

ISSP 1987 – Social Inequality I

Basic Questionnaire

BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES: 1987
SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE

March 1987 P.905

OFFICE USE ONLY:	
	Area No.
Interviewer to enter:	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	Serial No.
	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Rec.	Interviewer No.
<input type="text"/> 17.08	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

To the selected respondent

We hope very much that you will agree to participate in this important study - the fifth in an annual series of surveys to be published each summer. The study consists of this self-completion questionnaire and an interview. Some of the questions are also being asked in eight other countries, as part of an international survey of social attitudes.

Completing the questionnaire

The questions inside cover a wide range of subjects, but each one can be answered simply by placing a tick (✓) in one or more of the boxes provided. No special knowledge is required: we are confident that everyone will be able to offer an opinion on all questions. And we want *all* people to take part, not just those with strong views or particular viewpoints. The questionnaire should not take very long to complete, and we hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable. It should be completed by the person selected by the interviewer at your address. Your participation will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Returning the questionnaire

Your interviewer will arrange with you the most convenient way of returning the questionnaire. If the interviewer has arranged to call back for it, please complete it and keep it safely until then. If not, please complete it and post it back in the pre-paid, addressed envelope *as soon as you possibly can*.

Thank you for your help.

Social and Community Planning Research is an independent social research institute registered as a charitable trust. Its projects are funded by government departments, local authorities, universities and foundations to provide information on social issues in Britain. This study has been funded mainly by the Monument Trust, a Sainsbury foundation, with contributions also from government departments, universities and industry. Please contact us if you require further information.

To begin, we have some questions about opportunities for getting ahead ...

1. Please tick one box for each of these to show how important you think it is for getting ahead in life ...

a) First, how important is coming from a wealthy family?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (√)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.09

b) Having well-educated parents?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (√)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.10

c) Having a good education yourself?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (√)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.11

d) Ambition?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (√)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.12

Please continue ...

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e) Natural ability - how important is that for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.13

f) Hard work - how important is that?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.14

g) Knowing the right people?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.15

h) Having political connections?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
- Very important 2
- Fairly important 3
- Not very important 4
- Not important at all 5
- Can't choose 8

17.16

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i) A person's race - how important is that
for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
 - Very important 2
 - Fairly important 3
 - Not very important 4
 - Not important at all 5
 - Can't choose 8

17.17

j) A person's religion?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
 - Very important 2
 - Fairly important 3
 - Not very important 4
 - Not important at all 5
 - Can't choose 8

17.18

k) The part of the country a person comes from?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
 - Very important 2
 - Fairly important 3
 - Not very important 4
 - Not important at all 5
 - Can't choose 8

17.19

l) Being born a man or a woman - how important
is that?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
 - Very important 2
 - Fairly important 3
 - Not very important 4
 - Not important at all 5
 - Can't choose 8

17.20

Please continue ...

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m) A person's political beliefs, how important
are they for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Essential 1
 - Very important 2
 - Fairly important 3
 - Not very important 4
 - Not important at all 5
 - Can't choose 8

17,21

2. Please tick a box to show how much you agree or
disagree with the following statement:

The way things are in Britain, people like
me and my family have a good chance of
improving our standard of living.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

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

17,22

3. Some people earn a lot of money while others
do not earn very much at all ...

In order to get people to work hard, do you
think large differences in pay are ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Absolutely necessary 1
 - Probably necessary 2
 - Probably not necessary 3
 - Definitely not necessary 4
 - Can't choose 8

17,23

17,24-25

4. Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose	
a) People would not want to take extra responsibility at work unless they were paid extra for it.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.26
b) Workers would not bother to get skills and qualifications unless they were paid extra for having them.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.27
c) Inequality continues because it benefits the rich and powerful.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.28
d) No-one would study for years to become a lawyer or doctor unless they expected to earn a lot more than ordinary workers.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.29
e) Large differences in income are necessary for Britain's prosperity.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.30
f) Allowing business to make good profits is the best way to improve everyone's standard of living.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.31
g) Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	17.32

Please continue ...

5. We would like to know what you think people in these jobs actually earn.

Please write in how much you think they usually earn each year, before taxes.

(Many people are not exactly sure about this, but your best guess will be close enough. This may be difficult, but it is important, so please try.)

Please write in how much they actually earn each year, before tax

a)	First, <u>about</u> how much do you think a bricklayer earns?	£ -----	17,33-38
b)	A doctor in general practice?	£ -----	17,39-44
c)	A bank clerk?	£ -----	17,45-50
d)	The owner of a small shop?	£ -----	17,51-56
e)	The chairman of a large national company?	£ -----	17,57-63
f)	A skilled worker in a factory?	£ -----	17,64-69
g)	A farm worker?	£ -----	17,70-75
h)	A secretary?	£ -----	18,09-14
i)	A city bus driver?	£ -----	18,15-20
j)	An unskilled worker in a factory? ...	£ -----	18,21-26
k)	A cabinet minister in the national government?	£ -----	18,27-33

6. Next, what do you think people in these jobs ought to be paid - how much do you think they should earn each year before taxes, regardless of what they actually get?

Please write in how much they should earn each year, before tax

a)	First, <u>about</u> how much do you think a bricklayer <u>should</u> earn?	£	18,34-39
b)	A doctor in general practice?	£	18,40-45
c)	A bank clerk, how much <u>should</u> s/he earn?	£	18,46-51
d)	The owner of a small shop?	£	18,52-57
e)	The chairman of a large national company?	£	18,58-64
f)	A skilled worker in a factory?	£	18,65-70
g)	A farm worker?	£	18,71-76
h)	A secretary?	£	18,08-14
i)	A city bus driver?	£	18,15-20
j)	An unskilled worker in a factory? ...	£	18,21-26
k)	A cabinet minister in the national government?	£	18,27-33

Please continue ...

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7. Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement....

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose	
a) Differences in income in Britain are too large.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.34
b) It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.35
c) The government should provide more chances for children from poor families to go to university.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.36
d) The government should 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"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.37
e) The government should spend <u>less</u> on benefits for the poor.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.38
f) The government should 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"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.39
g) The government should provide everyone with a guaranteed basic income.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	19.40

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Generally, how would you describe taxes in Britain today ...

(We mean all taxes together, including national insurance, income tax, VAT and all the rest.)

a) First, for those with high incomes, are taxes ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Much too high 1
 - Too high 2
 - About right 3
 - Too low 4
 - Much too low 5
 - Can't choose 8

19.41

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Much too high 1
 - Too high 2
 - About right 3
 - Too low 4
 - Much too low 5
 - Can't choose 8

19.42

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Much too high 1
 - Too high 2
 - About right 3
 - Too low 4
 - Much too low 5
 - Can't choose 8

19.43

9. Do you think that people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Much larger share 1
 - Larger 2
 - The same share 3
 - Smaller 4
 - Much smaller share 5
 - Can't choose 8

19.44

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10. In all countries there are differences or even conflicts between different social groups. In your opinion, in Britain how much conflict is there between ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

		Very strong conflicts	Strong conflicts	Not very strong conflicts	There are no conflicts	Can't choose	
a)	Poor people and rich people?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.45
b)	The working class and the middle class?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.45
c)	The unemployed and people with jobs?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.47
d)	Management and workers?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.48
e)	Farmers and city people?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.49
f)	Young people and older people?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	19.50

11. In our society there are groups which tend to be towards the top and groups which tend to be towards the bottom. Below is a scale that runs from top to bottom. Where would you put yourself on this scale?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Top	<input type="checkbox"/> 01	19.51-52
	<input type="checkbox"/> 02	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 03	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 04	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 05	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 06	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 07	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 08	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 09	
Bottom	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	

12. Please think of your present job (or your last one if you don't have one now).

If you compare this job with the job your father had when you were 16, would you say that the level or status of your job is (✓) (or was) ...

Much higher than your father's	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	19.53
Higher	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	
About equal	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	
Lower	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	
Much lower than your father's	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	
(I never had a job)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	
(Never knew father/father never had a job)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	

13.a) Here is a list of different types of jobs. Which type did your father have when you were 16?

(If your father did not have a job then, please give the job he used to have.)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Professional and technical (for example: doctor, teacher, engineer, artist, accountant) 01

Higher administrator (for example: banker, executive in big business, high government official, union official) 02

Clerical (for example: secretary, clerk, office manager, bookkeeper) 03

Sales (for example: sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant, insurance agent) 04

Service (for example: restaurant owner, police officer, waiter, barber, caretaker) 05

Skilled worker (for example: foreman, motor mechanic, printer, tool and die maker, electrician) 06

Semi-Skilled worker (for example: bricklayer, bus driver, cannery worker, carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 07

Unskilled worker (for example: labourer, porter, unskilled factory worker) 08

Farm (for example: farmer, farm labourer, tractor driver) 09

(Never knew father/father never had job) 10

b) Was your father self-employed, or did he work for someone else?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Self-employed, had own business or farm 1

Worked for someone else 2

(Never knew father/father never had job) 3

19.54-55

19.56

Please continue ...

19.57

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4.a) And how about your first job - the first job you had after you finished full-time education?

(Even if that was many years ago, we would still like to know about it.)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Professional and technical (for example: doctor, teacher, engineer, artist, accountant) 01
- Higher administrator (for example: banker, executive in big business, high government official, union official) 02
- Clerical (for example: secretary, clerk, office manager, bookkeeper) 03
- Sales (for example: sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant, insurance agent) 04
- Service (for example: restaurant owner, police officer, barber, waitress, caretaker) 05
- Skilled worker (for example: foreman, motor mechanic, printer, seamstress, electrician) 06
- Semi-skilled worker (for example: bricklayer, bus driver, cannery worker, carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 07
- Unskilled worker (for example: labourer, porter, unskilled factory worker) 08
- Farm (for example: farmer, farm labourer, tractor driver) 09
- (Never had a job) 10

19.53-59

b) Were you self-employed, or did you work for someone else?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Self-employed, had own business or farm 1
- Worked for someone else 2
- (Never had a job) 3

19.53

19.51-52

15.a) And how about your job now?
(If you are not working now, please tell us about
your last job.)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Professional and technical (for example: doctor, teacher,
engineer, artist, accountant) (✓) 0.1
- Higher administrator (for example: banker, executive in big
business, high government official, union official) 0.2
- Clerical (for example: secretary, clerk, office manager,
bookkeeper) 0.3
- Sales (for example: sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant,
insurance agent) 0.4
- Service (for example: restaurant owner, police officer,
waitress, barber, caretaker) 0.5
- Skilled worker (for example: foreman, motor mechanic, printer,
seamstress, electrician) 0.6
- Semi-skilled worker (for example: bricklayer, bus driver, cannery
worker, carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker) 0.7
- Unskilled workers (for example: labourer, porter, unskilled factory
worker) 0.8
- Farm (for example: farmer, farm labourer, tractor driver) 0.9
- (Never had a job) 1.0

19.53-54

b) Are you self-employed, or do you work for
someone else?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Self-employed, have own business or farm (✓) 1
- Work for someone else 2
- (Never had a job) 3

19.55

Please continue ...

19.56-57