

**New Zealand
ISSP 1992 – Social Inequality II
Questionnaire**

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NEW ZEALANDERS' ATTITUDES TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY



Department of Marketing

International Social Survey Programme

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MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Department of Marketing

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How To Fill Out This Questionnaire

To answer these questions all you have to do is to circle a number or write in the space provided. After some questions, there is an instruction in **bold type** explaining what to do. Some questions may not apply to you, in which case there are instructions on which question to go to next.

Here are two examples of how to fill out the questionnaire:

1. Should the Government increase the highest rate of income tax?

Yes ①
No 2 **GO TO Q 3**

2. What should the top income tax rate be increased to?

35% 1
40% ②
45% 3
50% 4
Other (please specify) _____

Please read each question carefully. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers, we just want to know your *own* personal opinion.

Enjoy the questionnaire, and thank you for your help.

Now, please turn over to the first question.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GETTING AHEAD

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

1. Please circle one number in each of the following questions to show **how important you think it is for getting ahead in life ...**

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

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

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b. Having well-educated parents?

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

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c. Having a good education yourself?

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

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d. Ambition?

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

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e. Natural ability? How important is that for getting ahead in life?

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

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f.	Hard work? How important is that?		
	Essential	1	
	Very important	2	
	Fairly important	3	
	Not very important	4	
	Not important at all	5	10
	Can't choose	8	
g.	Knowing the right people?		
	Essential	1	
	Very important	2	
	Fairly important	3	
	Not very important	4	
	Not important at all	5	11
	Can't choose	8	
h.	Having political connections?		
	Essential	1	
	Very important	2	
	Fairly important	3	
	Not very important	4	
	Not important at all	5	12
	Can't choose	8	
i.	A person's race? How important is that for getting ahead in life?		
	Essential	1	
	Very important	2	
	Fairly important	3	
	Not very important	4	
	Not important at all	5	13
	Can't choose	8	
j.	A person's religion?		
	Essential	1	
	Very important	2	
	Fairly important	3	
	Not very important	4	
	Not important at all	5	14
	Can't choose	8	

k. The part of the country where a person grew up?

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

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

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

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m. A person's political beliefs?

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

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2. Please circle one number to show how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:

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

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

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3. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

	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	1	2	3	4	5	8	19
b. Workers would not bother to get skills and qualifications unless they were paid extra for having them	1	2	3	4	5	8	20
c. Inequality continues because it benefits the rich and powerful	1	2	3	4	5	8	21
d. No-one would study for years to become a lawyer or doctor unless they expected to earn a lot more than ordinary workers	1	2	3	4	5	8	22
e. Large differences in income are necessary for New Zealand's prosperity	1	2	3	4	5	8	23
f. Allowing business to make good profits is the best way to improve everyone's standard of living	1	2	3	4	5	8	24
g. Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it	1	2	3	4	5	8	25

HOW MUCH PEOPLE EARN

4. We would like to know what you think people in some jobs actually earn.

For each of the people listed below, please write in how much you think they **usually** earn each year, before taxes.

(You may not be 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 usually earn each year, before tax.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-------|
| a. | First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory earns? | [\$] | 26-31 |
| b. | A doctor in a general practice? | [\$] | 32-37 |
| c. | A shop assistant in a department store? | [\$] | 38-43 |
| d. | The chairman of a large national company? | [\$] | 44-49 |
| e. | A solicitor? | [\$] | 50-55 |
| f. | The owner of a small shop? | [\$] | 56-61 |
| g. | A farm labourer? | [\$] | 62-67 |
| h. | The owner-manager of a large factory? | [\$] | 68-73 |
| i. | A judge in the High Court? | [\$] | 74-79 |
| j. | An unskilled worker in a factory? | [\$] | 80-85 |
| k. | A cabinet minister in parliament? | [\$] | 86-91 |

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.*

-2-

a.	First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory should earn?	[\$]	3-8
b.	A doctor in a general practice?	[\$]	9-14
c.	A shop assistant in a department store?	[\$]	15-20
d.	The chairman of a large national company?	[\$]	21-26
e.	A solicitor?	[\$]	27-32
f.	The owner of a small shop?	[\$]	33-38
g.	A farm labourer?	[\$]	39-44
h.	The owner-manager of a large factory?	[\$]	45-50
i.	A judge in the High Court?	[\$]	51-56
j.	An unskilled worker in a factory?	[\$]	57-62
k.	A cabinet minister in parliament?	[\$]	63-68

6. Please show how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Choose	
a. Differences in income in New Zealand are too large	1	2	3	4	5	8	69
b. It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes	1	2	3	4	5	8	70
c. The government should provide a job for everyone who wants one	1	2	3	4	5	8	71
d. The government should provide everyone with a guaranteed basic income	1	2	3	4	5	8	72

7. Generally, how would you describe taxes in New Zealand today? (We mean **all** taxes together, including income tax, GST and all the rest.)

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

Much too high	1						
Too high	2						
About right	3						73
Too low	4						
Much too low	5						
Can't choose	8						

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

Much too high	1						
Too high	2						
About right	3						74
Too low	4						
Much too low	5						
Can't choose	8						

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

Much too high	1						
Too high	2						
About right	3						75
Too low	4						
Much too low	5						
Can't choose	8						

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**?

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

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

	Very strong conflicts	1	2	3	4	8	
a. Poor people and rich people?	1	2	3	4	8		77
b. The working class and the middle class? ..	1	2	3	4	8		78
c. The unemployed and people with jobs?	1	2	3	4	8		79
d. Management and workers?	1	2	3	4	8		80
e. Farmers and city people?	1	2	3	4	8		81
f. Young people and older people?	1	2	3	4	8		82

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 CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

Top

01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08
09
10

Bottom

-3-

3-4