



# International Social Survey Programme New Zealand

CONFIDENTIAL  
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# **NEW ZEALANDERS' ATTITUDES TO RELIGION**



**Department of Marketing**  
**International Social Survey Programme**

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CONFIDENTIAL

MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Department of Marketing

## NEW ZEALANDERS' ATTITUDES TO RELIGION

### 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)\_\_\_\_\_

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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.

# LIFE IN GENERAL

1. If you were to consider your life in general these days, how happy or unhappy would you say you are, on the whole...

Very happy ..... 1  
 Fairly happy ..... 2  
 Not very happy ..... 3  
 Not at all happy ..... 4  
 Can't choose ..... 8

5

2. 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  
 8. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

a. Provide a job for everyone who  
 wants one .....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

6

b. Reduce income differences between  
 rich and poor.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

7

3. Here are some measures to deal with crime. Some people are in favour of them while other people are against them. Do you agree or disagree that...

	Strongly		Neither		Strongly	Can't
	Agree	Agree	Agree nor	Disagree	Disagree	Choose
			Disagree			

a. People who break the law should be  
 given stiffer sentences.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8

8

b. People convicted of murder should  
 be subject to the death penalty.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8

9

4. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a man and women have sexual relations before marriage?

Always wrong.....1  
 Almost always wrong.....2  
 Wrong only sometimes.....3  
 Not wrong at all.....4  
 Can't choose.....8

10

5. What about a *married* person having sexual relations with someone *other* than his or her husband or wife, is it...

Always wrong.....1  
 Almost always wrong.....2  
 Wrong only sometimes.....3  
 Not wrong at all.....4  
 Can't choose.....8

11

6. And what about sexual relations between two adults *of the same sex*, is it...

Always wrong.....1  
 Almost always wrong.....2  
 Wrong only sometimes.....3  
 Not wrong at all.....4  
 Can't choose.....8

12

7. Do you think the law should or should not allow a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion ...

1.	Definitely should allow it
2.	Probably should allow it
3.	Probably should not allow it
4.	Definitely should not allow it
8.	Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- a. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

13

- b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

14

8. Do you *personally* think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion ...

Always Wrong	Almost Always Wrong	Wrong Only Sometimes	Not Wrong at all	Can't Choose
-----------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	-----------------

- a. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

15

- b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

16

9. Do you agree or disagree ...

Strongly		Agree nor		Strongly	Can't
Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Choose

a. 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

17

b. All in all, family life suffers  
when the woman has a full-time job.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8

18

10. Consider the situations listed below. Do you feel it is wrong or not wrong if...

Not	A Bit		Seriously	Can't
Wrong	Wrong	Wrong	Wrong	Choose

a. A taxpayer does not report all of his or her income  
in order to pay less income taxes.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

19

b. A person gives the government incorrect information  
about himself or herself to get government  
benefits he or she is not entitled to.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

20

11. How much confidence do you have in ...

1. Complete confidence
  2. A great deal of confidence
  3. Some confidence
  4. Very little confidence
  5. No confidence at all
  8. Can't choose

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

a. Parliament.....	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	21
b. Business and industry.....	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	22
c. Government departments.....	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	23
d. Churches and religious organisations...	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	24
e. Courts and the legal system.....	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	25
f. Schools and the educational system.....	1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....8	26

# RELIGION

12. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following:

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- |  |                            |    |
|--|----------------------------|----|
| a. Politicians who do not believe in<br>God are unfit for public office.....                                     | 1....2....3....4....5....8 | 27 |
| b. Religious leaders should not try<br>to influence how people vote in<br>elections.....                         | 1....2....3....4....5....8 | 28 |
| c. It would be better for New Zealand<br>if more people with strong religious<br>beliefs held public office..... | 1....2....3....4....5....8 | 29 |
| d. Religious leaders should not try to<br>influence government decisions.....                                    | 1....2....3....4....5....8 | 30 |

13. Do you think that churches and religious organisations 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	31
Far too little power.....	5	
Can't choose.....	8	

14. Please indicate which statement below comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER

- I don't believe in God.....1
- I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out.....2
- I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind.....3
- I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others.....4
- While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God.....5
- I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.....6

32

15. How close do you feel to God most of the time?

- Don't believe in God.....1
- Not close at all.....2
- Not very close.....3
- Somewhat close.....4
- Extremely close.....5
- Can't choose.....8

33

16. Which best describes your beliefs about God?

- I don't believe in God now and I never have.....1
- I don't believe in God now, but I used to.....2
- I believe in God now, but I didn't use to.....3
- I believe in God now and I always have.....4
- Can't choose.....8

34

17. Do you believe in ...

Yes	Yes	No	No	Can't
Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely	Choose
		Not	Not	

- a. Life after death.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8
- b. The Devil.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8
- c. Heaven.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8
- d. Hell.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8
- e. Religious miracles.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

35

36

37

38

39



18. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER

- The Bible is the actual word of God and it is to be taken literally, word for word.....1
- The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word.....2
- The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral teachings recorded by man.....3
- This does not apply to me.....4
- Can't choose.....8

40

19. Do you agree or disagree with the following...

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- a. There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- e. The course of our lives is decided by God.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- f. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself.....1....2....3....4....5....8
- g. We each make our own fate.....1....2....3....4....5....8

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

20. How often have you felt as though you were...

Never in My life	Once or Twice	Several times	Often	Can't Say
---------------------	------------------	------------------	-------	--------------

a. Really in touch with someone who had  
died.....1.....2.....3.....4.....8

48

b. Close to a powerful spiritual force  
that seemed to lift you out of yourself...1.....2.....3.....4.....8

49

21. Has there ever been a turning point in your life when you made a new  
and personal commitment to religion?

Yes.....1  
No.....2

50

22. What was your mother's religious preference when you were a child?

Anglican (Church of England).....1  
Presbyterian.....2  
Catholic.....3  
Methodist.....4  
Baptist.....5  
Other (Please specify).....6  
No religion.....7  
Don't know.....8

51-52

23. What was your father's religious preference when you were a child?

Anglican (Church of England).....1  
Presbyterian.....2  
Catholic.....3  
Methodist.....4  
Baptist.....5  
Other (Please specify).....6  
No religion.....7  
Don't know.....8

53-54

24. What religion, if any, were you raised in?

Anglican (Church of England).....1  
Presbyterian.....2  
Catholic.....3  
Methodist.....4  
Baptist.....5  
Other (Please specify).....6  
No religion.....7  
Don't know.....8

55-56

25. What is your current religion?

Anglican (Church of England).....	1
Presbyterian.....	2
Catholic.....	3
Methodist.....	4
Baptist.....	5
Other (Please specify).....	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

57-58

If you are currently married or living as married, please answer Q.26:  
If you are not currently married or living as married, please go to  
Q.27.

26. What is your husband's/wife's religious preference?

Anglican (Church of England).....	1
Presbyterian.....	2
Catholic.....	3
Methodist.....	4
Baptist.....	5
Other (Please specify).....	6
No religion.....	7
Don't know.....	8

59-60

27. When you were a child, how often did your *mother* attend religious  
services?

Never.....	1
Less than once a year.....	2
About once or twice a year.....	3
Several times a year.....	4
About once a month.....	5
2-3 times a month.....	6
Nearly every week.....	7
Every week.....	8
Several times a week.....	9
No mother/mother not present.....	10
Can't say/can't remember.....	98

61-62

28. When you were a child, how often did your *father* attend religious services?

Never.....1  
Less than once a year.....2  
About once or twice a year.....3  
Several times a year.....4  
About once a month.....5  
2-3 times a month.....6  
Nearly every week.....7  
Every week.....8  
Several times a week.....9  
No father/father not present.....10  
Can't say/can't remember.....98

63-64

29. And what about when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services then?

Never.....1  
Less than once a year.....2  
About once or twice a year.....3  
Several times a year.....4  
About once a month.....5  
2-3 times a month.....6  
Nearly every week.....7  
Every week.....8  
Several times a week.....9  
Can't say/can't remember.....98

65-66

Now thinking about the present ...

30. About how often do you pray?

Never.....1  
Less than once a year.....2  
About once or twice a year.....3  
Several times a year.....4  
About once a month.....5  
2-3 times a month.....6  
Nearly every week.....7  
Every week.....8  
Several times a week.....9  
Can't say/don't know.....98

67-68

31. How often do you take part in the activities or organisations of a church or place of worship other than attending services?

Never.....1  
 Less than once a year.....2  
 About once or twice a year.....3  
 Several times a year.....4  
 About once a month.....5  
 2-3 times a month.....6  
 Nearly every week.....7  
 Every week.....8  
 Several times a week.....9  
 Can't say/don't know.....98

69-70

32. How often do you attend a religious service?

Never.....1  
 Less than once a year.....2  
 About once or twice a year.....3  
 Several times a year.....4  
 About once a month.....5  
 2-3 times a month.....6  
 Nearly every week.....7  
 Every week.....8  
 Several times a week.....9  
 Can't say/don't know.....98

71-72

33. Would you describe yourself as ...

Extremely religious.....1  
 Very religious.....2  
 Somewhat religious.....3  
 Neither religious nor non-religious.....4  
 Somewhat non-religious.....5  
 Very non-religious.....6  
 Extremely non-religious.....7  
 Can't choose.....8

73

34. In your opinion, should there be daily prayers in all state schools?

Yes, definitely.....1  
 Yes, probably.....2  
 No, probably.....3  
 No, definitely.....4  
 Can't choose.....8

74

35. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements ...

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

PLEASE CIRCLE A NUMBER

- a. Right and wrong should be based on God's laws.....1....2....3....4....8 75
- b. Right and wrong should be decided by society.....1....2....3....4....8 76
- c. Right and wrong should be a matter of personal conscience.....1....2....3....4....8 77

36. Some books or films offend people who have strong religious beliefs. Should books and films that attack religions be prohibited by law or should they be allowed?

- Definitely should be prohibited.....1
- Probably should be prohibited.....2
- Probably should be allowed.....3 78
- Definitely should be allowed.....4
- Can't choose.....8

37. Would you say that you have been "born again" or have had a "born again" experience - that is, a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Christ?

- Yes.....1 79
- No.....2

38. There are many different ways of picturing God. We'd like to know the kinds of images you are most likely to associate with God.

Below are sets of contrasting images. On a scale of 1-7 where would you place your images of God between the two contrasting images?

The first set of contrasting images shows Mother at 1 on the scale and Father at 7. If you imagine God as a Mother, you would place yourself at 1. If you imagine God as a Father, you would place yourself at 7. If you imagine God as somewhere between Mother and Father, you would place yourself at 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Where would you place your image of God on the scale for each set of images?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH SCALE

A.	Mother						Father	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B.	Master						Spouse	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C.	Judge						Lover	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D.	Friend						King	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## ABOUT YOURSELF

So that we can be sure we have a good cross section of people in our survey, would you please answer the following questions about yourself and your household. Remember that all responses remain **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**.

39. Please indicate the year in which you were born:

Year: 19\_\_

40. What is your sex?

Male.....1  
Female.....2

41. Which of these categories best describes your *current* marital status?

Married/living with partner.....1  
Widowed.....2  
Divorced.....3  
Separated.....4  
Single, never married.....5

10

42. How many years of *full-time* education have you had?  
(including primary, secondary and tertiary).

Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

11-12

43. Which of these categories best describes your *highest* level of formal education?

No formal education.....1  
Primary school.....2  
Secondary school for up to 3 years.....3  
Secondary school for 4 years or more.....4  
Some university or other tertiary.....5  
Completed trade or professional qualification.....6  
Completed university degree.....7  
Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

13-14

44. Which of these categories best describes your current employment status?

Employed - full time (35+ hours weekly).....1  
Employed - part time (15-35 hours weekly).....2  
Employed - less than 15 hours/temporarily  
out of work.....3  
Helping family member.....4  
Unemployed.....5

15-16

**NOT IN LABOUR FORCE**

Student.....6  
Retired.....7  
Housewife/husband - home duties.....8  
Permanently disabled.....9  
Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

GO TO  
Q 51

45. How many hours, on average, do you usually work in a normal week?

Number of hours: \_\_\_\_\_

17-18



46. What is your *main* occupation?

Please describe fully, using two words or more; For example, builder's labour *not* labourer, accounts clerk *not* clerk, deer farmer *not* farmer.

Main occupation : \_\_\_\_\_

19-22

47. Do you supervise or are you responsible for the work of any other people?

Yes.....1

No.....2 GO TO Q48

23

If yes, how many people do you supervise?

Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_

24-25

48. Which of these categories best describes the type of organisation you work for?

Public sector (i.e., local government, Government)....1

Publicly-owned private sector organisation.....2

Privately-owned private sector organisation.....3

Non-profit/Charity/Welfare organisation.....4

Self-employed.....8 → GO TO Q49

GO TO Q50

26

49. If you are self-employed, how many *employees* do you currently have?

27-28

Number of employees: \_\_\_\_\_ GO TO Q51

50. Are you currently a member of a Trade Union?

Yes.....1

No.....2

29

51. We would now like to ask some questions about the composition of members of your particular household. **EXCLUDING YOURSELF**, could you please complete the following table, ordering members of the household by age.

Please circle the number of people in your household, *not counting yourself*, write in their ages, and then circle a '1' or a '2' for each to show whether they are male or female.

No. of persons in household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Age (years)												
Sex: Male	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

30-31

32-55

56-67

68-79

52. Which of the following categories best describes your *partner's* or *spouse's* current employment status?

-3-

Employed - full time (35+ hours weekly).....1  
 Employed - part time (15-35 hours weekly).....2  
 Employed - less than 15 hours/temporarily  
     out of work.....3  
 Helping family member.....4  
 Unemployed.....5

**NOT IN LABOUR FORCE**

Student.....6  
 Retired.....7  
 Housewife/husband - home duties.....8  
 Permanently disabled.....9  
 Other (Please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

GO TO  
Q54

3-4

53. What is your *partner's* or *spouse's* main occupation?

Please describe fully using two words or more; for example, builders' labourer *not* labourer, accounts clerk *not* clerk, deer farmer *not* farmer.

Spouse's/partner's main occupation \_\_\_\_\_

5-8

54. In terms of your *political* beliefs, which of these categories would you place yourself into?

Far left (communist, etc).....1  
Left/centre left.....2  
Centre/liberal.....3  
Right/conservative.....4  
Far right (facist, etc).....5  
No preference.....6  
Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

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9

55. At the 1990 General Election, which Political Party did you vote for?

Didn't vote.....0  
Democrat.....1  
Green Party.....2  
Labour.....3  
Mana Motuhake.....4  
National.....5  
New Labour.....6  
New Zealand Party.....7  
Social Credit.....8  
Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

10-11

56. Which of the following categories best describes your own yearly income from all sources before tax?

\$10,000 or less.....1  
\$10,001 - \$15,000 .....2  
\$15,001 - \$20,000 .....3  
\$20,001 - \$25,000 .....4  
\$25,001 - \$30,000 .....5  
\$30,001 - \$40,000 .....6  
\$40,001 - \$50,000 .....7  
\$50,001 - \$70,000 .....8  
\$70,001 or more .....9

12

57. Which of the following categories best describes the total yearly income of *everyone in your household* from all sources before tax?

\$10,000 or less.....1  
\$10,001 - \$15,000 .....2  
\$15,001 - \$20,000 .....3  
\$20,001 - \$25,000 .....4  
\$25,001 - \$30,000 .....5  
\$30,001 - \$40,000 .....6  
\$40,001 - \$50,000 .....7  
\$50,001 - \$70,000 .....8  
\$70,001 or more .....9

13

58. In terms of your social status, which of the following categories do you think you fit into?

- Lower class.....1
- Working class.....2
- Upper working/lower middle class.....3
- Middle class.....4
- Upper middle class.....5
- Upper class.....6
- Don't know.....7

14

59. Which of the following categories best describes your ethnic origin?

- European/Pakeha.....1
- New Zealand Maori.....2
- Pacific Island Polynesian.....3
- Indian.....4
- Chinese.....5
- Other Asian.....6
- African.....7
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

15-16

60. Have you ever been unemployed during the last ten years?

- Yes.....1
- No.....2 GO TO Q61

17

And how many months have you been unemployed during the last ten years?  
(Consider all times of unemployment)

Number of months: \_\_\_\_\_

18-19

61. Which of the following categories best describes your current housing situation?

- Own house (freehold or mortgage).....1
- Rent: private rental market.....2
- Rent: public or subsidised.....3
- Rent: from employer.....4
- Rent: other.....5
- Other (please specify).....6

20

62. And in which of these areas do you live?

- Northland.....1
- Auckland.....2
- Thames Valley.....3
- Bay of Plenty.....4
- Waikato.....5
- Tongariro.....6
- East Cape.....7
- Hawkes Bay.....8
- Taranaki.....9
- Wanganui.....10
- Manawatu.....11
- Horowhenua.....12
- Wellington.....13
- Wairarapa.....14
- Nelson Bays.....15
- Marlborough.....16
- West Coast.....17
- Canterbury.....18
- Aorangi.....19
- Clutha-Central Otago.....20
- Coastal-North Otago.....21
- Southland.....22

21-22

63. Do you live in a rural or urban area?

Rural.....1  
Urban.....2

23

64. What size of city or town do you live in?

Farm or rural property.....1  
Village (under 1,000 people).....2  
Small town (1,000 to 9,999 people).....3  
Large town (10,000 to 29,999 people).....4  
Small city (30,000 to 49,999 people).....5  
Medium city (60,000 to 99,999 people).....6  
Large city (100,000 people or more).....7

24

If you have any other comments you wish to add, on any of the topics raised in this questionnaire, we would welcome them. Please write them in the space provided below:

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We are very grateful for your help in completing this questionnaire. Please return your questionnaire in the stamped addressed envelope provided to:

International Social Survey Programme  
Marketing Department  
Massey University  
PALMERSTON NORTH