

**Ireland**  
**ISSP 1987 – Social Inequality 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 an hour 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.

Interviewer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code

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Resp. Code

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Inter. No.

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And now, we have some questions about opportunities for getting ahead ...

37. 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

S37.1

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

S37.2

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

S37.3

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

S37.4

Please continue ...

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

S37.5

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

S37.6

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

S37.7

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

S37.8

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

S37.9

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

S37.10

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

S37.11

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

S37.12

Please continue ...

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

S37.13

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

The way things are in Ireland, 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

S37.14

o) 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

S37.15

38. 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	S38.1
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	S38.2
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	S38.3
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	S38.4
e) Large differences in income are necessary for Ireland'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	S38.5
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	S38.6
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	S38.7

*Please continue ...*

39. 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, about how much do you think a bricklayer earns? ..... £ ..... S39.1
- b) A doctor in general practice? ..... £ ..... S39.2
- c) A bank clerk? ..... £ ..... S39.3
- d) The owner of a small shop? ..... £ ..... S39.4
- e) The chairman of a large national company? ..... £ ..... S39.5
- f) A skilled worker in a factory? ..... £ ..... S39.6
- g) A farm worker? ..... £ ..... S39.7
- h) A secretary? ..... £ ..... S39.8
- i) A city bus driver? ..... £ ..... S39.9
- j) An unskilled worker in a factory? ... £ ..... S39.1
- k) A cabinet minister in the national government? ..... £ ..... S39.

CONVERSION TABLE: FOR USE IF RESPONDENT GIVES WEEKLY AMOUNT

£ per week	= £ per annum
50	= 2,600
100	= 5,200
200	= 10,400
300	= 15,600
400	= 20,800
500	= 26,000
600	= 31,200
700	= 36,400
800	= 41,600
900	= 46,800
1,000	= 52,000

40. 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, about how much do you think  
a bricklayer should earn? ..... £ ..... S40.1
- b) A doctor in general practice? ..... £ ..... S40.2
- c) A bank clerk, how much should s/he earn? £ ..... S40.3
- d) The owner of a small shop? ..... £ ..... S40.4
- e) The chairman of a large national  
company? ..... £ ..... S40.5
- f) A skilled worker in a factory? ..... £ ..... S40.6
- g) A farm worker? ..... £ ..... S40.7
- h) A secretary? ..... £ ..... S40.8
- i) A city bus driver? ..... £ ..... S40.9
- j) An unskilled worker in a factory? ... £ ..... S40.10
- k) A cabinet minister in the national  
government? ..... £ ..... S40.11

CONVERSION TABLE: FOR USE IF RESPONDENT GIVES WEEKLY AMOUNT

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50	=	2,600
100	=	5,200
200	=	10,400
300	=	15,600
400	=	20,800
500	=	26,000
600	=	31,200
700	=	36,400
800	=	41,600
900	=	46,800
1,000	=	52,000



42. Generally, how would you describe taxes in Ireland 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

S42.1

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

S42.2

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

S42.3

43. 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

S43.1

Please continue ...

44. In all countries there are differences or even conflicts between different social groups. In your opinion, in Ireland 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	S44.1
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	S44.2
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	S44.3
d)	Management and workers?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	S44.4
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	S44.5
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	S44.6

45. 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"/> 0 1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 9
Bottom	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 0

S45.1

Demographic