What to Wear (or Not Wear)
On The Beach

Looking Back

Question: Do you think it is indecent for men to wear topless
bathing suits for swimming?

Yes 33%
No 67%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 9-14, 1939.

Question: ...Tell me whether you have ever done it or not...
gone swimming nude or "skinny dipping" with a mixed group?

Yes 12%
No 88%


Most Americans Aren’t Ready for the Riviera

Question: Do you feel that... nude bathing beaches are acceptable or unac-
ceptable at least for other people, even if not for yourself?

Acceptable 63%
Unacceptable 37%


Question: Have you ever gone swimming in the nude in mixed company?

Yes 33%
No 67%

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Troika Productions and
Lifetime Television, January 4-6, 1991.

Question: Have you ever gone topless on a beach?

Asked of women

Yes 7%
No 93%

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Troika Productions and
Lifetime Television, April 4-7, 1991.

Question: Do you think women should be permitted to sun-
bathe topless on public beaches if they choose to, or do you
think topless sunbathing on public beaches should be banned?

Should be permitted 34%
Should be banned 66%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 31-August 2, 1992.

Question: Would you, yourself, consider sunbathing topless
on a public beach if it were allowed?

Asked of women

Yes, would consider 7%
No, would not 93%
What to Wear (In School)
Dressing Up Finds Approval

**Question:** In some schools in the United States the way students dress is carefully supervised. Boys are required to wear coats and ties and girls are required to wear blouses and pleated skirts. Would you like to have the public schools in your community follow this practice, or not?

- Yes: 45%
- No: 49%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 20-25, 1962.

**Question:** As a way of maintaining proper discipline in public schools in your community, do you favor or oppose having a dress code—that is, a set of rules on what students can wear to school?

- Favor: 59%
- Oppose: 38%

**Source:** Survey by the New York Times, February 7-12, 1983.

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose requiring teachers to dress like professionals, with male teachers wearing jackets and ties to set an example for kids?

- Strongly/Somewhat favor: 56%
- Somewhat/Strongly oppose: 44%

**Source:** Survey by Public Agenda Foundation, August 8-24, 1994.

**Question:** How would you feel if your local public schools established a dress code requiring students to wear school uniforms—would you favor or oppose this policy?

- Favor: 64%
- Oppose: 31%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, March 15-17, 1996.

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose allowing your school district to require students in public schools to wear uniforms?

- Favor: 52%
- Oppose: 43%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News/New York Times, March 31-April 2, 1996.

**Question:** Would you approve or disapprove of the public schools in your community requiring all students to wear uniforms?

- Approve: 53%
- Disapprove: 44%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for Phi Delta Kappa, May 2-22, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think schools should require all students to wear school uniforms, make school uniforms optional, or do you think they shouldn’t have school uniforms?

- Require uniforms: 32%
- Make uniforms optional: 28%
- Shouldn’t have uniforms: 34%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Newsweek/Kaplan Educational Centers, March 5-10, 1998.