

**Ireland**  
**ISSP 1991 – Religion I**  
**Questionnaire**



# The Economic and Social Research Institute

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We have been commissioned to carry out a study of people's feelings and opinions about a variety of important issues. The study is being conducted in a number of other countries and the objective is to see how people's values and opinions vary across the different countries. The interview will take about 45 minutes to complete and I would be very grateful if you could spare me this much time. All the information that you give will be treated in the strictest confidence and only aggregated results will be published. We very much hope that you will be able to co-operate since we are interviewing only a sample of the population, and your views will represent those of many people we will not be able to interview.

Area Code

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ID1

Resp. Code

--	--

ID2

Interviewer's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer No.

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INTVR

Size of Town:

SIZE

Open Country

1

Village (Less than 500 persons)

2

500 - 1,499 persons

3

1,500 - 4,999 persons

4

5,000 - 9,999

5

10,000 - 99,999

6

100,000 or more

7

- 91 Q.1 If you were to consider your life in general these days, how happy or unhappy would you say you are, on the whole?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Very happy	1
Fairly happy	2
Not very happy	3
Not at all happy	4
Can't choose	8

Q1.1

- 91 Q.2 Here are some measures to deal with crime. Some people are in favour of them while others are against them. Do you agree or disagree that ...

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose	
a. People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q2.1
b. People convicted of murder should be subject to the death penalty?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q2.2

- Q.3 Consider the situations listed below. Do you feel it is wrong or not wrong if ...

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Not wrong	A bit wrong	Wrong	Seriously wrong	Can't choose	
a. A taxpayer does not report all of his income in order to pay less income tax?	1	2	3	4	8	Q3.1
b. A person gives the government incorrect information about himself to get government benefits that he is not entitled to?	1	2	3	4	8	Q3.2

## Q.4 How much confidence do you have in ...

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Complete confidence	A great deal of confidence	Some confidence	Very little confidence	No confidence at all	Can't choose	
a. The Dail?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.1
b. Business and Industry?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.2
c. The Civil Service?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.3
d. Churches and religious organisations?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.4
e. Courts and the legal system?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.5
f. Schools and the educational system?	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q4.6

## Q.5 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose	
a.. Politicians who do not believe in God are unfit for public office	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q5.1
b. Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q5.2
c. It would be better for Ireland if more people with strong religious beliefs held public office	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q5.3
d. Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q5.4

Q.6 Do you think that churches and religious organisations in this country have too much power or too little power?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE 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 |

Q6.1

Q.7 Please tick one box below to show which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 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 |

Q7.1

Q.8 How close do you feel to God most of the time?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Don't believe in God | 1 |
| Not close at all     | 2 |
| Not very close       | 3 |
| Somewhat close       | 4 |
| Extremely close      | 5 |
| Can't choose         | 8 |

Q8.1

Q.9 Which best describes your beliefs about God?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 |

Q9.1

Q.10 Do you believe in ...

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

- |                        | Yes,<br>definitely | Yes,<br>probably | No,<br>probably<br>not | No,<br>definitely<br>not | Can't<br>choose |       |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| a. Life after death?   | 1                  | 2                | 3                      | 4                        | 8               | Q10.1 |
| b. The Devil?          | 1                  | 2                | 3                      | 4                        | 8               | Q10.2 |
| c. Heaven?             | 1                  | 2                | 3                      | 4                        | 8               | Q10.3 |
| d. Hell?               | 1                  | 2                | 3                      | 4                        | 8               | Q10.4 |
| e. Religious miracles? | 1                  | 2                | 3                      | 4                        | 8               | Q10.5 |

Q.11 Which one of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| The Bible is the actual word of God<br>and it is to be taken literally, word for word                   | 1 |
| The Bible is the inspired word of God but not<br>everything should be taken literally, word for<br>word | 2 |
| The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends,<br>history and moral teachings recorded by man         | 3 |
| This does not apply to me   | 4 |
| Can't choose  | 8 |

Q11.1

Q.12 Has there ever been a turning point in your life when you made a new and personal commitment to religion?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY

Q12.1

Yes 1

No 2

Q.13 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following ...

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose	
a. There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.1
b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.2
c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.3
d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.4
e. The course of our lives is decided by God	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.5
f. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.6
g. We each make our own fate	1	2	3	4	5	8	Q13.7

Q.14 How often have you felt as though you were ...

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

	Never in my life	Once or twice	Several times	Often	Can't say	
a. Really in touch with someone who had died?	1	2	3	4	8	Q14.1
b. Close to a powerful, spiritual force that seemed to lift you out of yourself	1	2	3	4	8	Q14.2



Q.15a What was your mother's religion, if any, when you were a child?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN A.

Q.15b What was your father's religion, if any, when you were a child?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN B.

Q.15c What is your own religion, if any?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN C.  
If you are currently married or living as married please answer Q.15d  
If you are *not* currently married or living as married, please go to Q.16

Q.15d What is your husband's/wife's/partner's religion, if any?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN D

	(A) Mother	(B) Father	(C) * Resoondent	(D) Spouse/Partner
No religion	01	01	01	01
Christian - no denomination	02	02	02	02
Roman Catholic	03	03	03	03
Church of Ireland/Anglican	04	04	04	04
Baptist	05	05	05	05
Methodist	06	06	06	06
Presbyterian	07	07	07	07
Free Presbyterian	21	21	21	21
Brethren	22	22	22	22
United Reform Church (URC)/Congregational	23	23	23	23
Other Protestant (PLEASE WRITE IN WHICH)	27	27	27	27
Other Christian (PLEASE WRITE IN WHICH)	08	08	08	08
Hindu	09	09	09	09
Jewish	10	10	10	10
Islam/Muslim	11	11	11	11
Sikh	12	12	12	12
Buddhist	13	13	13	13
Other non-Christian (PLEASE WRITE IN WHICH)	14	14	14	14
Never knew person/does not apply	15	15	15	15
Can't say/can't remember	98	98	98	98

Q15.1  
(A)

Q15.2  
(B)

Q15.3  
(C)

Q15.4  
(D)

## EVERYONE PLEASE ANSWER REST OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Q.16a When you were a child, how often did your mother attend religious services?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN A

Q.16b When you were a child, how often did your father attend religious services?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN B

Q.16c And what about when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services then?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN C

	(A)	(B)	(C)
	Mother	Father	Respondent when aged 11 or 12
Never	01	01	01
Less than once a year	02	02	02
About once or twice a year	03	03	03
Several times a year	04	04	04
About once a month	05	05	05
2-3 times a month	06	06	06
Nearly every week	07	07	07
Every week	08	08	08
Several times a week	09	09	09
Never knew person/does not apply	10	10	10
Can't say/can't remember	98	98	98

Q16.1  
(A)Q16.2  
(B)Q16.3  
(C)

Q.17a Now thinking about the present ...  
How often do you attend religious services?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN A

Q.17b How often do you take part in the activities or organisations  
of a church or place of worship, *other than* attending services?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN B

Q.17c About how often do you pray?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN C

Q.17d (Ask Q.17d of Roman Catholics only. Non Roman Catholics go to Q. 18).  
Could you say how often you go to Holy Communion and Confession?  
PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN D AND ONE CODE ONLY IN COLUMN E

	(A) <i>Religious Services</i>	(B) <i>Other Activities</i>	(C) <i>Pray</i>	(D) ✕ <i>Holy Communion</i>	(E) ✕ <i>Confession</i>	Q17.1 (A)
Never	01	01	01	01	01	Q17.2 (B)
Less than once a year	02	02	02	02	02	Q17.3 (C)
About once or twice a year	03	03	03	03	03	Q17.4 (D)
Several times a year	04	04	04	04	04	Q17.5 (E)
About once a month	05	05	05	05	05	
2-3 times a month	06	06	06	06	06	
Nearly every week	07	07	07	07	07	
Every week	08	08	08	08	08	
Several times a week	09	09	09	09	09	
Once a day	10	10	10	10	10	
Several times a day	11	11	11	11	11	

✕ Not included  
for 2A

Q.18 Would you describe yourself as ...

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

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

Q18.1

Q.19 In your opinion, should there be daily prayers in all state schools?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

Yes, definitely	1
Yes, probably	2
No, probably not	3
No, definitely not	4
Can't choose	8

Q19.1

Q.20 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. Right and wrong should be based on God's laws	1	2	3	4	5	8
b. Right and wrong should be decided by society	1	2	3	4	5	8
c. Right and wrong should be a matter of personal conscience	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q20.1

Q20.2

Q20.3

- Q.21 Some books or films offend people who have strong religious beliefs. Should books and films that attack religions be prohibited by law or should they be allowed?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ONLY*

Definitely should be prohibited	1
Probably should be prohibited	2
Probably should be allowed	3
Definitely should be allowed	4
Can't choose	8

Q21.1

- Q.22 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?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE*

Yes	1
No	2
This does not apply to me	3

Q22.1

- Q.23 Now please think about something different. Please circle one code on each line below to show whether you think each statement is true or false.

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true	Can't choose
a. Good luck charms sometimes do bring good luck	1	2	3	4	8
b. Some fortune tellers really can foresee the future	1	2	3	4	8
c. Some faith healers really do have God-given healing powers	1	2	3	4	8
d. A person's star sign at birth, or horoscope, can affect the course of their future	1	2	3	4	8

Q23.1

Q23.2

Q23.3

Q23.4

- Q.24 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.

Here are sets of contrasting images. (Show Cards A - D in turn.) 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?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

A.	Mother		Father				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B.	Master		Spouse				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C.	Judge		Lover				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D.	Friend		King				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q24.1

Q24.2

Q24.3

Q24.4

- Q.25 People have different images of the world and human nature. We'd like to know the kinds of images you have.

Here are sets of contrasting images. (Show Cards E and F in turn). On a scale of 1-7, where would you place your image of the world and human nature between the two contrasting images?

Look at the first set of contrasting images. If you think that "The world is basically filled with evil and sin," you would place yourself at 1. If you think "There is much goodness in the world which hints at God's goodness," you would place yourself at 7. If you think things are somewhere in between these two, you would place yourself at 2,3,4,5, or 6.

Where would you place your image of the world on each of the scales below?

*PLEASE CIRCLE ONE CODE ON EACH LINE*

E.	The world is basically filled with evil and sin.	There is much goodness in the world which hints at God's goodness.					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F.	Human nature is basically good	Human nature is fundamentally perverse and corrupt.					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q25.1

Q25.2