USA

ISSP 1996 - Role of Government III
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: ____________________________
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  
A fairly good job  
A poor job  
A very poor job

(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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree or Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Can't Choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| It is difficult to raise children  
A woman should devote almost all her time to her family |

(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 [✓]

OR

Follow conscience on occasions

Can't choose

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitely allowed</th>
<th>Probably allowed</th>
<th>Probably not allowed</th>
<th>Definitely not allowed</th>
<th>Can't choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Organizing public meetings to protest against the government</td>
<td>[ ] 1</td>
<td>[ ] 2</td>
<td>[ ] 3</td>
<td>[ ] 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Organizing protest marches and demonstrations</td>
<td>[ ] 1</td>
<td>[ ] 2</td>
<td>[ ] 3</td>
<td>[ ] 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government</td>
<td>[ ] 1</td>
<td>[ ] 2</td>
<td>[ ] 3</td>
<td>[ ] 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitely would</th>
<th>Probably would</th>
<th>Probably would not</th>
<th>Definitely would not</th>
<th>Can't choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Attend a public meeting organized to protest against the government</td>
<td>[ ] 1</td>
<td>[ ] 2</td>
<td>[ ] 3</td>
<td>[ ] 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Go on a protest march or demonstration</td>
<td>[ ] 1</td>
<td>[ ] 2</td>
<td>[ ] 3</td>
<td>[ ] 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>More than once</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Attended a public meeting organized to protest against the government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Gone on a protest march or demonstration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely allowed</th>
<th>Probably allowed</th>
<th>Probably not allowed</th>
<th>Definitely not allowed</th>
<th>Can’t choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. ...hold public meetings to express their views?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. ...publish books expressing their views?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

...to convict an innocent person,  (✓)  

OR

to let a guilty person go free?  |

Can’t choose  |
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spend much more</th>
<th>Spend more</th>
<th>Spend the same as now</th>
<th>Spend less</th>
<th>Spend much less</th>
<th>Can't choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The environment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The police and law enforcement</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. The military and defense</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Retirement benefits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Unemployment benefits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Culture and the arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 [3]
- About the right amount of power [5]
- Too little power [4]
- Far too little power [5]
- Can't choose [6]
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
- Too much power
- About the right amount of power
- Too little power
- Far too little power
- Can’t choose

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
- Too much power
- About the right amount of power
- Too little power
- Far too little power
- Can’t choose
12. On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government’s responsibility to...

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

Here are some questions about politics.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLEASE CHECK ONE BOX ONLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(✓) Very interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairly interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t choose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 

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

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 [ ]
- It works well but needs some changes [ ]
- It does not work well and needs a lot of changes [ ]
- It does not work well and needs to be completely changed [ ]
- Can’t choose [ ]
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

OR

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

Can't choose

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

too high

about right

too low

or, are they much too low?

Can’t choose
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mainly run by private organizations or companies</th>
<th>Mainly run by the government</th>
<th>Can't choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 [✓]
- Keeping down unemployment
- Can't choose

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
- 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
- Can't choose
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.