

**National Assessment of  
Adult Literacy:  
Prison Background  
Questionnaire**

## Instructions for Reading NAAL Prison Background Questionnaire

The NAAL background questionnaire is designed to be administered using a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system. Interviewers read the questions aloud to respondents from the screens of laptop computers, and they record respondents' answers directly on the computers. The interviewers read aloud response options that are written in lower-case letters, but do not read aloud the response options that are written in upper-case letters.

Administering the background questionnaire using a CAPI system allows for the inclusion of complex skip patterns that target questions only at respondents in a particular subgroup. However, these complex skip patterns make the background questionnaire difficult to follow on paper. Skip patterns are indicated on the paper version of the background questionnaire in two different ways.

For some items where a respondent's choice indicates that he or she should skip to a particular item, the skip pattern is indicated in parenthesis following the response item. For example, if a respondent answers "No" to question A-9, "Have you ever taken a class in the United States to learn English-as-a-second-language, sometimes called an ESL class?," the respondent skips to question A-11, since the question is about how long ago he or she took the class is not relevant for this respondent. If the respondent answers "Yes" to question A-9, the respondent continues to question A-9A.

When skip patterns are based on responses to one or more earlier questions in the survey, the skip patterns are indicated in a box that appears before the item that some respondents may skip. For example, question A-4 is skipped by some respondents based on their answer to A-1. The box inserted before question A-4 describes the skip pattern.

For all questions, interviewers had the option to code responses "Don't Know" or "Refused" when appropriate.

# National Study Of America's Adults

## PRISON QUESTIONNAIRE

### IF R IS NOT SCREENER R:

Hello, I am [NAME] from Westat, a research organization in Rockville, MD. We are helping the United States Department of Education with a very important survey about how adults use printed materials. Thousands of people across the United States have already participated in the study in their homes. The United States Department of Education also wants to find out how adults in prisons use printed materials and what they read. Based on a list of all people residing in this institution, you have been selected at random to take part in a special version of this survey designed to collect information from people incarcerated in state and federal prisons.

### IF R IS SCREENER R:

You have been selected to participate in the survey.

I will ask you a short set of questions about your background and education. Then, I will give you a booklet containing exercises based on printed materials, such as newspapers, maps, stories, brochures, forms, and advertisements. Others who have completed these exercises found them interesting and fun. The entire survey will take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary and very important. All of your answers will be kept strictly confidential and will not be available to anyone here at the facility. All information will be reported for a group as a whole and your responses will not be linked to your name. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

### IF R REQUESTS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PURPOSE OF SURVEY:

Today, adults increasingly are expected to use printed information in our society, but there is very little information available on whether or not they are well prepared. This survey will provide information about the reading and writing experiences, activities, and skills of adults in the United States. Information will be used by educators, policymakers, and business leaders to design programs in order to improve the literacy skills of adults.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-0654 and will expire on **06/30/04**. The time required to complete these forms is estimated to average .45 hours per respondent, including the time to review instructions and complete the survey. **If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4651. **If you have any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to:** NCES, U.S. Department of Education, 1900 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

**Section A. General and Language Background**

**Interviewer: Code gender of respondent. 1 = Male; 2 = Female**

A-1. In what country were you born?  
 Look up table .....

**If answered U.S.A. for A-1, go to A-3; otherwise continue.**

A-1A. How old were you when you moved to the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_ Age

A-2. How many years have you lived in the United States?

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A. 1 TO 5.....      | 1 |
| B. 6 TO 10.....     | 2 |
| C. 11 TO 15.....    | 3 |
| D. 16 TO 20.....    | 4 |
| E. 21 TO 30.....    | 5 |
| F. 31 TO 40.....    | 6 |
| G. 41 TO 50.....    | 7 |
| H. 51 OR MORE ..... | 8 |

A-3. What is your date of birth?

\_\_\_\_\_ Month      \_\_\_\_\_ Day      \_\_\_\_\_ Year

**If answered U.S.A. for A-1, go to A-5; otherwise continue.**

A-4. What was the highest level of education you completed before coming to the United States?  
 (If response does not fit categories, probe for equivalent.)

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| A. DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL BEFORE COMING TO U.S. .... | 1   |
| B. PRIMARY (GRADES K-3).....                        | 2   |
| C. ELEMENTARY (GRADES 4-8) .....                    | 3   |
| D. SECONDARY (GRADES 9-12) .....                    | 4   |
| E. VOCATIONAL (POSTSECONDARY).....                  | 5   |
| F. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY .....                         | 6   |
| G. OTHER (SPECIFY) .....                            | 910 |

A-5. When you were growing up, what language or languages were usually spoken in your home?  
 (Select all that apply.)

Look up table .....

A-6. What language or languages did you learn to speak before you started school?  
(Select all that apply.)

Look up table .....

**If English only for both A-5 and A-6, go to A-11; otherwise continue.**

A-7. What language did you first learn to read and write?

Look up table .....

A-8. How old were you when you learned to speak English?

- |                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| A. 1-4 YEARS OLD .....          | 1  |
| B. 5-10 YEARS OLD .....         | 2  |
| C. 11-15 YEARS OLD .....        | 3  |
| D. 16-20 YEARS OLD .....        | 4  |
| E. 21 YEARS OR OLDER .....      | 5  |
| F. DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH ..... | 95 |

**If English only in A-6, go to A-11; otherwise continue.**

A-9. Have you ever taken a class in the United States to learn English-as-a-second-language, sometimes called an ESL class?

- |              |   |        |
|--------------|---|--------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |        |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (A-11) |

A-9A. Where did you take the ESL class? Was it during your current or a previous incarceration in jail, prison or another correctional facility, or outside of prison? (Select all that apply.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. CURRENT ADMISSION .....                    | 1 |
| B. PRIOR ADMISSION .....                      | 2 |
| C. OUTSIDE PRISON/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ..... | 3 |

A-10. How long ago did you last take an English-as-a-second-language or ESL class in the United States? Was it...

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Within the last two years, .....       | 1 |
| B. 2 to 5 years ago, .....                | 2 |
| C. More than 5 years ago, or .....        | 3 |
| D. Are you taking an ESL class now? ..... | 4 |

A-11. Which language do you usually speak now?

Look up table .....

A-12. What other language do you often speak now?

- |                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| A. Look up table .....            |    |
| B. No other language spoken ..... | 95 |

A-13. Other than English, what language do you speak best?

- A. None ..... 1  
 B. Look up table .....

**If English only in A-6, A-11, A-12, and A-13, go to A-15; otherwise, repeat item A-14 for each non-English language identified in questions A-6, A-11, A-12, and A-13.**

A-14. With regard to **(non-English language in A-6, A-11, A-12, and A-13)**, how well do you...

Would you say...

	Very well	Well	Not well	or	Not at all
A. Understand it when it is spoken to you? .....	1	2	3		4
B. Speak it? .....	1	2	3		4
C. Read it? .....	1	2	3		4
D. Write it? .....	1	2	3		4

A-15. With regard to the English language, how well do you...

Would you say...

	Very well	Well	Not well	or	Not at all
A. Understand it when it is spoken to you? .....	1	2	3		4
B. Speak it? .....	1	2	3		4
C. Read it? .....	1	2	3		4
D. Write it? .....	1	2	3		4

**If English only for A-6, go to B-1; otherwise continue.**

A-16. **[HAND CARD.]** How difficult is it for you to **(item)** in English?

Would you say you have...

**HAND  
CARD  
1**

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate difficulty	or a	Great deal of difficulty	NEVER TRIED
A. Understand people having a conversation with you? .....	1	2	3		4	5
B. Understand television, movies, or videos? .....	1	2	3		4	5
C. Understand a telephone conversation? .....	1	2	3		4	5

**If answered 1 to A-15C and A-15D, go to B-1. If answered 1 to A-15C, but A-15D was not answered 1, go to A-18; otherwise continue.**

A-17. **[HAND CARD.]** How difficult is it for you to **(item)** written in English?

Would you say you have...

		No difficulty	Some difficulty	Moderate difficulty	or a Great deal of difficulty	NEVER TRIED
<b>HAND CARD 1</b>	A. Understand a utility bill, such as telephone or electric? .....	1	2	3	4	5
	B. Understand the dosage information on over-the-counter medicines? .....	1	2	3	4	5
	C. Look up information in dictionaries, encyclopedias, phone books, or other reference books? .....	1	2	3	4	5

A-18. **[HAND CARD.]** How difficult is it for you to fill out forms in English, such as at the doctor's office or at school? Would you say you have...

<b>HAND CARD 1</b>	A. No difficulty, .....	1
	B. Some difficulty, .....	2
	C. Moderate difficulty, or a.....	3
	D. Great deal of difficulty? .....	4
	E. NEVER TRIED .....	5

**Section B. Educational Background and Experiences**

B-1. **[HAND CARD.]** I'd like to ask you about your educational background and experiences. What is the highest level of public or private education you completed prior to your most recent admission to prison? (If R went to school outside United States, probe for equivalent.)

HAND CARD <b>2</b>
--------------------------

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| A. LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (0-8 YEARS) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....                      | 2  |
| B. SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-12 YEARS BUT DID NOT GRADUATE) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....     | 3  |
| C. GED OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY .....   | 4  |
| D. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (12 YEARS; ACCELERATED OR EARLY GRADUATE PROGRAM) ..... | 5  |
| E. ATTENDED A VOCATIONAL, TRADE, OR BUSINESS SCHOOL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL .....     | 6  |
| F. COLLEGE: LESS THAN TWO YEARS .....   | 7  |
| G. COLLEGE: ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE (A.A.) .....                                     | 8  |
| H. COLLEGE: TWO YEARS OR MORE, NO DEGREE.....                                   | 9  |
| I. COLLEGE GRADUATE (B.S. OR B.A.) .....  | 10 |
| J. POSTGRADUATE/NO DEGREE.....  | 11 |
| K. POSTGRADUATE/DEGREE (M.S., M.A., PH.D., M.D., ETC.).....                     | 12 |

B-2. Since your most recent admission to prison, have you completed any additional education?

- |              |   |       |
|--------------|---|-------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |       |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (B-4) |

B-3. Are you currently enrolled in any academic classes?

- |              |   |       |
|--------------|---|-------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 | (B-5) |
| B. NO .....  | 2 |       |

B-4. Are you on a waiting list for an academic class or program?

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |
| B. NO .....  | 2 |

<b>If answered 2 to B-2, go to B-6; otherwise continue.</b>
---



B-5. **[HAND CARD.]** Since your most recent admission to prison, what is the highest level of education you completed? (If R went to school outside U.S., probe for equivalent.)

**HAND  
CARD  
3**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. CLASSES UP TO THE 9 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE .....                              | 1 |
| B. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES, BUT DID NOT RECEIVE A GED OR HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE ..... | 2 |
| C. GED OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY .....                                       | 3 |
| D. COLLEGE CLASSES, BUT DID NOT RECEIVE A DEGREE .....                        | 4 |
| E. COLLEGE: ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE (A.A.).....                                    | 5 |
| F. COLLEGE GRADUATE (B.S. OR B.A.) .....                                      | 6 |
| G. POSTGRADUATE CLASSES .....   | 7 |

**If answered 1 to B-2, then lookup from B-5; otherwise lookup from B-1.**

B-6. What year did you (**graduate from high school/receive your GED/attend your last year of school**)?

Year \_\_\_\_\_

**If answered 2, 3 or 4 to B-1, or 3 to B-5, go to B-8; otherwise continue.**

B-7. What type of high school diploma did you receive? Was it a regular high school diploma from a school in the United States; a regular high school diploma from a school outside the United States run by the United States government, such as a Department of Defense school; a regular high school diploma from a school outside the United States, not run by the United States government; a GED or high school equivalency degree; a certificate of completion that was different from a regular high school diploma; or something else?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| A. REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM A SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES .....   | 1   |
| B. REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM A SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES RUN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCHOOL..... | 2   |
| C. REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM A SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, NOT RUN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT .....                                   | 3   |
| D. GED .....  | 4   |
| E. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION .....  | 5   |
| F. DID NOT RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA .....  | 6   |
| G. OTHER (SPECIFY) .....  | 910 |

**If answered 10, 11, 12 or DK/RF to B-1, go to box before B-9; otherwise continue.**

B-8. Now I want you to think about your education prior to prison. What was the main reason you stopped your public or private schooling when you did? Please listen to me read all the answer categories, and then tell me which one best describes the reason you stopped your schooling. Was it...

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| A. Financial problems, .....   | 2  |
| B. Did not do well in school, .....  | 3  |
| C. Did not like school or was bored in school, .....                         | 4  |
| D. Expelled from school or asked to leave, .....                             | 5  |
| E. Wanted to work, .....   | 6  |
| F. Wanted to go into the military, .....                                     | 7  |
| G. Personal illness, disability, or pregnancy, .....                         | 8  |
| H. Family reasons such as the illness or death of one of your parents, ..... | 9  |
| I. School not available or not accessible, .....                             | 10 |
| J. Did not feel safe in school, .....  | 11 |
| K. Sent to jail, prison, or detention center, or .....                       | 13 |
| L. Other? .....  | 14 |

**If answered 2-6 or DK/RF to B-1, go to B-10; otherwise continue. If answered 7 or 9 to B-1, read "attend your last year of college" for B-9. If answered 11 or 12 for B-1, read "receive your undergraduate degree" for B-9. If answered 8 for B-1, read "receive your associate's degree" for B-9. If answered 10 to B-1, read "graduate from college" for B-9.**

B-9. What year did you (attend your last year of college/receive your undergraduate degree/receive your associate's degree/graduate from college)?

Year \_\_\_\_\_

B-10. Have you ever taken part in a program other than in regular school in order to improve your *basic skills*, that is, basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills? The program may have been in prison or it may have been outside of prison.

- |              |   |        |
|--------------|---|--------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 | (B-14) |
| B. NO .....  | 2 |        |

B-11. Where did you take the basic skills class? Was it during your current or a previous incarceration in jail, prison or another correctional facility, or outside of prison? (Select all that apply.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. CURRENT ADMISSION .....                    | 1 |
| B. PRIOR ADMISSION .....                      | 2 |
| C. OUTSIDE PRISON/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ..... | 3 |

B-12. How long ago did you last take a class to improve your basic skills. Was it...

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Within the last two years, .....                    | 1 |
| B. 2 to 5 years ago, .....                             | 2 |
| C. More than 5 years ago, or.....                      | 3 |
| D. Are you currently taking a basic skills class?..... | 4 |

**If answered 1 to A-9 and B-10, go to B-13; otherwise go to B-14.**

B-13. Was the basic skills class part of the English-as-a-second-language or ESL class you took, or was it a separate class?

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| A. PART OF ESL CLASS..... | 1 |
| B. SEPARATE CLASS.....    | 2 |

B-14. Have you received any type of information technology skill certification sponsored by a hardware or software manufacturer or an industry or professional association?

- |              |   |        |
|--------------|---|--------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |        |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (B-17) |

B-15. Did you have to pass a test to get the certification?

- |              |   |        |
|--------------|---|--------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |        |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (B-17) |

B-16. How did you prepare for the test? Was it..

	YES	NO
A. A class offered in prison, jail or other correctional facility? .....	1	2
B. A class offered by a four-year college or university? .....	1	2
C. A class offered by a community college? .....	1	2
D. A class offered by a technical school or private vendor?.....	1	2
E. A class offered by a high school or vocational secondary school?.....	1	2
F. A class offered directly by a hardware or software manufacturer, such as Microsoft, Oracle, Novell, or Cisco? .....	1	2
G. On the job training or apprenticeship?.....	1	2
H. Independent study? .....	1	2
I. Other? (Specify) .....	1	2

B-17. Other than information technology, have you ever received any type of job-related skill certification recognized by a licensing board or an industry or professional association?

- |              |   |       |
|--------------|---|-------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |       |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (C-1) |

B-18. Did you have to pass a test to get the certification?

- |              |   |       |
|--------------|---|-------|
| A. YES ..... | 1 |       |
| B. NO .....  | 2 | (C-1) |

B-19. How did you prepare for the test? Was it...

	YES	NO
A. A class offered in prison, jail or other correctional facility? .....	1	2
B. A class offered by a four-year college or university? .....	1	2
C. A class offered by a community college? .....	1	2
D. A class offered by a technical school or private vendor? .....	1	2
E. A class offered by a high school or vocational secondary school? .....	1	2
F. On the job training or apprenticeship? .....	1	2
G. Independent study? .....	1	2
H. Other? (Specify) .....	1	2

**Section C. Prison Experiences**

C-1. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about your prison experiences. Since your most recent admission to prison, have you participated in...

	YES	NO
A. Employment counseling (including how to find a job or interviewing skills)?.....	1	2
B. Classes in parenting or child rearing skills?.....	1	2
C. Classes in life skills and community adjustment including anger management, conflict resolution, personal finance, or other life skills? ....	1	2
D. Drug or alcohol groups (for example, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, or other drug or alcohol-related groups)? .....	1	2
E. Inmate assistance groups, for example, inmate liaison, advisory, or workers' councils? .....	1	2
F. A religious study group? .....	1	2
G. An ethnic/racial organization (for example, NAACP, African-American or Black Culture group, Hispanic Committee, Aztlan, or Lakota? .....	1	2
H. Any other programs or groups? (Specify) .....	1	2

C-2. Since your most recent admission to prison, have you been a student in a vocational training program, excluding prison work assignments?

A. YES .....	1	(C-6)
B. NO .....	2	

C-3. Are you currently a student in a vocational training program?

A. YES .....	1
B. NO .....	2

C-4. Since your most recent admission to prison, how long have you spent altogether in vocational training?

A. LESS THAN ONE MONTH.....	1
B. NUMBER OF MONTHS (SPECIFY).....	2
C. NUMBER OF YEARS (SPECIFY) .....	3

C-5. Did this training or education include instruction intended to:

	YES	NO
A. Improve your English reading skills? .....	1	2
B. Improve your English writing skills? .....	1	2
C. Improve your arithmetic or mathematics skills? .....	1	2
D. Improve your computer skills? .....	1	2
E. Help you communicate or work better with other people? .....	1	2

**If answered 1 to C-3, go to C-7; otherwise continue.**

- C-6. Are you on a waiting list for any vocational training programs?
- A. YES ..... 1
- B. NO ..... 2

C-7. Since last **(current day)**, how many hours did you spend in any type of class as a student?

HOURS: \_\_\_\_\_

- C-8. For what offenses are you *now* in prison? (PROBE: Any others?) (Record each offense on a separate line.)
- OFFENSE #1: \_\_\_\_\_
- OFFENSE #2: \_\_\_\_\_
- OFFENSE #3: \_\_\_\_\_
- OFFENSE #4: \_\_\_\_\_
- OFFENSE #5: \_\_\_\_\_

**If only one offense reported in C-8, go to C-10; otherwise continue.**

- C-9. For which of these offenses did you receive the longest sentence?
- A. Look up responses ..... 95
- B. Hasn't been sentenced.....

C-10. In what month and year were you admitted to prison most recently?

\_\_\_\_\_

MONTH                      /                      YEAR

- C-11. Before your most recent admission to prison, did you ever serve time in prison, jail, or some other correctional facility as a juvenile or adult?
- A. YES ..... 1
- B. NO ..... 2

- C-12. Have you ever been placed on probation, either as a juvenile or as an adult?
- A. YES ..... 1
- B. NO ..... 2

**If answered 95 to C-9, go to D-1; otherwise continue.**

- C-13. Do you have a definite date on which you expect to be released from prison?
- A. YES ..... 1
- B. NO ..... 2 (C-15)

C-14. In what month and year will you be released?

\_\_\_\_\_ (D-1)

MONTH                      /                      YEAR

C-15. Do you expect to ever be released from prison?

- A. YES .....
- B. NO .....

1
2

(D-1)

C-16. In what month and year is your earliest possible release date?

---

MONTH                      /                      YEAR

**Section D. Prison Work Assignments and Labor Force Participation**

D-1. The next question is about jobs you've had since your most recent admission to prison on **(date from C-10)**. Do you currently have any work assignments?

- A. YES ..... 

1
2

 (D-5)  
 B. NO .....

D-2. **[HAND CARD.]** How often do you read as part of your current job(s) in prison? Would you say...

**HAND  
CARD  
6**

- A. Every day, ..... 

1
2
3
4
5

  
 B. A few times a week, .....  
 C. Once a week, .....  
 D. Less than once a week, or .....  
 E. Never?.....

D-3. **[HAND CARD.]** How often do you write as part of your current job(s) in prison? Would you say...

**HAND  
CARD  
6**

- A. Every day, ..... 

1
2
3
4
5

  
 B. A few times a week, .....  
 C. Once a week, .....  
 D. Less than once a week, or .....  
 E. Never?.....

D-4. In the last week, how many hours did you work at your job(s)?

HOURS: \_\_\_\_\_

D-5. In the year before your incarceration on **(date from C-10)**, did you receive income from any of the following? (Code all that apply.)

	YES	NO
A. Pay from jobs or wages? .....	1	2
B. Educational scholarship or grant? .....	1	2
C. Family or friends? .....	1	2
D. Unemployment insurance compensation and/or workman's compensation? .....	1	2
E. Social Security or other pensions (e.g., veterans, Supplemental Security Income, disability)? .....	1	2
F. Welfare, charity? .....	1	2
G. Illegal sources? .....	1	2
H. Anything else? (Specify) .....	1	2

**If date of admission from C-10 is earlier than January 2001, go to box before D-13; otherwise continue.**



D-6. In the past three years, that is, since January 2001, did you work for pay or profit, either full-time or part-time, while not serving time in prison?

- A. YES ..... 

1
2

 (Box before D-13)  
 B. NO ..... 

2
---

D-7. Between January 2001 and **(date from C-10)**, how many months did you work?

- A. LESS THAN 1 MONTH..... 

1
2

 (Box before D-13)  
 B. NUMBER OF MONTHS (SPECIFY)..... 

2
---

D-8. Now I would like to ask you some questions about your most recent full-time or part-time job prior to your most recent admission to prison. For what kind of business or industry did you work? (For example, television and radio manufacturing, retail shoe store, state labor department, farm, etc.) (If R worked two or more jobs, probe: Tell me about the job you worked the most hours or the job you considered your primary employment.)

BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D-9. What was your occupation, that is, what was your job called? (For example, electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer, etc.)

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D-10. What were the most important activities or duties at this job? (For example, typing, keeping account books, filing, selling cars, operating a printing press, finishing concrete, etc.)

ACTIVITIES OR DUTIES: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D-11. Was this full-time, part-time, or occasional work?

- A. FULL-TIME ..... 

1
2
3

  
 B. PART-TIME ..... 

2
---

  
 C. OCCASIONAL ..... 

3
---

D-12. Were you employed by government, by a **PRIVATE** employer, or were you self-employed or working in a family business?

- A. GOVERNMENT ..... 

1
2
3
4

  
 B. PRIVATE EMPLOYER ..... 

2
---

  
 C. SELF-EMPLOYED ..... 

3
---

  
 D. WORKING IN A FAMILY BUSINESS ..... 

4
---

**If age 66 or older (based on A-3), skip to E-1; otherwise continue.**

D-13. How much do you think your reading skills limit your job opportunities – for example, to get a promotion or a (different) job you would like to have? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A. A LOT .....      | 1 |
| B. SOME .....       | 2 |
| C. A LITTLE .....   | 3 |
| D. NOT AT ALL ..... | 4 |

D-14. How much do you think your writing skills limit your job opportunities – for example, to get a promotion or a (different) job you would like to have? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A. A LOT .....      | 1 |
| B. SOME .....       | 2 |
| C. A LITTLE .....   | 3 |
| D. NOT AT ALL ..... | 4 |

D-15. How much do you think your math skills limit your job opportunities – for example, to get a promotion or a (different) job you would like to have? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A. A LOT .....      | 1 |
| B. SOME .....       | 2 |
| C. A LITTLE .....   | 3 |
| D. NOT AT ALL ..... | 4 |

D-16. How much do you think your computer skills limit your job opportunities – for example, to get a promotion or a (different) job you would like to have? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A. A LOT .....      | 1 |
| B. SOME .....       | 2 |
| C. A LITTLE .....   | 3 |
| D. NOT AT ALL ..... | 4 |

**Section E: Political and Social Participation**

E-1. **[HAND CARD.]** I'd like to find out how you usually get information about current events, public affairs, and the government. How much information about current events, public affairs, and the government do you get from ...

**HAND  
CARD  
4**

Would you say...

	A lot	Some	A little	or	None
A. Newspapers?.....	1	2	3		4
B. Magazines? .....	1	2	3		4
C. Radio and television? .....	1	2	3		4
D. Books or brochures? .....	1	2	3		4
E. Family members, friends, other inmates or staff? .....	1	2	3		4

**If English only for A-6, go to E-3; otherwise continue.**

E-2. How much of the information you get about current events, public affairs, and the government is presented in **(non-English language in A-6, A-11, A-12 or A-13)?** Would you say...

- A. All,..... 1
- B. Most,..... 2
- C. Some, or..... 3
- D. None?..... 4

E-3. How many hours do you usually watch television, videotapes, or DVDs each day?

- A. NONE..... 0
- B. 1 HOUR OR LESS..... 1
- C. 2 HOURS..... 2
- D. 3 HOURS..... 3
- E. 4 HOURS..... 4
- F. 5 HOURS..... 5
- G. 6 OR MORE HOURS..... 6

E-4. How often do you use the services of a library for any reason? Would you say...

- A. Daily,..... 1 (E-8)
- B. Weekly,..... 2 (E-7)
- C. Monthly,..... 3 (E-5)
- D. Once or twice a year, or..... 4 (E-5)
- E. Never?..... 5 (E-6)

E-5. During the past month, have you used or ever wanted to use the library?

- A. YES..... 1 (E-7)
- B. NO..... 2 (Box before E-9)

E-6. During the past month, have you ever wanted to use the library?

- A. YES ..... 1 (E-7)  
 B. NO ..... 2 (Box before E-9)

E-7. **[HAND CARD.]** How long does it usually take you to get access to the prison library when you want to use it? Would you say...

**HAND  
CARD  
10**

- A. Less than two days, ..... 1  
 B. Two to six days, ..... 2  
 C. Seven to 10 days, or ..... 3  
 D. More than 10 days? ..... 4

**If answered 5 for E-4, go to box before E-9; otherwise continue.**

E-8. During the past month, did you borrow any materials from a library?

- A. YES ..... 1  
 B. NO ..... 2

**If answered (born in U.S.A.) or (U.S. territory) to A-1, go to E-10; otherwise continue.**

E-9. Are you a citizen of the United States?

- A. YES ..... 1  
 B. NO ..... 2

E-10. Did you ever serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?

- A. YES ..... 1  
 B. NO ..... 2

**If answered 2 to E-9, go to F-1; otherwise continue.**

**If in prison for current offense in November 2000 (based on C-10), go to F-1; otherwise continue.**

E-11. In 2000, Al Gore ran on the Democratic ticket against George W. Bush for the Republicans. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?

- A. YES, REMEMBER FOR SURE ..... 1  
 B. NO, DON'T REMEMBER FOR SURE ..... 2 (F-1)  
 C. YES, VOTED ..... 3 (F-1)  
 D. NO, DIDN'T VOTE ..... 4 (F-1)

E-12. Did you vote in that election?

- A. YES ..... 1  
 B. NO ..... 2

**Section F: Literacy Practices**

F-1. **[HAND CARD.]** Now I'd like to talk to you about what you read in English. How often do you read **(item)** in English?

**HAND CARD**  
**6**

Would you say...

	Every day	A few times a week	Once a week	Less than once a week	or	Never
A. Newspapers or magazines ...	1	2	3	4		5
B. Books .....	1	2	3	4		5
C. Letters and notes .....	1	2	3	4		5

**If English only in A-6, go to F-3; otherwise continue.**

F-2. **[HAND CARD.]** How often do you read **(item)** in **(non-English language in A-6, A-11, A-12 or A-13)?**

**HAND CARD**  
**6**

Would you say...

	Every day	A few times a week	Once a week	Less than once a week	or	Never
A. Newspapers or magazines ...	1	2	3	4		5
B. Books .....	1	2	3	4		5
C. Letters and notes .....	1	2	3	4		5

F-3. Do you ever use a computer?

- A. YES ..... 

1
2

 (F-5)
- B. NO .....

F-4. **[HAND CARD.]** Now I'd like to ask you about how you use the computer. How often do you **(item)?**

**HAND CARD**  
**6**

Would you say...

	Every day	A few times a week	Once a week	Less than once a week	or	Never
A. Write using a word processing program? .....	1	2	3	4		5
B. Use a spreadsheet program? .....	1	2	3	4		5
C. Look up information on a CD-ROM? .....	1	2	3	4		5

F-5. **[HAND CARD.]** How much help do you get from family members, friends, other inmates, or staff with...

Would you say...

		A lot	Some	A little	or	None
<b>HAND CARD 4</b>	A. Filling out forms? .....	1	2	3		4
	B. Reading or explaining newspaper articles or other written information? .....	1	2	3		4
	C. Writing notes and letters? .....	1	2	3		4
	D. Using basic arithmetic, that is, adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing, such as filling out order forms or balancing a checkbook? .....	1	2	3		4

**Section G: Demographic Information**

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about your family.

G-1. In what country was your mother (stepmother or female guardian) born?

Look up table .....

G-2. What was the highest level of education your mother (stepmother or female guardian) completed? (If went to school outside U.S., probe for equivalent.)

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| A. LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (0-8 YEARS) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....                      | 1  |
| B. SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-12 YEARS BUT DID NOT GRADUATE) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....     | 2  |
| C. GED OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY .....   | 3  |
| D. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (12 YEARS; ACCELERATED OR EARLY GRADUATE PROGRAM) ..... | 4  |
| E. ATTENDED VOCATIONAL, TRADE, OR BUSINESS SCHOOL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL .....       | 5  |
| F. COLLEGE: LESS THAN TWO YEARS .....   | 6  |
| G. COLLEGE: ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE (A.A.) .....                                     | 7  |
| H. COLLEGE: TWO YEARS OR MORE, NO DEGREE .....                                  | 8  |
| I. COLLEGE GRADUATE (B.S. OR B.A.) .....  | 9  |
| J. POSTGRADUATE/NO DEGREE .....   | 10 |
| K. POSTGRADUATE/DEGREE (M.S., M.A., Ph.D., M.D., ETC.) .....                    | 11 |

G-3. In what country was your father (stepfather or male guardian) born?

Look up table .....

G-4. What was the highest level of education your father (stepfather or male guardian) completed? (If went to school outside United States, probe for equivalent.)

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| A. LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (0-8 YEARS) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....                      | 1  |
| B. SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-12 YEARS BUT DID NOT GRADUATE) (SPECIFY GRADE) .....     | 2  |
| C. GED OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY .....   | 3  |
| D. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (12 YEARS; ACCELERATED OR EARLY GRADUATE PROGRAM) ..... | 4  |
| E. ATTENDED VOCATIONAL, TRADE, OR BUSINESS SCHOOL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL .....       | 5  |
| F. COLLEGE: LESS THAN TWO YEARS .....   | 6  |
| G. COLLEGE: ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE (A.A.) .....                                     | 7  |
| H. COLLEGE: TWO YEARS OR MORE, NO DEGREE .....                                  | 8  |
| I. COLLEGE GRADUATE (B.S. OR B.A.) .....  | 9  |
| J. POSTGRADUATE/NO DEGREE .....   | 10 |
| K. POSTGRADUATE/DEGREE (M.S., M.A., Ph.D., M.D., ETC.) .....                    | 11 |

**Section H: Household Income and Welfare Participation**

H-1. **[HAND CARD.]** Which number on this card describes your current marital status?

<b>HAND CARD 7</b>	A. NEVER MARRIED .....	1
	B. MARRIED .....	2
	C. LIVING AS MARRIED.....	3
	D. SEPARATED OR DIVORCED.....	4
	E. WIDOWED.....	5

H-2. Have you ever received...

	YES	NO
A. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?.....	1	2
B. Food stamps?.....	1	2
C. [If female] WIC supplemental nutrition benefits? .....	1	2
D. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), public assistance or public welfare payments? .....	1	2
E. Rent subsidy, such as Section 8 or public housing?.....	1	2

**If answered 2, DK or RF to H-2D, go to I-1; otherwise continue.**

H-3. How long has it been since you last received welfare payments? (Read responses and stop when R indicates that you are at correct response.)

A. 1 year or less, .....	1
B. More than 1 year but less than 2 years, .....	2
C. 2 to 3 years, or .....	3
D. More than 3 years?.....	4

H-4. About how long, in total, have you received welfare payments in your lifetime? (Read responses and stop when R indicates that you are at correct response.)

A. Less than 6 months, .....	1
B. 6 months to one year, .....	2
C. More than 1 year but less than 2 years, .....	3
D. 2 to 3 years, or.....	4
E. More than 3 years?.....	5



H-5. Why did you stop getting welfare payments? Was it because you...

	YES	NO
A. Were incarcerated? .....	1	2
B. Reached the time limit set by welfare? .....	1	2
C. Were discontinued for non-compliance? .....	1	2
D. Got a job? .....	1	2
E. Got a raise and earned too much money? .....	1	2
F. Got married? .....	1	2
G. Got child support? .....	1	2
H. Received too much income from a source other than a job or child support? .....	1	2
I. Moved? .....	1	2

**If answered 2 for H-5A through H-5I, go to H-6; otherwise go to I-1.**

H-6. Was there some other reason you stopped receiving welfare? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section I: Health Questions**

- I-1. In general, how would you rate your overall health? Would you say it is...
- A. Excellent, .....
  - B. Very good, .....
  - C. Good, .....
  - D. Fair, or .....
  - E. Poor? .....
- |   |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |
| 3 |
| 4 |
| 5 |

- I-2. Do you have any difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newspaper print even when wearing glasses or contact lenses, if you usually wear them?
- A. YES .....
  - B. NO .....
- |   |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |

- I-3. Do you have any difficulty hearing what is said in a normal conversation with another person even when using a hearing aid, if you usually wear one?
- A. YES .....
  - B. NO .....
- |   |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |

- I-4. Have you ever been diagnosed or identified as having a learning disability?
- A. YES .....
  - B. NO .....
- |   |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |

- I-5. Do you have any other health problem, impairment, or disability now that keeps you from participating fully in work, school, or other activities?
- A. YES .....
  - B. NO .....
- |   |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |

I-6. **[HAND CARD.]** Now I'd like to find out how you usually get information about health issues, such as diet, exercise, disease prevention, or a specific disease or health condition. How much information about health issues do you get from...

Would you say...

	A lot	Some	A little	or	None
A. Newspapers? .....	1	2	3		4
B. Magazines? .....	1	2	3		4
C. Radio and television? .....	1	2	3		4
D. Books or brochures? .....	1	2	3		4
E. Talking to health care professionals, such as doctors, nurses, therapists, or psychologists? .....	1	2	3		4
F. Family members, friends, other inmates or staff? .....	1	2	3		4

<p><b>HAND CARD</b></p> <p><b>4</b></p>
---

**Section J: Additional Demographics**

J-1. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- A. YES ..... 

1
2

 (J-3)
- B. NO .....

J-2. **[HAND CARD.]** Which of the groups on this card describes your Hispanic or Latino origin? Choose one or more.

<b>HAND CARD</b>
<b>8</b>

- A. MEXICAN, MEXICAN AMERICAN, OR CHICANO ..... 

1
2
3
4
5
- B. PUERTO RICAN OR PUERTO RICAN AMERICAN .....
- C. CUBAN OR CUBAN AMERICAN .....
- D. CENTRAL OR SOUTH AMERICAN.....
- E. OTHER HISPANIC OR LATINO BACKGROUND .....

J-3. **[HAND CARD.]** Which of the groups on this card best describes you? Choose one or more.

<b>HAND CARD</b>
<b>9</b>

- A. WHITE ..... 

1
2
3
4
5
- B. BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN.....
- C. ASIAN.....
- D. AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE .....
- E. NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER.....

**Interview: Code language in which interview was conducted. 1 = English; 2 = Spanish.**

---

***HAND CARD #1***

No difficulty

Some difficulty

Moderate difficulty

Great deal of difficulty

---

## **HAND CARD #2**

Less than high school (0-8 years)

Some high school (9-12 years but did not graduate)

GED or high school equivalency

High school graduate (12 years; accelerated or early graduate program)

Attended a vocational, trade, or business school after high school

College: less than 2 years

College: Associate's degree (A.A.)

College: two years or more, no degree

College graduate (B.S. or B.A.)

Postgraduate/no degree

---

## **HAND CARD #3**

Classes up to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade

High School classes, but did not receive a GED or high school

GED or high school equivalency

College classes, but did not receive a degree

College: Associate's Degree (A.A.)

College graduate (B.S. or B.A.)

Postgraduate classes

---

**HAND CARD #4**

A lot

Some

A little

None

---

## **HAND CARD #5**

Social Security or other pensions (e.g., veterans, Supplemental Security Income, disability)

Welfare, charity

Unemployment insurance compensation / workman's compensation

Family or friends

Illegal sources

Educational scholarship or grant



---

**HAND CARD #6**

Every day

A few times a week

Once a week

Less than once a week

Never

---

**HAND CARD #7**

Never married

Married

Living as married

Separated or divorced

Widowed

---

## ***HAND CARD #8***

Mexican, Mexican American or Chicano

Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American

Cuban or Cuban American

Central or South American

Other Hispanic or Latino background

---

**HAND CARD #9**

White

Black or African American

Asian

American Indian or Alaska Native

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

---

**HAND CARD #10**

Less Than Two Days

Two to Six Days

Seven to 10 Days

More Than 10 Days