



G S S

America's Social Survey
International Self-Administered Questionnaire
Pretest

NORC

University of Chicago

CONFIDENTIAL

Case Number _____

Time Interview Began	AM
	PM

TIME		AM
INTERVIEW	_____	PM
ENDED:		

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

CONFIDENTIAL

In this part of the survey we are interested in your opinions about politics, social issues and other things that affect our way of life in America.

We would like you to fill out this questionnaire on your own using a pencil. When you are finished please return the questionnaire to our interviewer.

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

To answer most questions you need only circle a number. Here are two examples:

Example A:

Do you think the government is doing a good job or a poor job?

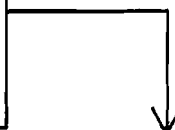
- A very good job.....1
- A fairly good job.....2
- A poor job.....3
- A very poor job.....4

(IF YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING A "FAIRLY GOOD JOB, CIRCLE "2", CIRCLE ONE ANSWER ONLY).

Example B:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH STATEMENT)

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1. Strongly agree |
| 2. Agree |
| 3. Neither agree nor disagree |
| 4. Disagree |
| 5. Strongly disagree |



CIRCLE A NUMBER

It is difficult to raise children..... 1 2 3 4 5

A woman should devote almost all her time to her family..... 1 2 3 4 5

(YOU WOULD CIRCLE "1" IF YOU STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE FIRST STATEMENT, AND "4" IF YOU "DISAGREE" WITH THE SECOND STATEMENT).

* * * * *

PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY, REMEMBER THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS--WE JUST WANT TO KNOW YOUR OWN PERSONAL OPINION.

1. A. Suppose a newspaper got hold of confidential government papers about defense plans and wanted to publish them.

Should the newspaper be allowed to publish the papers?.....1

or

Should the government have powers to prevent publication?..2

Can't choose.....8

- B. Now suppose the confidential government papers were about economic plans.

Should the newspaper be allowed to publish the papers?.....1

or

Should the government have powers to prevent publication?..2

Can't choose.....8

2. In general, would you say that people should obey the law without exception, or are there exceptional occasions on which people should follow their consciences even if it means breaking the law?
(CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

Obey the law without exception.....1

Follow conscience on occasions.....2

Can't choose8

3. There are many ways people or organizations can protest against a government action they strongly oppose.

Please show what you think should be allowed and which should not be allowed by circling a number after each question.

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1. | Definitely allowed |
| 2. | Probably allowed |
| 3. | Probably not allowed |
| 4. | Definitely not allowed |
| 5. | Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Organizing public meetings to protest against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. | Publishing pamphlets to protest against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. | Organizing marches and demonstrations... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. | Occupying a government office and stopping all work for several days..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. | Seriously damaging government buildings..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. | Organizing a nationwide strike of all workers against the government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

4. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority.

Consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 5. Can't choose |

Please circle a number after each question to show if you think such people should be allowed to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Hold public meetings to express their views..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Teach 15 year olds in schools..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Publish books expressing their views.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. Now consider people who believe that whites are racially superior to all other races.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 5. Can't choose |

Circle a number after each question to show if you think such people should be allowed to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Hold public meetings to express their views..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Teach 15 year olds in schools..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| C. Publish books expressing their views.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

6. Suppose the police get an anonymous tip that a man with a long criminal record is planning to break into a warehouse.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 5. Can't choose |

Please circle a number for each question to show if you think police should be allowed without a court order to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Keep the man under surveillance..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Tap his telephone..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Open his mail..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. Detain the man overnight
for questioning..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

7. Now, suppose the tip is about a man without a criminal record.

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1. Definitely allowed |
| 2. Probably allowed |
| 3. Probably not allowed |
| 4. Definitely not allowed |
| 5. Can't choose |

Please circle a number for each question to show if you think police should be allowed without a court order to . . .

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Keep the man under surveillance..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Tap his telephone..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Open his mail..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. Detain the man overnight
for questioning..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

8. All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse?

To convict an innocent person.....1

or

To let a guilty person go free.....2

Not sure8

9. The federal government has a lot of different pieces of information about people which computers can bring together very quickly. Is this . . .

A very serious threat to individual privacy.....1

A fairly serious threat.....2

Not a serious threat.....3

Not a threat at all to individual privacy.....4

Can't choose.....8

10. Do you think that those who earn high incomes should pay a larger proportion (percentage) of their earnings in taxes than those who earn low incomes?

Those with high incomes should . . .

Pay a much larger proportion.....1

Pay a larger proportion.....2

Pay the same proportion as those who earn low incomes.....3

Pay a smaller proportion.....4

Pay a much smaller proportion.....5

Can't chose.....8

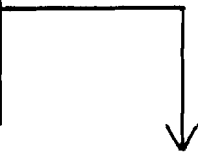
Here are some things the government might do. Some people are in favor of and other opposed. How do you feel?

11. Do you feel the government should reduce income differences between the people with high incomes and those with low incomes?

- Strongly favor.....1
- Somewhat favor.....2
- Neither favor nor oppose.....3
- Somewhat oppose.....4
- Strongly oppose.....5
- Not sure.....8

12. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1. Agree strongly |
| 2. Agree |
| 3. Neither agree nor disagree |
| 4. Disagree |
| 5. Disagree strongly |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- A. A person whose parents are rich has a better chance of earning a lot of money than a person whose parents are poor..... 1 2 3 4 5
- B. A person whose father is a professional has a much better chance of getting ahead in life than a person whose father is a factory worker..... 1 2 3 4 5
- C. In America what you achieve in life depends largely on your family background..... 1 2 3 4 5

13. Would you say that opportunities for college education are, in general, better or worse, for women than for men?

- Much better for women.....1
 - Somewhat better for women.....2
 - No difference for women.....3
 - Somewhat worse for women.....4
 - Much worse for women.....5
 - Can't choose.....8
-

14. Would you say that job opportunities for women are, in general, better or worse than job opportunities for men with similar education and experience?

- Much better for women.....1
 - Somewhat better for women.....2
 - No difference for women.....3
 - Somewhat worse for women.....4
 - Much worse for women.....5
 - Can't choose.....8
-

15. And how about income and wages--compared with men who have similar education and jobs--are women in general paid better or worse than men.

- Much better for women.....1
- Somewhat better for women.....2
- No difference for women.....3
- Somewhat worse for women.....4
- Much worse for women.....5
- Can't choose.....8

16. Here are three things the government might do. Some people favor them while other people oppose them. Please circle one number for each statement to show how you feel.

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1. Strongly favor |
| 2. Favor |
| 3. Neither favor nor oppose |
| 4. Oppose |
| 5. Strongly oppose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. The government should increase opportunities for women in business and industry..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. The government should increase opportunities for women to go to college..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs or promotions..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

17. How do you feel about opportunities for young people to go to college. Should opportunities be . . .

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Increased a lot..... | 1 |
| Increased a little..... | 2 |
| Kept the same as now..... | 3 |
| Reduced a little..... | 4 |
| Reduced a lot..... | 5 |
| Can't choose..... | 8 |

18. Some people think the government should provide financial assistance to college students. Others think the government should not provide such aid. In each of the circumstances listed below should the government provide grants that would not have to be paid back, provide loans which the student would have to pay back, or should the government not provide any financial assistance?

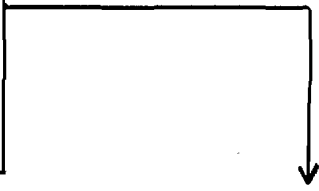
- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 1. Government should make grants |
| 2. Government should make loans |
| 3. No government assistance |
| 8. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. For student's whose parents have a low income | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| B. For student's who have outstanding grades in high school..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| C. For student's who have average grades and middle income parents..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 |

19. Here are some things that might be taught in school. How important is it that schools teach each of these to 15 year olds?

- 1. Essential, must be taught
- 2. Very Important
- 3. Somewhat Important
- 4. Not very Important
- 5. Not needed, should not be taught
- 8. Not sure



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- A. Reading, writing, and mathematics..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- B. Sex education..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- C. Respect for authority..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- D. History, literature, and
and the arts..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- E. Ability to make one's own judgments..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- F. Job training..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- G. Science and technology..... 1 2 3 4 5 8
- H. Social equality for minorities
and the poor 1 2 3 4 5 8
- I. Discipline and orderliness..... 1 2 3 4 5 8

20. Sometimes it may be necessary for public authorities to intervene with parents in raising their children. For each of the following instances please indicate whether public authorities should intervene at all, provide warnings and counseling, or remove a 10 year old child from his or her parents?

- | |
|---|
| 1. No action by public authorities |
| 2. Warnings and counseling by public authorities |
| 3. Child taken from parents by public authorities |
| 4. Not sure |

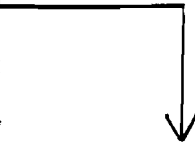


PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

A. The child uses drugs and the parents don't do anything about it.....	1	2	3	8
B. The child frequently skips school and the parents don't do anything about it.....	1	2	3	8
C. The parents regularly let the child stay out late at night without knowing where the child is.....	1	2	3	8
D. The parents fail to provide the child with proper food and clothing.....	1	2	3	8
E. The parents regularly beat the child....	1	2	3	8
F. The parents refuse essential medical treatment for the child because of their religious beliefs.....	1	2	3	8
G. The parents refuse to send their child to school because they wish to educate the child at home.....	1	2	3	8

21. Do you think that

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1. Strongly agree |
| 2. Agree |
| 3. Neither agree nor disagree |
| 4. Disagree |
| 5. Strongly disagree |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. The wearing of seat belts in cars
should be required by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Smoking in public places should
be prohibited by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. All employees should be required
to retire at an age set by law..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

22. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

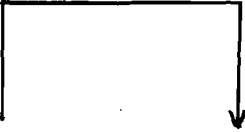
- | |
|-----------------|
| 1. Agree |
| 2. Disagree |
| 3. Can't choose |

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. The public has little control over what politicians do in office..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B. The average person can get nowhere by talking to public officials..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| C. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| D. The average person has much to say about running local government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| E. People like me have much to say about government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| F. The average person has a great deal of influence on government decisions.... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| G. The government is generally responsive to public opinion..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| H. I am usually interested in local elections..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| I. By taking an active part in political and social affairs the people can control world affairs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| J. Taking everything into account, the world is getting better..... | 1 | 2 | 3 |

23. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Circle one number for each question to show which action you would favor and which you would oppose.

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1. Strongly favor |
| 2. Favor |
| 3. Neither favor nor oppose |
| 4. Oppose |
| 5. Strongly oppose |

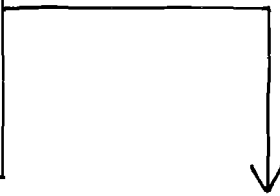


PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Control of wages by legislation..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Control of prices by legislation..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Cuts in government spending..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. Government financing of projects to
create new jobs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. Less government regulation of business.. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. Support for industry to develop new
products and technology..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| G. Supporting declining industries
to protect jobs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| H. Reducing the work week to create
more jobs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

24. Listed below are various areas of government spending. Please indicate whether you would like to see more or less government spending for each area. Remember that if you say "much more", it might require tax increase to pay for it.

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 1. Spend much more |
| 2. Spend more |
| 3. Spend the same as now |
| 4. Spend less |
| 5. Send much less |
| 8. Can't choose |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. The environment..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| B. Health..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| C. The police and law enforcement..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| D. Education..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| E. The military and defense..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| F. Retirement benefits..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| G. Unemployment benefits..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| H. Culture and the arts..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |

25. Do you consider the amount of federal income tax that members of your household have to pay is . . .

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Much too high..... | 1 |
| Too high..... | 2 |
| About right..... | 3 |
| Too low..... | 4 |
| Much too low..... | 5 |
| Can't choose..... | 8 |
| Does not apply..... | 9 |

26. Do you consider the amount of tax that business and industry have to pay is . . .

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

27. If the government had to choose between keeping down inflation or keeping down unemployment to which do you think it should give highest priority?

- Keeping down inflation.....1
 - Keeping down unemployment.....2
 - Can't choose.....8
-

28. Do you think that labor unions in this country have too much power or too little power?

- Far too much power.....1
- Too much power.....2
- About the right amount of power.....3
- Too little power.....4
- Far too little power.....5
- Can't choose.....8

29. How about business and industry, does it have too much power or too little power?

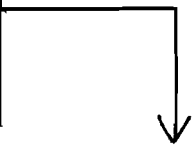
- Far too much power.....1
- Too much power.....2
- About the right amount of power.....3
- Too little power.....4
- Far too little power.....5
- Can't choose.....8

30. And what about the federal government, does it have too much power or too little power?

- Far too much power.....1
- Too much power.....2
- About the right amount of power.....3
- Too little power.....4
- Far too little power.....5
- Not sure.....8

31. What do you think the government's role in each of these industries should be.

- | |
|---|
| 1. Own the Industry |
| 2. Regulate its prices and profits but not own it |
| 3. Neither own it nor regulate its prices and profits |
| 4. Can't choose |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- A. Electric power..... 1 2 3 8
- B. Local mass transportation..... 1 2 3 8
- C. The steel industry..... 1 2 3 8
- D. Banking and insurance..... 1 2 3 8
- E. The automobile industry..... 1 2 3 8

32. On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to . . .

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1. Definitely should be |
| 2. Probably should be |
| 3. Probably should not be |
| 4. Definitely should not be |
| 5. Can't choose |



PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Provide a job for everyone who wants one..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| B. Keep prices under control..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| C. Provide health care for the sick..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| D. Provide a decent standard of living for the old..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| E. Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |