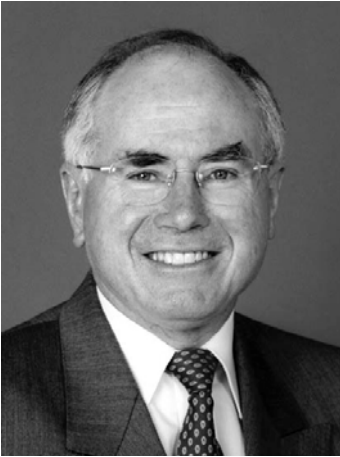


## Relaxed and comfortable?

# Typing John Howard



### Mary McGuiness

I think John Howard is an **ISTJ**. He uses words like 'practical' and 'experience' frequently, and tends to trust the past. I don't see much radical visioning happening.

He doesn't seem to worry much if people disagree with him. Stands firm on his decisions. Sometimes appears arrogant, and tends to shift responsibility to others when things go wrong (like WMDs and children overboard).

He also appears very security-conscious and traditional, which fits the Guardian temperament.

**Mary McGuiness** (ENFP) is the founder and principal of the Institute for Type Development, and a past national president of AusAPT.

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### Peter Geyer

Fairly easy actually: **ISTJ**.

There's a lot of material around on him, and I think some of the perspectives have clouded this aspect of personality. I thought the *Australian Story* episode of 2001 showed a quiet household closely ordered, in contrast to the more gregarious (and intellectually open) Beazley household.

Howard controls the agenda in politics through setting boundaries and choice of words. 'Reform' has never meant 'progress' anyway, apart from a brief time in the last two centuries, but for him it's getting things in the order he would like them. You could also make observations on his management style: close attention to detail, control of expression by his 'team.'

Now the detail has to do with strategy, not with ideas, as not many of those are thought out well, but they're defended closely. We need a different media from what we have now to unpack that.

He's the father of the nation—something he's grasped over time: people ask him an opinion on anything, feeding into that. I don't know how he got to be an expert on cricket, for instance, other than through position power, because he doesn't actually know much at all.

He also won't retire (unless forced). I think that's a feature of **ISTJ**—at least, how he expresses it. I don't think he should retire, actually. There's no reason to quit when he's in charge, like now. This is going to be an extraverted thinking election, which will suit him, unless the public's feelings get aroused about some value or other, and we're not good at that.

### Post-election update ▶

I think that the Australian Government's response to the tsunami disaster has been an excellent example of **ISTJ** compassion: practical, organised, no rhetoric or regional political advantage.

Howard's recent foray at Darvos indicates a person who's willing to see himself as part of a peer group, as someone who's been around a long time.

Howard is a really good example of an **ISTJ**, I think, in that we can see the functions and development operating, as well as the unconscious, partly because he's grown into the job.

**Peter Geyer** (INTP) is a life member and past national vice-president of AusAPT, and former editor of the *Australian Journal of Psychological Type*.

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### Philip L Kerr

with a little help from my friends

### Ian Ball

### Peter Geyer

### Martin Goldup

### Mary McGuiness

**John Howard** has now had 9 years as Prime Minister, second only to his role model, Robert Menzies.

In the November 2004 *Review*, **Philip L Kerr** typed Menzies as an **ISTJ**.

For a fix on Howard's type, during the lead-up to last October's election Phil consulted four leading members of the Australian type community.

It's reassuring when four typewatchers all agree on a type—and more so when one of the typewatchers is that type.

By the year 2000 I would like to see an Australian nation that feels comfortable and relaxed . . .

John Howard, 1996

Howard's first term was characterised by a back-to-basics approach . . . a move toward contemporary practicality ahead of future-gazing.

Matthew Franklin

I am criticised for using the word 'practical', but I will keep using it.

John Howard

It's not what we want, but it's what *he* wants.

Syd Hickman, on Howard's win in the republic referendum

It's far better to have total control over something . . .

John Howard

You see different versions of John Howard. When he *knows* people, he exhibits a great deal of empathy.

Gerard Henderson

We will decide who comes to this country, and the circumstances in which they come!

John Howard

## Ian Ball

Off the top of the head, I would think **ISTJ**.

He doesn't seem extraverted in his attitude and behaviour, and always looks a bit uncomfortable in the photo opportunities.

The S is less obvious to me, but I don't see him as the big picture man—I think that stuff comes from his advisors. Perhaps it's the legal training, looking at the finer points of detail.

The T is fairly obvious from his comments. Rarely is there any 'humanity' in the decision-making process: it seems to be, 'What is the party line, and how can I follow it?'

I think his keep-fit walk each morning and other favoured routines convince me of a J preference. He likes an orderly lifestyle.

Dr **Ian Ball** (ISTJ) is a life member of AusAPT. He manages the Psychological Type Research Unit at Deakin University.

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## Martin Goldup

John Howard is predictably an **ISTJ**.

He is predictably a traditionalist. His view on the family home with the white picket fence (all the way back to the 1950s) reflects his nostalgia of a bygone 'golden era.'

He is predictable in his choice of backing traditional allies. Whether or not the Iraq situation was avoidable, the electorate will not punish him for his judgment on the matter. Whether he knew in advance, the 'children overboard' affair is effectively a storm in a teacup. And JWH knows this.

His strategy is to appeal to the electorate on matters such as the economy, security and employment. These are very much traditional values.

### Post-election update ▶

I'm willing to include Howard's gracious acceptance of victory. He comes across as a dependable and responsible person who has the best interests of the nation at heart. (*His 'best interests' may not*

concur with everyone else's idea of what is in the best interest, but that's the nature of individual personality.)

Howard's immediate response to the Asia tsunami and the commitment to extend significant aid to Indonesia is a highlight of his leadership, and therefore worthy of inclusion.

His willingness to stand up in front of his counterparts in the European forum and make his point, very strongly, to the cause of democracy in Iraq clearly shows his commitment to what he believes is right.

I must confess my view of him has risen significantly since the election.

**Martin Goldup** (IXTP) has served on AusAPT's Victoria & Tasmania regional committee, and as editor of the regional newsletter, *Talking Type*.

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## Conclusion

Mary	Peter	Ian	Martin
ISTJ	ISTJ	ISTJ	ISTJ

### An open invitation from Martin Goldup

While we may have consensus on John Howard's type, there are other significant players on the scene: **Kim Beazley**, **Peter Costello**, **Julia Gillard**, **Kevin Rudd** (a future ALP leader?), and a long shot for the future, **Malcolm Turnbull**.

I'd like to know **your thoughts** on the types of these and other political figures. It might make an interesting follow-up article. Let us know what you think at [AusTypeReview@aol.com](mailto:AusTypeReview@aol.com).

*The quiet but annoying voice of reason—kind of a whining little Johnny Howard at the back of my mind—kept nagging at me like a ratbastard to take the money and run, to be comfortable and relaxed with what I already had.*

John Birmingham 1997,  
*The Tasmanian Babes Fiasco*