

## Non-Religious Survey

From 1961 to the present, the number of Australians indicating that they did not belong to any religious organisation has grown significantly. This is survey for a HSC Studies of Religion assessment which specifies the need for primary research. You will be asked 30 questions in total, if you are unsure of any questions feel free to ask.

1. Name: ...David Blair.....

2. Profession: Retired, formerly research physicist

3. Age Group:  0-20  21-30  31-40  41-50  51-60  60+

4. Were you born in Australia:  Yes  No

5. Do you believe you are an or a:

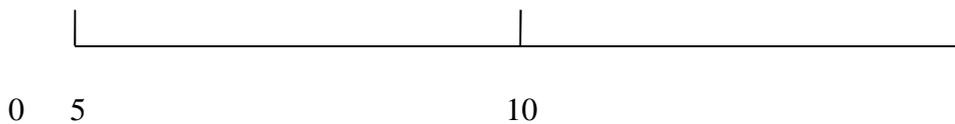
Agnostic

Atheist YES ALSO

Humanist

Other (please specify).....

6. On a scale of 10, what is your extent of this belief: 10



7. How do you believe the world was created?

...It is up to science to find the best answer available to this. It may have always existed. But the latest research suggests the likelihood the following, as I understand it. That time and the universe all started at one instant. But that, if one takes a more objective, four-dimensional view of the universe, that “point of starting” is not a special, catastrophic point—a singularity—but is “on a par” with all other points in space-time

8. If asked to identify yourself with one of the 5 major traditions, which would you choose?

Islam

Buddhism

Christianity

Hinduism

That is, it's the tradition from which I sprang

Judaism

9. Why do you believe the human race was created? If you mean “for what purpose?”, there is no such purpose. If you mean “what caused humans to come into existence?”, the answer is through the workings of evolution. Yes, it is rather wonderful that such a thing happened. This suggests that a further answer should be sought, i.e. why is the universe such that the laws of nature are favourable to the emergence of intelligent life? The best answer seems to be an appeal to the “anthropic principle”, i.e. that if the world were not like that, we wouldn't be here to ask the question; and thus, since we can ask the question, the world must be like that. To put this idea to use, we must realise that there is no reason to reject the hypothesis that the universe is vastly greater, unimaginably greater

that the universe observed so far. In space or also in time. The “laws” may be different in different observable universes (but being consequences of some underlying law). The theory would be that only in a miniscule fraction of such observable universes does intelligent life come into being.

10. What do you believe the purpose of life to be? .There is no objective purpose of life. People and communities have purposes. A person finds his purpose by looking into his own mind (and heart if you like), while paying attention to the empathy he/she has with others. Broadly the purpose is whatever brings happiness. (Large ongoing projects may require a deeper analysis than this (happiness), because often the person working on such a project goes through suffering on the way through.).

11. Do you believe in physical life after death?

Yes No

12. Do you believe the human race has the capability of answering all important questions?

Yes  No The human race can come close to this

13. In the last 2 years have you deserted or departed from a religion?

Yes No (\*If your answer is no proceed to question 16.)

14. Did you:

Become non-religious  
Join another denomination or religious tradition?

15. Which denomination or religious tradition? Anglican (evangelical branch)

16. Do you believe we are governed from above?

Yes  No

17. How much control do you believe people have over their lives?

Little Adequate  Total

18. Did you donate to the Tsunami appeal?

Yes  No

19. What charity to you most often donate to? M.E./C.F.S. Society (CFS = Chronic Fatigue Syndrome).

20. Do you recycle?

Yes  No

21. How long would your quotidian showers be:(minutes I presume)

5-10     10-20     20+

22. How regularly would you donate possessions you wish to no longer use or donate food hampers?

every 3 months     6 months     year     2 years     3 years or over

23. Are you currently engaged in a voluntary service?

Yes (please specify)...I work 2 days per week for University of Sydney doing research. You may not call that "service". There is a small voluntary teaching component in that work.....

No

24. Do you attend local council meetings?

Yes     No Very occasionally

25. Who is your local mayor? I can't remember .....

26. I am not part of a religion and lack the belief of a deity in the form of one or more supernatural gods or goddesses.

Yes     No

27. I am not part of a religion, I believe that one cannot prove the existence or non-existence of a deity. I am prepared to change my opinion if substantial evidence arises.

Yes     No    I'm putting "yes", but "prove" is an inappropriate word, as strictly one cannot prove anything in science. Instead let us talk about "establish with a high degree of confidence." Then in my view one can establish with a high degree of confidence that there is no deity.

28. I believe in a philosophy that embraces questions 26 and 27, but I believe in logic and that humanity is the measure of all things.

Yes     No

29. I believe that the reality of God's presence has been replaced by institutions, control and empty ritual. I have felt that I need to turn to a "do-it-yourself" faith, one less hierarchical which focuses on the well being of the individual.

Yes     No

30. This survey has:

- Subject my beliefs to change
- Given me slight insight
- Not affected me