

**ISSP 1988 – Family and Changing Gender Roles I**  
**Basic Questionnaire**

To begin, we have some questions about women.

1. Do you agree or disagree ...

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Dis- agree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
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a. A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.	1	2	3	4	5	8	07/
b. A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.	1	2	3	4	5	8	08/
c. All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job.	1	2	3	4	5	8	09/
d. A woman and her family will all be happier if she goes out to work.	1	2	3	4	5	8	10/
e. A job is alright, but what most women really want is a home and children.	1	2	3	4	5	8	11/
f. Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay.	1	2	3	4	5	8	12/
g. Having a job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person.	1	2	3	4	5	8	13/
h. Both the husband and wife should contribute to the household income.	1	2	3	4	5	8	14/
i. 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	15/
j. I would enjoy having a job even if I didn't need the money.	1	2	3	4	5	8	16/

2. Do you think that women should work outside the home full-time, part-time or not at all under these circumstances:

Please circle one answer on each line.

Work full-time	Work part-time	Stay Home	Can't Choose
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a. After marrying and before there are children.	1	2	3	8	17/
b. When there is a child under school age.	1	2	3	8	18/
c. After the youngest child starts school.	1	2	3	8	19/
d. After the children leave home.	1	2	3	8	20/

3. Think of a child under 3 years old whose parents both have full-time jobs. How suitable do you think each of these childcare arrangements would be for the child?

Very Suitable	Somewhat Suitable	Not Very Suitable	Not At All Suitable	Can't Choose
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a. A public day care center?	1	2	3	4	8	21/
b. A private day care center?	1	2	3	4	8	22/
c. A babysitter?	1	2	3	4	8	23/
d. A neighbor or friend?	1	2	3	4	8	24/
e. A relative?	1	2	3	4	8	25/

4A. If you were advising a young woman, which of the following ways of life would you recommend?

Please choose only one of the following responses.

- To live alone, without a steady partner?.....1 26/
- To live with a steady partner, without marrying?.....2
- To live with a steady partner for a while, and then marry?.....3
- To marry without living together first?.....4
- Can't choose?.....8

4B. If you were advising a young man, which of the following ways of life would you recommend?

Please choose only one of the following responses.

- To live alone, without a steady partner?.....1 27/
- To live with a steady partner, without marrying?.....2
- To live with a steady partner for a while, and then marry?.....3
- To marry without living together first?.....4
- Can't choose?.....8

## 5. Do you agree or disagree?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose
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a. Married people are generally happier than unmarried people.	1	2	3	4	5	8	28/
b. Personal freedom is more important than the companionship of marriage.	1	2	3	4	5	8	29/
c. The main advantage of marriage is that it gives financial security.	1	2	3	4	5	8	30/
d. The main purpose of marriage these days is to have children.	1	2	3	4	5	8	31/
e. It is better to have a bad marriage than no marriage at all.	1	2	3	4	5	8	32/
f. People who want children ought to get married.	1	2	3	4	5	8	33/
g. A single mother can bring up her child as well as a married couple.	1	2	3	4	5	8	34/
h. A single father can bring up his child as well as a married couple.	1	2	3	4	5	8	35/
i. Couples don't take marriage seriously enough when divorce is easily available.	1	2	3	4	5	8	36/
j. Homosexual couples should have the right to marry one another.	1	2	3	4	5	8	37/

6. All in all, what do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have? Please just write a number in the box below.

Ideal number of children for a family.....

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38-39/

7. In general, what do you feel about each of these family sizes?  
Please circle one answer on each line.

It is ...

Very Desirable	Desirable	Neither Desirable Nor Undesirable	Un- Desirable	Very Undesirable	Can't Choose
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A family with:

a. No children?	1	2	3	4	5	8	40/
b. One child?	1	2	3	4	5	8	41/
c. Two children?	1	2	3	4	5	8	42/
d. Three children?	1	2	3	4	5	8	43/
e. Four children or more?	1	2	3	4	5	8	44/

## 8. Do you agree or disagree ...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Dis- agree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose	
a. Children are more trouble than they are worth.	1	2	3	4	5	8	45/
b. Watching children grow up is life's greatest joy.	1	2	3	4	5	8	46/
c. Having children interferes too much with the freedom of parents.	1	2	3	4	5	8	47/
d. A marriage without children is not fully complete.	1	2	3	4	5	8	48/
e. It is better <u>not</u> to have children because they are such a heavy financial burden.	1	2	3	4	5	8	49/
f. People who have never had children lead empty lives.	1	2	3	4	5	8	50/

9. In general, would you say that the law now makes it easy or difficult for people who want to get divorced?

Very easy.....	1	51/
Fairly easy.....	2	
Neither easy nor difficult.....	3	
Fairly difficult.....	4	
Very difficult.....	5	
Can't choose.....	8	

10. And in general, how easy or difficult do you think the law should make it for couples without young children to get a divorce?

Very easy.....	1	52/
Fairly easy.....	2	
Neither easy nor difficult.....	3	
Fairly difficult.....	4	
Very difficult.....	5	
Can't choose.....	8	

11. And what about couples with young children? How easy or difficult should the law make it for them to get a divorce?

Very easy.....	1	53/
Fairly easy.....	2	
Neither easy nor difficult.....	3	
Fairly difficult.....	4	
Very difficult.....	5	
Can't choose.....	8	



12. When a marriage is troubled and unhappy do you think it is generally better for the children if the couple stays together or gets divorced?

- Much better to divorce.....1 54
- Better to divorce.....2
- Worse to divorce.....3
- Much worse to divorce.....4
- Can't choose.....8

13. And when a marriage is troubled and unhappy, is it generally better for the wife if the couple stays together or gets divorced?

- Much better to divorce.....1 55
- Better to divorce.....2
- Worse to divorce.....3
- Much worse to divorce.....4
- Can't choose.....8

14. And when a marriage is troubled and unhappy, is it generally better for the husband if the couple stays together or gets divorced?

- Much better to divorce.....1 56/
- Better to divorce.....2
- Worse to divorce.....3
- Much worse to divorce.....4
- Can't choose.....8

15. Did your mother ever work for pay for as long as one year after you were born and before you were 14?

Yes, she worked .....	1	57/
No .....	2	
Did not live with mother .....	3	

16. Were you ever divorced?

Yes .....	1	58/
No .....	2	
Never married .....	3	

17. Was your (current) spouse ever divorced?

Yes .....	1	59/
No .....	2	
Not married .....	3	

18. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE MARRIED.  
IF YOU ARE NOT MARRIED YOU ARE FINISHED WITH THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

Did you live with your husband/wife before you got married?

Yes.....1 60/  
No.....2

19. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE A MARRIED WOMAN WHO HAS HAD CHILDREN.

Did you work outside the home full-time, part-time, or not at all ...

Worked Full-Time	Worked Part-Time	Stayed Home	Does Not Apply
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a. After marrying and before you had children?	1	2	3	8	61/
b. And what about when a child was under school age?	1	2	3	8	62/
c. After the youngest child started school?	1	2	3	8	63/
d. And how about after the children left home?	1	2	3	8	64/

20. AND PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE MARRIED AND BOTH OF YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING FOR PAY.

Who earns more money?

The husband earns much more.....1 65/  
The husband earns a bit more.....2  
We earn about the same amount.....3  
The wife earns a bit more.....4  
The wife earns much more.....5

Thank You.