

# ***Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 2000***

## **Self completion Questionnaire A**

**Interviewer number**

**Serial Number**     **A** *ID*

Joint Project between  
Queen's University Belfast and  
the University of Ulster

*Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey 2000*

GOVRESP7  
 Q1 How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on the line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
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

NIPRIOR1  
 Q2a Looking at the list below, please circle a number next to the **one** thing you think should be Northern Ireland's **highest priority**, the most important thing it should do.  
 (Please circle one number only)

**Northern Ireland should ...**

Maintain order in the nation	1
Give people more say in government decisions	2
Fight rising prices	3
Protect freedom of speech	4
Can't choose	8

NIPRIOR2  
 Q2b And which **one** do you think should be Northern Ireland's **next highest priority**, the **second** most important thing it should do?  
 (Please circle one number only)

**Northern Ireland should ...**

Maintain order in the nation	1
Give people more say in government decisions	2
Fight rising prices	3
Protect freedom of speech	4
Can't choose	8

Q3 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
SCIEBELF We believe too often in science, and not enough in feelings and faith	1	2	3	4	5	8
SCIEHARM Overall, modern science does more harm than good	1	2	3	4	5	8
SCIESOLV Modern science will solve our environmental problems with little change to our way of life	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q4 And how much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>FUTENVIR</i> We worry too much about the future of the environment and not enough about prices and jobs today	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>HARMEVIR</i> Almost everything we do in modern life harms the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>HARMVIRW</i> People worry too much about human progress harming the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q5 And please circle a number for each of **these** statements to show how much you agree or disagree with it.  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>ENVIRECG</i> In order to protect the environment Northern Ireland needs economic growth	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MEDTEST2</i> It is right to use animals for medical testing if it might save human lives	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GROWHARM</i> Economic growth always harms the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POPGROW</i> The earth simply cannot continue to support population growth at its present rate	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q6 *NATVIEW*  
Please circle **one** number to show which statement is closest to your views.  
(Please circle one number only)

Nature is sacred because it is created by God	1
Nature is spiritual or sacred in itself	2
Nature is important, but not spiritual or sacred	3
Can't choose	8

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PRENVIR

Q7a How willing would **you** be to pay **much higher prices** in order to protect the environment?  
(Please circle one number only)

Very willing	1
Fairly willing	2
Neither willing nor <u>un</u> willing	3
Fairly <u>un</u> willing	4
Very <u>un</u> willing	5
Can't choose	8

TAXENVIR

Q7b And how willing would **you** be to pay **much higher taxes** in order to protect the environment?  
(Please circle one number only)

Very willing	1
Fairly willing	2
Neither willing nor <u>un</u> willing	3
Fairly <u>un</u> willing	4
Very <u>un</u> willing	5
Can't choose	8

CUTENVIR

Q7c And how willing would **you** be to **accept cuts in your standard of living** in order to protect the environment?  
(Please circle one number only)

Very willing	1
Fairly willing	2
Neither willing nor <u>un</u> willing	3
Fairly <u>un</u> willing	4
Very <u>un</u> willing	5
Can't choose	8

Q8 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>ENVIRDIF</i> It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>ENVIRRGT</i> I do what is right for the environment, even when it costs more money or takes more time	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MORIMPEN</i> There are more important things to do in life than protect the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>NOPTENV</i> There is no point in doing what I can for the environment unless others do the same	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>EXAGENV</i> Many of the claims about environmental threats are exaggerated	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q9 For each statement below, please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion of how true it is.  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true	Can't choose
<i>ANTIBIOT</i> Antibiotics can kill bacteria but not viruses	1	2	3	4	8
<i>ORIGMAN</i> Human beings developed from earlier species of animals	1	2	3	4	8
<i>CHEMEAT</i> All man-made chemicals can cause cancer if you eat enough of them	1	2	3	4	8
<i>RADIODIE</i> If someone is exposed to any amount of radioactivity, they are certain to die as a result	1	2	3	4	8
<i>GCHSEFF</i> The greenhouse effect is caused by a hole in the earth's atmosphere	1	2	3	4	8
<i>GRHSEFF1</i> Every time we use coal or oil or gas, we contribute to the greenhouse effect	1	2	3	4	8

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CARSPOL1

Q10a In general, do you think that **air pollution caused by cars** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

CARSPOL2

Q10b And do you think that **air pollution caused by cars** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for you and your family,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for you and your family?	5
Can't choose	8

INDPOL1

Q11a In general, do you think that **air pollution caused by industry** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

PESTCHE1

Q11b In general, do you think that **pesticides and chemicals used in farming** are ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

WATRPOL1

Q12a In general, do you think that **pollution of Northern Ireland's rivers, lakes and streams** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

GRHSEFF2

Q12a In general, do you think that **a rise in the world's temperature caused by the 'greenhouse effect'** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

GMCROPS

Q12b In general, do you think that **modifying the genes of certain crops** is ...  
(Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

PROTENVP

Q13a If you had to choose, which **one** of the following would be closest to your views?  
(Please circle one number only)

Government should let <b>ordinary people</b> decide for themselves how to protect the environment, even if it means they don't always do the right thing	1
OR	
Government should pass laws to make <b>ordinary people</b> protect the environment, even if it interferes with people's rights to make their own decisions	2
Can't choose	8

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PROTENVB

Q13b And which **one** of the following would be closest to your views?  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Government should let **businesses** decide for themselves how to protect the environment, even if it means they don't always do the right thing

OR

Government should pass laws to make **businesses** protect the environment, even if it interferes with people's rights to make their own decisions

Can't choose

1
2
8

CTRYEFEN

Q14 Some countries are doing more to protect the world environment than other countries are. In general, do you think that Northern Ireland is doing ...  
*(Please circle one number only)*

... more than enough,  
 about the right amount,  
 or, too little?  
 Can't choose

1
2
3
8

ENVEFF1

15a On balance, which of these two do you think is making more effort to look after the environment ...  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Business and industry,  
 or people in general?  
 Both equally  
 Can't choose

1
2
3
8

ENVEFF2

Q15b And which of these two groups do you think is making more effort to look after the environment ...  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Government,  
 or business and industry?  
 Both equally  
 Can't choose

1
2
3
8



ENVEFF3

Q15c And which of these two groups is making more effort to look after the environment...  
(Please circle one number only)

People in general,	1
or government?	2
Both equally	3
Can't choose	8

Q16 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>INTAGENV</i> For environmental problems, there should be international agreements that Northern Ireland and other countries should be made to follow	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POORLESS</i> Poorer countries should be expected to make less effort than richer countries to protect the environment	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>ECPSLOW</i> Economic progress in Northern Ireland will slow down unless we look after the environment better	1	2	3	4	5	8

NUCACCID

Q17 Within the next five years, how likely is it that an accident at a nuclear power station will cause long-term environmental damage across many countries?  
(Please circle one number only)

Very likely	1
Likely	2
Unlikely	3
Very unlikely	4
Can't choose	8

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Q18 How much trust do you have in each of the following groups to give you correct information about **causes of pollution?**  
*(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	A great deal of trust	Quite a lot of trust	Some trust	Not much trust	Hardly any trust	Can't choose
<i>POLLINF1</i> Business and industry	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POLLINF2</i> Environmental groups	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POLLINF3</i> Government departments	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POLLINF4</i> Newspapers	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POLLINF5</i> Radio or TV programmes	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>POLLINF6</i> University research centres	1	2	3	4	5	8

*RECYCLE*  
 Q19a How often do you make a special effort to **sort glass or tins or plastic or newspapers and so on** for recycling?  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Always	1
Often	2
Sometimes	3
Never	4
(Recycling not available where I live)	5

*LESSDRIV*  
 Q19b And how often do you **cut back on driving a car for environmental reasons?**  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Always	1
Often	2
Sometimes	3
Never	4
(I do not have or cannot drive a car)	5

*MEMBENV*  
 Q20 Are you a member of any group whose main aim is to preserve or protect the environment?  
*(Please circle one number only)*

Yes	1
No	2

Q21 In the last **five years**, have you ...  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Yes I have	No I have not
<i>PETITENV</i> ... signed a petition about an environmental issue?	1	2
<i>MONEYENV</i> ... given money to an environmental group?	1	2
<i>DEMOENV</i> ... taken part in a protest or demonstration about an environmental issue?	1	2

Q22 *GODBELF1*  
 Please circle one number below to show which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.

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
Can't choose	8

Q23 *NUCPOWST*  
 In general, do you think that **nuclear power stations** are ...  
 (Please circle one number only)

... extremely dangerous for the environment,	1
very dangerous,	2
somewhat dangerous,	3
not very dangerous	4
or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	5
Can't choose	8

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Q24 How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>
<i>REDISTRB</i> Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well-off	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>FATALIST</i> There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CHALAUTH</i> One of the problems with people today is that they challenge authority too often	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>ENJMONEY</i> People with money should be left to enjoy it	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WRONGLAW</i> There are times when people should follow their consciences even if it means breaking the law	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CONTPREN</i> Private enterprise needs to be controlled to protect everyone's needs	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>INEQUAL</i> All societies have inequalities which it is better not to interfere with	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WORLDBET</i> Taking everything into account, the world is getting better	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q25 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>MENSUPP</i> Men need less emotional support than women	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MFAILURE</i> Men fear failure more than women do	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MFEELING</i> Men should spend more time talking about their feelings	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MHEALTH</i> Men's health is not taken seriously by the health services	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q26 The male contraceptive pill is being developed at the moment.  
How much do you agree or disagree that ...  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>CONWRONG</i> Contraception of any kind is wrong	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MALEPILL</i> The male pill is a good idea	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>TAKEPILL</i> Most men wouldn't take the pill even if it was available	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WOMTRUST</i> Most women wouldn't trust men to take the pill anyway	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WCONTROL</i> Most women would prefer to be in control of their own contraception	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q27 Recently there has been a lot of discussion about the rights of different groups of people.  
How much do you agree or disagree that ...  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>GAYBISEX</i> Gay and bisexual people should not be discriminated against	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GAYRIGHT</i> A gay couple should have the same rights as a heterosexual married couple	1	2	3	4	5	8

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Now some questions on politics and community relations.

Q28 Looking back on the proposals contained in the Good Friday Agreement, could you tell me how you now feel about each of these? *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Neither support nor oppose</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>
<i>GFAPROP1</i> The guarantee that Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK for as long as a majority of people in Northern Ireland wish it to be so	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP2</i> The creation of North-South bodies	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP3</i> The setting up of a Northern Ireland Assembly	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP4</i> The removal of the Republic of Ireland's constitutional claim to Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP5</i> The creation of a commission into the future of the RUC	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP6</i> Decommissioning of paramilitary weapons	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP7</i> The early release of prisoners	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GFAPROP8</i> The requirement that the new Executive is power-sharing	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q29 How much do you support or oppose having cross-border cooperation with the Irish Republic in each of these areas? *(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)*

	<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Neither support nor oppose</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Can't choose</b>
<i>CROSSBD1</i> Tourism	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CROSSBD2</i> Transport	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CROSSBD3</i> Agriculture	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CROSSBD4</i> Health	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CROSSBD5</i> Security	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CROSSBD6</i> Northern Ireland's political future	1	2	3	4	5	8

POWERNIA

Q30 Who do you think has most power over everyday life in Northern Ireland?  
(Please circle one number only)

British government	1
Irish government	2
European Union	3
Local Councils	4
Northern Ireland Assembly	5
North/South Council of Ministers	6
East/West Council of the Isles	7
Can't choose	8

POWERNIB

Q31 And who do you think should have the most power over everyday life in Northern Ireland?  
(Please circle one number only)

British government	1
Irish government	2
European Union	3
Local Councils	4
Northern Ireland Assembly	5
North/South Council of Ministers	6
East/West Council of the Isles	7
Can't choose	8

Q32 How much do you agree with each of the following statements about devolved government in Northern Ireland? (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>DEV1</i> Devolution will bring economic prosperity to Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>DEV2</i> The local politicians who become ministers under devolution will never be able to work with each other	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>DEV3</i> Devolution will help secure peace in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>DEV4</i> Devolution will lead to a fall in living standards in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>DEV5</i> Devolution will lead to the break-up of the UK	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>DEV6</i> Devolution will bring political stability to Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8

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Q33 And thinking about the issue of parades, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
<i>RMARCHFR</i> The right to march is an important freedom	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>AREAMAR</i> No marches should be allowed through areas that are predominantly those of the other tradition unless the residents approve	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>PARCOMM</i> The Parades Commission is not impartial at all	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q34 Thinking about the Protestant and Catholic traditions in Northern Ireland as well as the Chinese and Asian communities, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
<i>CULTRAD1</i> Living in Northern Ireland means that we are influenced by several cultural traditions	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD2</i> I have my own cultural tradition and see no need to take part in any others	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD3</i> Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland means that there will always be conflict between them	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD4</i> Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland enriches us all	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD5</i> My cultural tradition is always the underdog	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q35 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
 (Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
<i>PRIOREQ</i> It should be a top priority for government to make sure that Protestants and Catholics are treated equally	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RIGTCATH</i> There is always talk about the rights of Catholics but never about the rights of Protestants	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RIGTPROT</i> There is always talk about the rights of Protestants but never about the rights of Catholics	1	2	3	4	5	8



Q36 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>WEALTH1</i> Ordinary working people get their fair share of the nation's wealth	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RICHLAW</i> There is one law for the rich and one for the poor	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>TRADVALS</i> There is no need for strong trade unions to protect employee's working conditions and wages	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>PRENBST</i> Private enterprise is the best way to solve Northern Ireland's economic problems	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>PUBOWNST</i> Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GOVJOB</i> It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q37 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>GOVNOSAY</i> People like me have no say in what the government does	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GOVCOMP</i> Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>LOSETCH</i> Generally speaking, those we elect lose touch with the people pretty quickly	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>PTYNTMT</i> It doesn't really matter which party is in power, in the end things go on much the same	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>VOTEINTR</i> Parties are only interested in people's votes, not in their opinions	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>VOTEONLY</i> Voting is the only way people like me can have any say about how the government runs things	1	2	3	4	5	8

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you very much for taking part in this year's *Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey*. The answers that you gave will help us to build up a picture of what people in Northern Ireland think about a wide range of social issues. When the results are put together they will be used by other people in the universities and within government to help develop social policy in Northern Ireland. Some of the questions that you answered are also being asked in over 30 other countries as part of an international survey and results of these will be used to compare people's opinions across the world. Without your help and the help of all the other people we interviewed this year we would not be able to provide this valuable insight into the opinions of the general public in Northern Ireland today.

Thank you again,

LIZANNE DOWDS  
GILLIAN ROBINSON

Queen's University Belfast  
The University of Ulster