. Not very Important
 5. Not needed, should not be taught
 6. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. Reading writing, and mathematics.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	43/
B. Sex education.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	44/
C. Respect for authority.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	45/
D. History, literature, and the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	46/
E. Ability to make one's own judgments.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	47/
F. Job training.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	48/
G. Science and technology.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	49/
H. Concern for minorities and the poor.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	50/
I. Discipline and orderliness.....	1	2	3	4	5	8	51/

18. How do you feel about opportunities for young people to go to college. Should opportunities be . . .

- Increased a lot.....1
- Increased a little.....2
- Kept the same as now.....3
- Reduced a little.....4
- Reduced a lot.....5
- Can't choose.....8

52/

19. Some people think the government should provide financial assistance to college students. Others think the government should not provide such aid. In each of the circumstances listed below should the government provide grants that would not have to be paid back, provide loans which the student would have to pay back, or should the government not provide any financial assistance?

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 1. Government should give grants |
| 2. Government should make loans |
| 3. No government assistance |
| 8. Can't choose |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. For students whose parents have a low income | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 53/ |
| B. For students who have outstanding grades in high school..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 54/ |
| C. For students who have average grades and middle income parents..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 55/ |

20. Sometimes public authorities intervene with parents in raising their children. Please indicate in each of the following cases how far you think public authorities should go in dealing with a 10 year old child and his or her parents. Public authorities should . . .

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Take no action |
| 2. Give warnings or counseling |
| 3. Take the child from its parents |
| 4. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. The child uses drugs and the parents don't do anything about it.....	1	2	3	8	56/
B. The child frequently skips school and the parents don't do anything about it.....	1	2	3	8	57/
C. The parents regularly let the child stay out late at night without knowing where the child is.....	1	2	3	8	58/
D. The parents fail to provide the child with proper food and clothing.....	1	2	3	8	59/
E. The parents regularly beat the child....	1	2	3	8	60/
F. The parents refuse essential medical treatment for the child because of their religious beliefs.....	1	2	3	8	61/
G. The parents refuse to send their child to school because they wish to educate the child at home.....	1	2	3	8	62/
H. The parents allow the child to watch violent or pornographic films.....	1	2	3	8	63/

21. Do you think that

1. Agree strongly
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Disagree strongly

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. The wearing of seat belts in cars
should be required by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 64/ |
| B. Smoking in public places should
be prohibited by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 65/ |
| C. All employees should be required
to retire at an age set by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 66/ |

22. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

1. Agree
2. Disagree
8. Can't choose



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. The public has little control over what politicians do in office.....	1	2	8	67/
B. The average person can get nowhere by talking to public officials.....	1	2	8	68/
C. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics.....	1	2	8	69/
D. The average person has much to say about running local government.....	1	2	8	70/
E. People like me have much to say about government.....	1	2	8	71/
F. The average person has a great deal of influence on government decisions....	1	2	8	72/
G. The government is generally responsive to public opinion.....	1	2	8	73/
H. I am usually interested in local elections.....	1	2	8	74/
I. By taking an active part in political and social affairs the people can control world affairs.....	1	2	8	75/
J. Taking everything into account, the world is getting better.....	1	2	8	76/

23. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Circle one number for each action to show whether you are in favor of it or against it.

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Strongly in favor of |
| 2. In favor of |
| 3. Neither in favor of nor against |
| 4. Against |
| 5. Strongly against |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. Control of wages by legislation.....	1	2	3	4	5	07/
B. Control of prices by legislation.....	1	2	3	4	5	08/
C. Cuts in government spending.....	1	2	3	4	5	09/
D. Government financing of projects to create new jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5	10/
E. Less government regulation of business..	1	2	3	4	5	11/
F. Support for industry to develop new products and technology.....	1	2	3	4	5	12/
G. Supporting declining industries to protect jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5	13/
H. Reducing the work week to create more jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5	14/

24. Listed below are various areas of government spending. Please indicate 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.

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 1. Spend much more |
| 2. Spend more |
| 3. Spend the same as now |
| 4. Spend less |
| 5. Spend much less |
| 6. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. The environment.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	15/
B. Health.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	16/
C. The police and law enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	17/
D. Education.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	18/
E. The military and defense.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	19/
F. Retirement benefits.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	20/
G. Unemployment benefits.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	21/
H. Culture and the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	22/

25. Do you consider the amount of federal income tax that your household has to pay is . . .

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Much too high..... | 1 |
| Too high..... | 2 |
| About right..... | 3 |
| Too low..... | 4 |
| Much too low..... | 5 |
| Can't choose..... | 6 |
| Does not apply..... | 7 |

23/

26. Do you consider the amount of tax that business and industry have to pay is too high or too low?

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

24/

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

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

25/

28. Do you think that labor unions 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 choose.....8

26/

29. How about business and industry, do they 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 choose.....8

27/

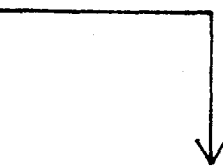
30. And what about the federal government, does it have too much power or too little power?

- 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 choose.....8

28/

31. What do you think the government's role in each of these industries should be.

- 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 A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| A. Electric power..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 29/ |
| B. Local mass transportation..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 30/ |
| C. The steel industry..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 31/ |
| D. Banking and insurance..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 32/ |
| E. The automobile industry..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 33/ |

32. 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	34/
B. Keep prices under control.....	1	2	3	4	8	35/
C. Provide health care for the sick.....	1	2	3	4	8	36/
D. Provide a decent standard of living for the old.....	1	2	3	4	8	37/
E. Provide industry with the help it needs to grow.....	1	2	3	4	8	38/
F. Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed.....	1	2	3	4	8	39/
G. Reduce income differences between the rich and poor.....	1	2	3	4	8	40/

33. Do you or your spouse belong to a labor union?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| Yes, I do..... | 1 | |
| Yes, my spouse does..... | 2 | |
| Yes, we both belong..... | 3 | 41/ |
| No, neither of us belong..... | 4 | |