



Icelandic Election Study – ICENES  
1987  
Questionnaire

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**NOTE**

In the dataset for the Icelandic Election study in 1987, the number values for some of the reply categories have been recoded.

The accurate codes for the reply categories in the dataset are listed in the codebook for the election study 1987.

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## Information about respondent

### **Number of respondent, string variable:**

Ranging from 2 to 6602

### **Year of birth:**

Ranging from 1906 to 1969

### **Gender:**

1. Male
2. Female

### **Postal code:**

Ranging from 101 to 825

### **Electoral district:**

1. Reykjavik
2. Reykjanes
3. West
4. Vestfjords
5. North west
6. North east
7. East
8. South

# QUESTIONNAIRE

1. **Do you consider your interest in politics very great, great, some, little, or are you not interested in politics at all?**

1. Very great
2. Great
3. Some
4. Little
5. None

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

2. **Now I will read you the names of the newspapers in an alphabetical order, and for each paper I would like you to say how often you see it. If we start with Althydubladið, would you say that you see it daily, often, seldom, or never? What about Dagur? DV? Morgunbladið? Timinn? Thjodviljinn?**

1. Daily
2. Often
3. Seldom
4. Never

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

3. **Do you think that politicians are in general trustworthy, that many of them are trustworthy, some are trustworthy, few or none?**

1. General
2. Many
3. Some
4. Few
5. None

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

4. **Next we have two questions on what you think is important in politics. If we begin with the Althingi election on April 25th. Were there any particular issues that greatly influenced what party you voted for? (Probe: Any more issues?)**

If yes: which issues: \_\_\_\_\_

90. No
97. Did not vote
98. Refuse to answer
99. Don't know

5. **What do you think are the most important tasks the new Althingi and government have to tackle? (Probe: Any more?)**

If yes: which issues: \_\_\_\_\_

90. No
97. None important tasks

98. Refuse to answer  
99. Don't know

**6a. Now I would like to ask if you generally like or dislike individual political parties. You indicate this by giving each party a mark from -5 to +5. If you like a party you give it a positive mark of up to 5, but if you don't like a party you give it a negative mark of down to -5. Zero means that you neither like nor dislike the party in question. What mark would you give the PP on such a scale? The IP? The CiP? The PA? The SDP? The WA?**

- \_\_\_\_ The Progressive Party  
\_\_\_\_ The Independence Party  
\_\_\_\_ The Citizen's Party  
\_\_\_\_ The People's Alliance  
\_\_\_\_ The Social Democratic Party  
\_\_\_\_ The Women's Alliance

8. Refuse to answer  
9. Don't know

**6b. What if you use the same scale for people who have been in leadership positions in Icelandic politics? What mark would you give Steingrimur Hermannsson? Thorsteinn Palsson? Albert Gudmundsson? Svavar Gestsson? Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson? Gudrun Agnarsdottir?**

- \_\_\_\_ Steingrimur Hermannsson  
\_\_\_\_ Thorsteinn Palsson  
\_\_\_\_ Albert Gudmundsson  
\_\_\_\_ Svavar Gestsson  
\_\_\_\_ Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson  
\_\_\_\_ Gudrun Agnarsdottir

8. Refuse to answer  
9. Don't know

**6c. If you try to give the government marks on the same scale for its general performance in the last term – what mark would you like to give the government of Steingrimur Hermannsson for performance in the last four years?**

- \_\_\_\_ Government performance

8. Refuse to answer  
9. Don't know

**6d. What marks would you give the opposition on the same scale**

- \_\_\_\_ Opposition performance

8. Refuse to answer  
9. Don't know

**6e. Finally I would like you to give the government a mark for its performance on individual policies or policy areas. If we start with housing, what mark would you**

**give the government for its performance? Regional policy? Inflation? Foreign policy? Agricultural policy? Wages? Taxes?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regional policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inflation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Foreign policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wages
- \_\_\_\_\_ Taxes

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**7. If we turn to several issues which have been widely discussed in society in recent years – first, to attempts to assure women equal position to men. Do you think this development has gone much too far, a bit too far, about right, needs to go a bit further, or needs to go much further? (Probe: Much/a bit)**

- 1. Gone much too far
- 2. Gone a bit too far
- 3. About right
- 4. Needs to go a bit further
- 5. Needs to go much further

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**8. What about steps to make it possible for private companies to operate radio and TV stations – do you think this has gone too far, about right, or needs to go further? (Probe: Much/a bit)**

- 1. Gone much too far
- 2. Gone a bit too far
- 3. About right
- 4. Needs to go a bit further
- 5. Needs to go much further

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**9. What about the rules on the more equal weight of votes in the new electoral law – do you think they go too far, about right, or need to go further? (Probe: Much/a bit)**

- 1. Gone much too far
- 2. Gone a bit too far
- 3. About right
- 4. Needs to go a bit further
- 5. Needs to go much further

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**10. Do you support the presence of the American defence force here; do you think the armed forces should leave, or do you think that it makes no difference? (Probe; Strongly or tend to)**

1. Strongly supportive of the presence of the US military base
2. Tend to be supportive of the presence of the US military base
3. Makes no difference
4. To to be against the presence of the US force
5. Strongly against the presence of the US force

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**11. Do you agree or disagree that all parties should hold open primaries, where supporters as well as party members can decide the ranking of candidates in the lists' top seats – or do you think this makes no difference? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Makes no difference
4. Tend to disagree
5. Strongly disagree

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**12. Which of the following do you think is most responsible for the inflation problem in Iceland: governments, companies or the trade unions?**

1. Governments
2. Companies
3. The trade unions

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**13. Do you agree or disagree that government should give organizations of employees and employers an effective part in decision making on major issues – or do you think this makes no difference? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Makes no difference
4. Tend to disagree
5. Strongly disagree

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**14. Do you agree or disagree that progress in the capital area may be decreased in order to increase prosperity in the rural regions – or does this not make any difference? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Makes no difference

- 4. Tend to disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
  
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**15a. If we now turn to the question whether Iceland should continue its membership of NATO – is that an issue on which you have an opinion?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
  
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**15b. (If yes to 15a.) Some people believe Iceland should stay in NATO, while others believe it should discontinue its membership. What is your opinion?**

- 1. Stay
- 2. Discontinue
  
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**16. Do you agree or disagree that clientelistic politics are necessary for the underprivileged when dealing with „the system“ – or do you not want to pass a judgement on that? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Tend to agree
- 3. Makes no difference
- 4. Tend to disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
  
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**17. Do you agree or disagree that in the next years action on environmental issues should be prioritized over attempts to increase economic growth – or do you think this makes no difference (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Tend to agree
- 3. Makes no difference
- 4. Tend to disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree
  
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**18. Do you agree or disagree that taxes should be reduced even though it meant that public services had to be reduced, e.g. in health care, education, or social security. Do you agree, disagree, or are you ambivalent? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Tend to agree
- 3. Ambivalent

4. Tend to disagree
5. Strongly disagree

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**19. Do you agree or disagree that all pension funds in the country should be united in one fund – or do you think this makes no difference? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Ambivalent
4. Tend to disagree
5. Strongly disagree

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**20a. Are you for or against the idea to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Nordic countries – or are you uncertain on this issue?**

1. For a nuclear-weapons-free zone
2. Against a nuclear-weapons-free zone

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**20b. (If for in 20a): But would you support the idea even though this would weaken NATO?**

1. Yes
2. No

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know
0. Doesn't apply

**20c. (If for in 20a): Do you tend to oppose the idea or do you strongly oppose it?**

1. Strongly oppose
2. Tend to oppose

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know
0. Doesn't apply

**21. Do you agree or disagree that the party system in this country has become outdated – or do you not want to pass a judgement on that? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Ambivalent
4. Tend to disagree
5. Strongly disagree

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**22. Do you agree or disagree that Icelanders should receive payment for the presence of U.S. military forces in the country? (Probe: strongly/tend to).**

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Tend to agree
- 3. Ambivalent
- 4. Tend to disagree
- 5. Strongly disagree

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**23. What parties would you like to see form a majority coalition government?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**24a. Some people consider themselves supporters of political parties or organizations while others do not feel a solidarity with any party. Do you in general consider yourself as a supporter of any political party or organization? (If yes: What party?)**

- 1. Yes, The Social Democratic Party
- 2. Yes, The Progressive Party
- 3. Yes, The Independence Party
- 4. Yes, The People's Alliance
- 5. Yes, The Social Democratic Alliance
- 6. Yes, The Women's Alliance
- 7. Yes, The Humanist Party
- 8. Yes, The Union of Regional Equality
- 9. Yes, The National Party
- 10. Yes, The Citizen's Party
- 11. Yes. Other. What party?
- 90. No
- 98. Refuse to answer
- 99. Don't know

**24b. (If yes to 24a.) Would you say you are a very strong, rather strong or not a very strong supporter (of a given party)?**

- 1. Very strong
- 2. Rather strong
- 3. Not very strong

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**25. (If no or don't know to 24a.) Do you nevertheless feel somewhat closer to any party or organization than to others? (If yes: which party?)**

- 1. Yes, The Social Democratic Party

- 2. Yes, The Progressive Party
- 3. Yes, The Independence Party
- 4. Yes, The People's Alliance
- 5. Yes, The Social Democratic Alliance
- 6. Yes, The Women's Alliance
- 7. Yes, The Humanist Party
- 8. Yes, The Union of Regional Equality
- 9. Yes, The National Party
- 10. Yes, The Citizen's Party
- 11. Yes. Other. What party?
- 90. No
- 98. Refuse to answer
- 99. Don't know

**26. (If yes to 24a or 25): Are you a member of (given party)?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**27a. Sometimes people try to rank the political parties according to how far to the left or the right they are. Now we would like you to rank the Icelandic political parties on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is furthest to the left, but 10 is furthest to the right. If we start with the SDP, where would you put it on such a scale? What about the WA? The IP? The CiP? The PA? The PP?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Democratic Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Women's Alliance
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Independence Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Citizen's Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ The People's Alliance
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Progressive Party

**27b. But where would you put yourself on such a scale?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Self

**28. Did you take part in a primary of any party before the last election (If yes: What primary?)**

- 1. The Social Democratic Party
- 2. The Progressive Party
- 3. The Independence Party
- 4. The People's Alliance
- 5. Other. What party?
- 90. No
- 91. Did take part in a primary – refuse to give name of party
- 98. Refuse to answer
- 99. Don't know

**29a. Did you vote in the Althingi election on April 25<sup>th</sup>? (If yes: What party or list did you vote for?)**

1. The Social Democratic Party
2. The Progressive Party
3. The Independence Party
4. The People ´s Alliance
5. The Social Democratic Alliance
6. The Women ´s Alliance
7. The Humanist Party
8. The Union of Regional Equality
9. The National Party
10. The Citizen ´s Party

91. Did not vote
92. Voted blank/null
98. Refuse to answer
99. Don ´t know

**29b. (If yes to 29a.): Did your ever consider voting for another party before the last election? (If yes: What party/parties?)**

1. Yes, The Social Democratic Party
2. Yes, The Progressive Party
3. Yes, The Independence Party
4. Yes, The People ´s Alliance
5. Yes, The Social Democratic Alliance
6. Yes, The Women ´s Alliance
7. Yes, The Humanist Party
8. Yes, The Union of Regional Equality
9. Yes, The National Party
10. Yes, The Citizen ´s Party
11. Yes. All of the parties
12. Yes, of not voting
13. Yes, but vote blank/null
14. Yes, refuse to give name of party
90. No
98. Refuse to answer
99. Don ´t know
0. Doesn ´t apply

**29c. (If yes til 29b.): How long before the election did you make a final decision?**

1. On election day
2. In the week before the elections
3. A week before the elections
4. 8-30 day before the elections
5. More that a month before the elections
8. Refuse to answer
9. Don ´t know
0. Doesn ´t apply

**30. How about the 1983 Althingi election – did you vote then? (If yes: What party or list did you vote for?)**

1. The Social Democratic Party

- 2. The Progressive Party
- 3. The Independence Party
- 4. The People's Alliance
- 5. The Social Democratic Alliance
- 6. The Women's Alliance
- 7. Yes, other. What?

- 90. Did not have the right to vote
- 91. Voted blank/null
- 92. Did not vote

- 98. Refuse to answer
- 99. Don't know

**31. Where in the country did you grow up? (Region, county, town-rural, age 8-16)**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Rural
- 2. Town

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**32a. What was your father's occupation in your youth (age 12-17)?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**32b. What was your mother's occupation?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Have you completed any studies after the age of 15?**

- 1. No.
- 2. Yes. What? \_\_\_\_\_

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**34. How many years, approximately, have you attended school, including compulsory education?**

Number of years in school: \_\_\_\_\_

**35. Have you generally been economically active in the last 3 months, or have you mainly been doing something else?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No, unemployed, but used to work
- 3. No, retired because of age/disability
- 4. No, student
- 5. No, working at home
- 6. No, other reasons

- 8. Refuse to answer
- 9. Don't know

**36a. (If active, or has been active): What was your main occupation? (Name of occupation, and a short description).**

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**36b. Do you work for a private firm, in the public sector, or for a cooperative?**

1. Private firm
2. The public sector
3. Cooperative
4. Other.

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know
0. Doesn't apply

**36c. Are you an employee or do you operate your own business? (If own business: Do you have employees?)**

1. Employee

Own business – Do you have employees?

2. Alone
3. Does have employees

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know
0. Doesn't apply

**36d. In what field is your work mainly? Agriculture, fisheries, fish industry, other industry, construction or transport, commerce, welfare services and education, other services?**

1. Agriculture
2. Fisheries, fish industry
3. Other industry
4. Construction or transport
5. Commerce
6. Welfare services and education
7. Other services?

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know
0. Doesn't apply

**37. Are you a member of a trade union or other economic or professional interest organization? (If yes: what union?)**

1. No
2. Yes. What union? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Refuse to answer
9. Don't know

**38. Are you married or cohabiting?**

1. Yes

2. No

8. Refuse to answer

9. Don't know

**39. (If yes to 38): Has your spouse generally been economically active in the last 3-4 months, or has he/she mainly been doing something else?**

1. Yes

2. No, unemployed, but used to work

3. No, retired because of age/disability

4. No, student

5. No, working at home

6. No, other reasons

8. Refuse to answer

9. Don't know

**40. (If spouse active, or has been active): What is the main occupation of your spouse?**

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**41. If you compare your standard of living to that of two years ago, do you think it has generally improved, remained about the same or grown worse?**

1. Improved

2. Remained the same

3. Grown worse

8. Refuse to answer

9. Don't know

**42. Are you living in your own accommodation or do you rent?**

1. Own accommodation

2. Rent

3. Other. What?

8. Refuse to answer

9. Don't know

**43. What was your own total income last April, approximately?**

Own total income \_\_\_\_\_ icelandic kronas

999998. Refuse to answer

999999. Don't know

**44. (If applicable): What was the total income of you and your spouse last April, approximately?**

Own and spouse total income \_\_\_\_\_ icelandic kronas

999998. Refuse to answer

999999. Don't know