

# **ISSP 2008 – Religion III**

## **Basic Questionnaire**

2008 Religion Questionnaire - Final

June, 2007

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.....	8

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. 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
b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children...	1	2	3	4	8

6. Do you agree or disagree...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
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

7. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

People can almost always be trusted	1
People can usually be trusted	2
You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people	3
You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people	4
Can't choose.....	8

8. 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. [Parliament]..... 1 2 3 4 5 8  
<use national legislature, e.g. U.S. Congress>
- b. Business and industry.... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- c. Churches and religious organizations..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- d. Courts and the legal system..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- e. Schools and the educational system.... 1 2 3 4 5 8

9. We are interested in the extent to which you have moved from one kind of place to another. Which do you think is most like your experience of life?

- I have lived in different countries 1
- I have lived in different places in the same country 2
- I have lived in different neighborhoods in the same place 3
- I have always lived in the same neighborhood 4

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

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- a. Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- b. Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions. 1 2 3 4 5 8

11. Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree..

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
a. Overall, modern science does more harm than good.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. We trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Looking around the world, religions bring more conflict than peace.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. People with very strong religious beliefs are often too intolerant of others.....	1	2	3	4	5	8

12. 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 choose.....	8

13. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
a. All religious groups in [country] should have equal rights.	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. We must respect all religions.	1	2	3	4	5	8

14. People have different religions and different religious views. Would you accept a person from a different religion or with a very different religious view from yours...

- 1. Definitely accept,
- 2. Probably accept,
- 3. Probably not accept,
- 4. Definitely not accept,
- 8. Can't Choose

a. marrying a relative  
of yours            1                    2                    3                    4                    8

b. being a candidate of  
the political party you  
prefer?            1                    2                    3                    4                    8

15. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider religious extremists, that is people who believe that their religion is the only true faith and all other religions should be considered as enemies. Do you think such people should be allowed to...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE.

	Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely	Can't
			Not	Not	Choose
a. Hold public meetings to express their views?	1	2	3	4	8
b. Publish books expressing their views?	1	2	3	4	8

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

- 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

17. 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 used to..... 3
- I believe in God now and I always have..... 4
- Can't choose..... 8

18. 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
b. Heaven.....	1	2	3	4	8
c. Hell.....	1	2	3	4	8
d. Religious miracles	1	2	3	4	8
e. Reincarnation - being reborn in this world again and again.....	1	2	3	4	8
f. Nirvana.....	1	2	3	4	8
g. The supernatural powers of deceased ancestors	1	2	3	4	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
b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself.....	1	2	3	4	5	8
f. I have my own way of connecting with God without churches or religious services.	1	2	3	4	5	8

20. 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
Catholic.....	2
Jewish.....	3
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)...	4
Muslim.....	5
Other (Please Specify)	
	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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<List in Qs. 20-23 may be modified to include all major religions in each country.>

21. 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
Catholic.....	2
Jewish.....	3
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)...	4
Muslim.....	5
Other (Please Specify)	
	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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

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

If Protestant:

What specific denomination was that?

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If you are currently married or living as married, answer Q. 23:  
If you are not currently married or living as married,  
go to Q. 24:

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

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

If Protestant:

What specific denomination is that?

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**<It is strongly recommended that the item on respondent's religion in the demographics use response categories fully compatible with those above.>**

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

Never.....	1
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

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

Never.....	1
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

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

Never.....	1
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

**<It is strongly recommended that the item on respondent's church attendance in the demographics use the same response categories as above.>**

Now thinking about the present...

27. About how often do you pray?

Never.....	1
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

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

Never.....	1
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

29. For religious reasons do you have in your home a shrine, altar, or a religious object on display such as a (COUNTRY-SPECIFIC LIST icon, retablos, mezuzah, menorah, or crucifix)?

Yes	1
No	2

30. How often do you visit a holy place for religious reasons such as going to [shrine/temple/church/mosque]?

Please do not count attending regular religious services at your usual place of worship, if you have one.

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month or more	5

31. 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..... 8

32. What best describes you:

I follow a religion and consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 1

I follow a religion, but don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 2

I don't follow a religion, but consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 3

I don't follow a religion and don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred or the supernatural. 4

Can't choose 8

33. Which of the following statements come closest to your own views:

There is very little truth in any religion.	1
There are basic truths in many religions.	2
There is truth only in one religion.	3
Can't choose.....	8

34. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
a. find inner peace and happiness	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. make friends	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. gain comfort in times of trouble or sorrow	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. meet the right kind of people	1	2	3	4	5	8

**Optionals**

1. 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?

**O-18**

Yes.....1

No.....2

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

**O-18**

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

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

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

**O-18 Previously a required item**

Yes.....1

No.....2

4. During the last year, did you make some personal sacrifice as an expression of your faith such as by fasting, following a special diet, or giving up some activity during a holy season such as (Lent or Ramadan) <use examples that are appropriate for religions in your country>?

**New**

Yes 1

No 2

5. 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.

**O-18**

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
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
B. Master							Spouse
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
C. Judge							Lover
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
D. Friend							King
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	

6. Now please think about something different. Please check one box on each line below to show whether you think each statement is true or false.

**O-18**

	Definitely True	Probably True	Probably False	Definitely False	Can't Choose
a. Good luck charms sometimes do bring good luck.	1	2	3	4	8
b. Some fortune tel- lers really can fore- see the future.....	1	2	3	4	8
c. Some faithhealers do have God-given healing powers.....	1	2	3	4	8
d. A person's star sign at birth, or horoscope, can af- fect the course of their future.....	1	2	3	4	8

7. Suppose a law was passed which conflicted with your religious principles and teachings. Would you...

**O-8**

Definitely follow the law.....	1
Probably follow the law.....	2
Probably follow your religious principles.....	3
Definitely follow your religious principles...	4
I have no religious principles.....	5
Can't choose.....	8

8. What is your personal attitude towards members of the following religious groups?

**New**

1. Very positive,
2. Somewhat positive,
3. Neither positive nor negative,
4. Somewhat negative,
5. Very negative,
8. Can't Choose

a. Christians	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Muslims	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Hindus	1	2	3	4	5	8
d. Buddhists	1	2	3	4	5	8
e. Jews	1	2	3	4	5	8
f. Atheists or non-believers	1	2	3	4	5	8

## Notes on Question Wordings

In the above text "( )" are parenthetical statements that will appear in the version administered to respondents. "[ ]" are used to show where appropriate, country-specific words will be inserted and the punctuations will be removed from the final text. "< >" are special notes or instructions to follow. The punctuations and the statements themselves will be removed from the final text.

Qs. 2-4 - "sexual relations" means "sexual intercourse".

Q. 8 - "confidence" takes on several meanings, but having trust in is the main dimension.

Q 8B - "Business and industry" - refers to large-scale businesses, but don't use an adjective like "big" in the translation.

Q. 9 - By "neighborhood we mean the part of the town/city one lives in. If one lives in a village, we take this as your "neighborhood". "Place" is a very flexible term, it can refer to anything from a rural locale to a large city. It generally means the smallest governing unit one resides in, such as a city, organized suburb, town, or rural district.

Q. 12 - "churches and religious organizations" refers to the power of organized or institutional religions collectively. The question is whether overall religious organizations (e.g. the Catholic and Lutheran churches) have too much/too little power.

Q. 14B - "prefer" refers to the political party that you favor or usually support or vote for

Qs. Required: 16, 17, 19a, 19c, 19f and Optionals: 2, 5A-D, 6C: "God" refers to a supreme being. The term should refer to an entity rather than a non-sentient force. An encompassing, non-sectarian term is desirable if possible.

Q. 16, response 3 - a "personal God" - a supreme being who cares about and is involved with individuals. This is a view of God in contrast to a deistic outlook.

Q. 18F - "Nirvana" is a Buddhist concept that refers to the ultimate state transcending pain and desire in which individual consciousness ends.

Q 18G, 32 - "supernatural" refers to beyond the physical world, should conote things of a divine or transcendental nature. Avoid if possible, terms that refer mostly to entities like ghosts, poldergeists, elves, gremlins, etc. not associated with religion.

Qs 20-23 - "preference" refers to the religion that a person favors or identifies with. If a person was born a member of one religion,

but then preferred or identified with another religion, this question asks about the latter.

"religions" refers to major faiths or organized theological systems as opposed to "denominations" which are sub-divisions within a religion. What is important is that these questions distinguish all relevant faiths, religions, denominations, sects, etc. that exist in each country.

Qs. 24-26 - "religious services" generally refers to organized, group worship activities like Muslims going to the mosque on Fridays, Catholic mass, attending church on Sundays for Protestants, etc. Private prayers at home would not normally count.

Q. 29 - In general, list two or three examples that would be appropriate for the two or three largest religions in your country. If the country is religiously homogenous and only one type of religious object would be typical for that religion, a single example would suffice. However, we want to avoid creating the impression that we are referring only to religious objects relating to one particular religion.

Q. 30 Note that this refers to a religious visit, thus sightseeing at a shrine, temple, church, tomb, etc. without a religious purpose would not count. In general, list two or three examples of holy places that would be appropriate for the two or three largest religions in your country. If the country is religiously homogenous and only one type of holy place would be typical for that religion, a single example would suffice. However, we want to avoid creating the impression that we are referring only to holy places relating to one particular religion.

Q. 31 "extremely non-religious" - this does not mean anti-religious or attacking religion, but being without any religious feelings, beliefs, or behaviors.

Q. 32 - see Q. 18G above.

Q. 34A - "inner peace" - refers to a state of mental and spiritual serenity. One is calm and content and avoids or overcomes discord and anxiousness.

Q. 34D - "right kind of people" - this would generally refer to good people, solid members of the community, people who would be good examples and potentially in a position of give assistance

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#### Optionals

Qs. 1 and 2 should be asked in countries with an appreciable number of Evangelical Protestants. They are not general questions to be asked in all countries.

Qs. 3-8 are generally applicable for all countries.

Notes in **Bold** have been left in that describe the past history of the optionals. **O-18**, for example, means the item was included in the 1991 and 1998 studies.

Optional Q. 1 - "born-again" - this refers to a specific type of spiritual experience in which people accept Christ as their personal Savior and are "born-again" as a Christian on the path to salvation. If your country has Baptist or Pentecostal sects, find what they use in your language(s) for this. It does not refer to "rebirth" in the sense of reincarnation.

Optional Q. 2 - "Bible" should be used in all countries with predominantly Judeo-Christian heritage. Countries with adherents mostly from other religious traditions might either omit this item or replace "Bible" with the appropriate holy book. For example, a predominately Muslim country could rephrase the item in terms of the Koran.

"This does not apply to me." This code is largely for members of religions outside the Judeo-Christian tradition, but we want it to be flexible enough for other respondents to use it, if it seems appropriate to them.

Optional Q. 3 - Q. 20 - "turning point" - a time or event in one's life when a change occurred resulting in a gaining of faith, becoming a believer, a rededication to one's religion or similar.

Optional Q. 5 - "Master" is technically masculine in English, but is probably not seen in a highly gendered sense in this comparison. Carries the ideas of "master and servants" or an overlord. Someone who is in a position of social, economic, and political superiority. This item does assume a single Supreme Being and may not be appropriate in countries with polytheistic faiths.

Optional Q. 8A - "Christians" collectively refers to followers of all churches associated with Christianity: Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, etc. Similarly the other terms cover all sects or divisions within each of the listed major religions.