

**Great Britain**  
**ISSP 1992 – Social Inequality II**  
**Questionnaire**

P.1250

Summer 1992

## BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES

### SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE

SN 

101-04				

To the selected respondent:

Thank you very much for helping us again with this important study - the ninth in this annual series. These questions are also being asked in eighteen other countries, as part of an international survey. The results are published in a book each autumn.

#### *Completing the questionnaire*

The questions inside cover a range of subjects, but each one can be answered simply by placing a tick (✓) or writing a number in one or more of the boxes. No special knowledge is required: we are confident that everyone will be able 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 filled in only by the person who was interviewed in 1991. The answers you give will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

#### *Returning the questionnaire*

Please post it back in the pre-paid, addressed envelope, AS SOON AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP.

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*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. The British Social Attitudes Survey series has been funded mainly by the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, with contributions also from government departments, the Nuffield Foundation, universities and industry. Please contact us if you would like further information.*

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

105 cd 1

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

106

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

107

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

108

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

109

1e) Natural ability - how important is that for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

110

f) Hard work - how important is that?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

111

g) Knowing the right people?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

112

h) Having political connections?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

113

- li) 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

114

- 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

115

- 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

116

- 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

117

Please continue ...

1m) A person's political beliefs - how important  
are they for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(√)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

118

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	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

119

## 3. 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"/> 8	120
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"/> 8	121
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"/> 8	122
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"/> 8	123
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"/> 8	124
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"/> 8	125
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"/> 8	126

Please continue ...

4. 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 skilled worker in a factory earns? ..... | £ _____ | 206-11 |
| b) A doctor in general practice? .....  | £ _____ | 212-17 |
| c) A shop assistant in a department store? .....  | £ _____ | 218-23 |
| d) The chairman of a large national company? .....                                      | £ _____ | 224-29 |
| e) A solicitor? .....   | £ _____ | 230-35 |
| f) The owner of a small shop? .....   | £ _____ | 236-41 |
| g) A farm worker? .....   | £ _____ | 242-47 |
| h) The owner-manager of a large factory? .....  | £ _____ | 248-53 |
| i) An Appeal Court judge? .....   | £ _____ | 254-59 |
| j) An unskilled worker in a factory? .....  | £ _____ | 260-65 |
| k) A cabinet minister in the national government? .....                                 | £ _____ | 266-71 |

5. 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 skilled worker in a factory <u>should</u> earn? ..... | £ _____ | 306-11 |
| b) A doctor in general practice? .....   | £ _____ | 312-17 |
| c) A shop assistant in a department store? .....   | £ _____ | 318-23 |
| d) The chairman of a large national company? .....   | £ _____ | 324-29 |
| e) A solicitor? .....  | £ _____ | 330-35 |
| f) The owner of a small shop? .....  | £ _____ | 336-41 |
| g) A farm worker? .....  | £ _____ | 342-47 |
| h) The owner-manager of a large factory? .....   | £ _____ | 348-53 |
| i) An Appeal Court judge? .....  | £ _____ | 354-59 |
| j) An unskilled worker in a factory? .....   | £ _____ | 360-65 |
| k) A cabinet minister in the national government? .....  | £ _____ | 366-71 |

cd 2

cd 3



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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	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"/> 8	372
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"/> 8	373
c) 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"/> 8	374
d) 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"/> 8	375

Please continue ...

7. 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

376

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

377

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

378

8. 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

379

9. 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"/> 8	406
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"/> 8	407
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"/> 8	408
d) Management and workers?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	409
e) Farmers and city people?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	410
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"/> 8	411

10. 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	412-13
	<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	

Please continue...

11. 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) ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Much higher than your father's

(✓)

1

Higher

2

About equal

3

Lower

4

Much lower than your father's

5

(I never had a job)

6

(Never knew father/father never had a job)

7

414

12a) Compared with your father when he was about your age, are you better or worse off in your income and standard of living generally?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Much better off than your father

(✓)

1

Better off

2

About equal

3

Worse off

4

Much worse off than your father

5

(Never knew father)

6

415

b) And compared with your father when he was about your age, are you better or worse off in your education and training?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Much better off than your father

(✓)

1

Better off

2

About equal

3

Worse off

4

Much worse off than your father

5

(Never knew father)

6

416

13. In deciding how much people ought to earn, how important should each of these things be, in your opinion?

a) First, the amount of responsibility that goes with the job - how important do you think that should be in deciding pay?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

417

b) The number of years spent in education and training?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

418

c) Whether the job requires supervising others - how important should that be in deciding pay?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

419

Please continue...

13d) What is needed to support a family - how important to you think that should be in deciding pay?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

420

e) Whether the person has children to support?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

421

f) How well the person does the job?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

422

g) How hard the person works at the job?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)
Essential	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Fairly important	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Can't choose	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

423

14a) If incomes became more equal in Britain, some people would get higher incomes and some would get lower incomes. Do you think your income ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- ... would definitely go up  1
- would probably go up  2
- would stay the same  3
- would probably go down  4
- would definitely go down  5
- Can't choose  8

424

b) And if incomes in Britain became less equal, do you think your income ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- ... would definitely go up  1
- would probably go up  2
- would stay the same  3
- would probably go down  4
- would definitely go down  5
- Can't choose  8

425

Please continue...

Now a few questions about yourself and your background...

15a) 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

426-27

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

428



16. Now about yourself.

Which of these descriptions applies to what you were doing last week, that is, in the seven days ending last Sunday?

PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

In full-time education (not paid for by employer, including on vacation)  01

On government training/employment programme (eg. Employment Training, Youth Training, etc)  02

In paid work (or away temporarily) for at least 10 hours in the week  03

Waiting to take up paid work already accepted  04

Unemployed and registered at a benefit office  05

Unemployed, not registered, but actively looking for a job  06

Unemployed, wanting a job (of at least 10 hours a week) but not actively looking for a job  07

Permanently sick or disabled  08

Wholly retired from work  09

Looking after the home  10

Doing something else (PLEASE WRITE IN WHAT) \_\_\_\_\_  11

429-50

Please continue...

17. Please say whether you are ...

... male,  1  
or, female?  2

451

18a) What was your age last birthday?

PLEASE WRITE IN   YEARS

452-53

b) And please tick one box to show which age range you are in.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

18-24  1  
25-34  2  
35-44  3  
45-54  4  
55-64  5  
65 or over  6

454-55

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP

Please post the questionnaire *as soon as possible*  
in the pre-paid addressed envelope provided.