

USA

ISSP 1996 - Role of Government III

B

BLUE

Use with
Versions 4-6

CONFIDENTIAL

SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE

General Social Survey

NORC
University of Chicago

This questionnaire is in two parts. When you finish answering, please place this questionnaire in the confidentiality envelope and seal the envelope.

CASE ID: _____

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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 (sealed in the envelope provided). If no interviewer is present, please mail using the envelope provided.

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

To answer most questions you need only check a box. 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, CHECK BOX "(✓)". CHECK ONE BOX ONLY).

Example B:

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

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
It is difficult to raise children	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
A woman should devote almost all her time to her family	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

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

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.

SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE (IS-B)

General Social Survey

Part 1

1. 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?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

Obey the law without exception 1

OR

Follow conscience on occasions 2

Can't choose 8

2. 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 checking a box on each line.

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Definitely allowed	Probably allowed	Probably not allowed	Definitely not allowed	Can't choose
a. Organizing public meetings to protest against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. Organizing protest marches and demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
c. Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

3. Would you or would you not do any of the following to protest against a government action you strongly opposed?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Definitely would	Probably would	Probably would not	Definitely would not	Can't choose
a. Attend a public meeting organized to protest against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. Go on a protest march or demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

4. And in the past five years how many times have you done each of the following to protest against a government action you strongly oppose?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Never	Once	More than once
a. Attended a public meeting organized to protest against the government	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
b. Gone on a protest march or demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

5. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution. Do you think such people should be allowed to...

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Definitely allowed	Probably allowed	Probably not allowed	Definitely not allowed	Can't choose
a. ...hold public meetings to express their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. ...publish books expressing their views?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

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

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

...to convict an innocent person,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
OR	
to let a guilty person go free?	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

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

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- ...a very serious threat to individual privacy, 1
- a fairly serious threat, 2
- not a serious threat, 3
- or, not a threat at all to individual privacy? 4
- Can't choose 8
-

8. 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.

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- Agree strongly 1
- Agree 2
- Neither agree or disagree 3
- Disagree 4
- Disagree strongly 5
- Can't choose 8
-

9. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Please show which actions you are in favor of and which you are against.

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE		Strongly in favor of	In favor of	Neither in favor of nor against	Against	Strongly against
a.	Control of wages by legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
b.	Control of prices by legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
c.	Cuts in government spending	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
d.	Government financing of projects to create new jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
e.	Less government regulation of business	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
f.	Support for industry to develop new products and technology	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
g.	Supporting declining industries to protect jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
h.	Reducing the working week to create more jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

10. 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 CHECK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Spend much more	Spend more	Spend the same as now	Spend less	Spend much less	Can't choose
a. The environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. Health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
c. The police and law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
d. Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
e. The military and defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
f. Retirement benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
g. Unemployment benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
h. Culture and the arts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

11a. Do you think that labor unions in this country have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

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

11b. How about business and industry? Do they have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- 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
-

11c. And what about the federal government, does it have too much power or too little power?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- 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
-

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

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Definitely should be	Probably should be	Probably should not be	Definitely should not be	Can't choose
a. ...provide a job for everyone who wants one	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. ...keep prices under control	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
c. ...provide health care for the sick	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
d. ...provide a decent standard of living for the old	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
e. ...provide industry with the help it needs to grow	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
f. ...provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
g. ...reduce income differences between the rich and the poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
h. ...give financial help to college students from low-income families	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
i. ...provide decent housing for those who can't afford it	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
j. ...impose strict laws to make industry do less damage to the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

Here are some questions about politics.

13. How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

Very interested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Fairly interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Somewhat interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not at all interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

14. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX
ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
b. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
c. Even the best politician cannot have much impact because of the way government works	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
d. I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
e. Elections are a good way of making governments pay attention to what the people think	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
f. I think most people are better informed about politics and government than I am	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
g. People we elect to Congress try to keep the promises they have made during the election	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
h. Most government administrators can be trusted to do what is best for the country	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

15. All in all, how well or badly do you think the system of democracy in America works these days?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

	(✓)
It works well and needs no changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
It works well but needs some changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
It does not work well and needs a lot of changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
It does not work well and needs to be completely changed	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

And now some questions about taxes.

16. If the government had a choice between reducing taxes or spending more on social programs like health care, social security, and unemployment benefits, which do you think it should do? (We mean all taxes together, including social security, income tax, sales tax, and all the rest.)

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

Reduce taxes, even if this means spending less on social programs like health care, social security, and unemployment benefits

 1

OR

Spend more on social programs like health care, social security and unemployment benefits, even if this means higher taxes?

 2

Can't choose

 8

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

Again, 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...

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

... much too high,

 1

too high,

 2

about right,

 3

too low,

 4

or, are they much too low?

 5

Can't choose

 8

17b. Next, for those with middle incomes, are taxes...

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- ... much too high, 1
- too high, 2
- about right, 3
- too low, 4
- or, are they much too low? 5
- Can't choose 8
-

17c. Lastly, for those with low incomes, are taxes...

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

- (✓)
- ... much too high, 1
- too high, 2
- about right, 3
- too low, 4
- or, are they much too low? 5
- Can't choose 8
-

18. Do you think each of the following should mainly be run by private organizations or companies, or by the government?

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Mainly run by private organizations or companies	Mainly run by the government	Can't choose
Electric Power	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Banks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

19. 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 CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

Keeping down inflation
1

Keeping down unemployment
2

Can't choose
8

20. Suppose the level of taxation in America stays the same as it is now. Should the government ...

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

(✓)

... spend the same amount as now on social programs like health care, social security, and unemployment benefits, even if this means the national deficit or debt stays as it is,
1

OR

... spend less than now on social programs like health care, social security, and unemployment benefits, so that the national deficit or debt can be reduced?
2

Can't choose
8

End of Section 1

Please pause for interviewer to read introduction to Part 2 of SAQ. If no interviewer is present, please proceed with Part 2.

SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE (S-B)

General Social Survey

Part 2

There is a great deal of concern today about the AIDS epidemic and how to deal with it. Because of the grave nature of this problem, we are going to ask you some personal questions and we need your frank and honest responses. Your answers are confidential and will be used only for statistical reports.

The Past 12 Months

1. How many sex partners have you had in the last 12 months?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER

No partners (Skip to Question 5)	00
1 partner	01
2 partners	02
3 partners	03
4 partners	04
5 - 10 partners	05
11 - 20 partners	06
21 - 100 partners	07
More than 100 partners	08

2. Was one of the partners your husband or wife or regular sexual partner?

Yes	1
No	2

3. If you had NO other partners beside your husband or wife or regular sexual partner, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 4. If you had other partners, please indicate all categories that apply to them.

CIRCLE ALL THE ANSWERS THAT APPLY.

Close personal friend	1
Neighbor, co-worker, or long-term acquaintance	2
Casual date or pick-up	3
Person you paid or paid you for sex	4
Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)	5

4. Have your sex partners in the last 12 months been . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER.

Exclusively male	1
Both male and female	2
Exclusively female	3

5. About how often did you have sex during the past 12 months?

Not at all	0
Once or twice	1
About once a month	2
Two or three times a month	3
About once a week	4
Two or three times a week	5
Four or more times a week	6

The Past 5 Years

6. Now thinking about the past five years--the time since February/March 1991, and including the past 12 months. How many sex partners have you had in that five year period?

- No partners (Skip to Question 8) 00
- 1 partner 01
- 2 partners 02
- 3 partners 03
- 4 partners 04
- 5 - 10 partners 05
- 11 - 20 partners 06
- 21 - 100 partners 07
- More than 100 partners 08

7. Have your sex partners in the last five years been . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER.

- Exclusively male 1
- Both male and female 2
- Exclusively female 3

Since Your 18th Birthday

8. Now thinking about the time since your 18th birthday, (again, including the recent past that you have already told us about) how many **female** partners have you ever had sex with?

_____ Female Partners.

9. Again, thinking about the time since your 18th birthday, (including the recent past that you have already told us about) how many **male** partners have you ever had sex with?

_____ Male Partners.

10. Thinking about the time since your 18th birthday, have you ever had sex with a person you paid or who paid you for sex?

- Yes 1
- No 2

While Married

11. Have you ever had sex with someone other than your husband or wife while you were married?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Never Married 3

Most Recent Sexual Experience

12. The last time you had sex, was a condom used? By "sex" we mean vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Yes, the last time I had sex,
a condom was used 1

No, the last time I had sex,
a condom was not used 2

13. The last time you had sex, was it with someone you were in an on-going relationship with, or was it with someone else?
Remember that by "sex" we mean only vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Yes, the last time I had sex,
it was with someone I was in
an on-going relationship with 1

No, the last time I had sex,
it was not with someone I was in
an on-going relationship with 2

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. PLEASE PLACE FORM IN ENVELOPE, SEAL IT, AND GIVE IT TO THE INTERVIEWER. IF NO INTERVIEWER IS PRESENT, PLEASE DROP SEALED ENVELOPE IN A MAILBOX.