ISSP 1992 – Social Inequality II

Basic Questionnaire

Head Office: 35 NORTHAMPTON SQUARE,
LONDON EC1V 0AX Telephone 071-250 1866

SCPR
SOCIAL & COMMUNITY PLANNING RESEARCH

Field and DP Office: BRENTWOOD, ESSEX
Northern Field Office: DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM

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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.

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 it you would like further information.

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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 <u>how important you think it is for getting ahead in life</u> ...

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX (√) 106

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

b) Having well-educated parents?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX (√) 107

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

c) Having a good education yourself?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX (√) 108

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

d) Ambition?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX (√) 109

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

Please continue ...

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	110
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

f) Hard work - how important is that?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	111
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

g) Knowing the right people?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	112
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

h) Having political connections?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	113
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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1i) A person's race - how important is that for getting ahead in life?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	114
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

j) A person's religion?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	115
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	116
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	117
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

OFFICE USE ONLY

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

*PLEASE TICK **ONE** BOX*

	(√)	
Essential	1	118
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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	119
Agree	2	
Neither agree nor disagree	3	
Disagree	4	
Strongly disagree	5	
Can't choose	8	

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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.	1	2	3	4	5	8	120
b) Workers would not bother to get skills and qualifications unless they were paid extra for having them.	1	2	3	4	5	8	121
c) Inequality continues because it benefits the rich and powerful.	1	2	3	4	5	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.	1	2	3	4	5	8	123
e) Large differences in income are necessary for Britain's prosperity.	1	2	3	4	5	8	124
f) Allowing business to make good profits is the best way to improve everyone's standard of living.	1	2	3	4	5	8	125
g) Inequality continues to exist because ordinary people don't join together to get rid of it.	1	2	3	4	5	8	126

Please continue ...

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cd 2

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, about 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	cd 3
a)	First, about how much do you think a skilled worker in a factory should 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

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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.	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 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	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 8	373
c) The government should provide a job for everyone who wants one.	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 8	374
d) The government should provide everyone with a guaranteed basic income.	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 8	375

Please continue ...

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7. Generally, how would you describe taxes in Britain today ... (We mean <u>all</u> taxes together, including national insurance, income tax, VAT and all the rest.)

a) First, for those with <u>high</u> incomes, are taxes ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much too high	1	376
Too high	2	
About right	3	
Too low	4	
Much too low	5	
Can't choose	8	

b) Next, for those with <u>middle</u> incomes, are taxes ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much too high	1	377
Too high	2	
About right	3	
Too low	4	
Much too low	5	
Can't choose	8	

c) Lastly, for those with <u>low</u> incomes, are taxes ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much too high	1	378
Too high	2	
About right	3	
Too low	4	
Much too low	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much larger share	1	379
Larger	2	
The same share	3	
Smaller	4	
Much smaller share	5	
Can't choose	8	

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cd 4

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?	1	2	3	4	8	406
b) The working class and the middle class?	1	2	3	4	8	407
c) The unemployed and people with jobs?	1	2	3	4	8	408
d) Management and workers?	1	2	3	4	8	409
e) Farmers and city people?	1	2	3	4	8	410
f) Young people and older people?	1	2	3	4	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

412-13

Top
01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08
09
Bottom 10

Please continue...

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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 <u>your</u> job is (or was) ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much higher than your father's	1	414
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	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much better off than your father	1	415
Better off	2	
About equal	3	
Worse off	4	
Much worse off than your father	5	
(Never knew father)	6	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Much better off than your father	1	416
Better off	2	
About equal	3	
Worse off	4	
Much worse off than your father	5	
(Never knew father)	6	

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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	1	417
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	418
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	419
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

Please continue...

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	420
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

e) Whether the person has children to support?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	421
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

f) How well the person does the job?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	422
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

g) How hard the person works at the job?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
Essential	1	423
Very important	2	
Fairly important	3	
Not very important	4	
Not important at all	5	
Can't choose	8	

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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	424
would probably go up	2	
would stay the same	3	
would probably go down	4	
would definitely go down	5	
Can't choose	8	

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

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

	(✓)	
... would definitely go up	1	425
would probably go up	2	
would stay the same	3	
would probably go down	4	
would definitely go down	5	
Can't choose	8	

Please continue...

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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	426-27
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	428
Worked for someone else	2	
(Never knew father/father never had job)	3	

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16. Now about <u>yourself</u>.

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

429-50

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, <u>not</u> registered, but actively looking for a job	06
Unemployed, wanting a job (of at least 10 hours a week) but <u>not</u> 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

_____

Please continue...

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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.