2.2.1.7 [bsa89] Specimen answer for homework exercises   [5 December 2010]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes, 1989

For clarity and ease of understanding SPSS commands are separated by blank lines and shown in **dark blue**. Keywords are shown in **dark red**. The specifications for you to type in are inset more than is strictly necessary and shown in **light brown** (it's quicker in lower case and with abbreviated commands, but use the full syntax if you prefer). You may find it quicker to type out the syntax in Word first, but don't use tabs, uses spaces. Also SPSS sometimes misinteprets primes (single quotes) treating them as "intelligent" quotes which SPSS treats as errors. SPSS doesn't mind what font or colour you use. **Don't forget the full stops (periods) !**

Exercise 1:

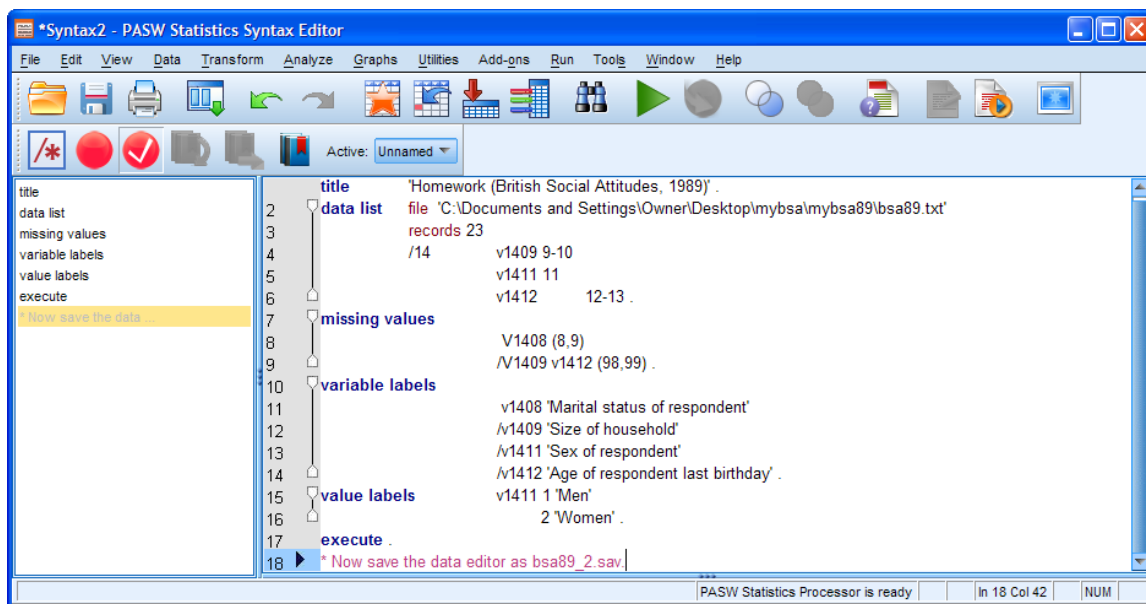**title**   **'Homework (British Social Attitudes, 1989)' .**

data list   **file 'C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\mybsa\mybsa89\bsa89.txt'**
            records 23
            /14   v1409 9-10
                v1411 11
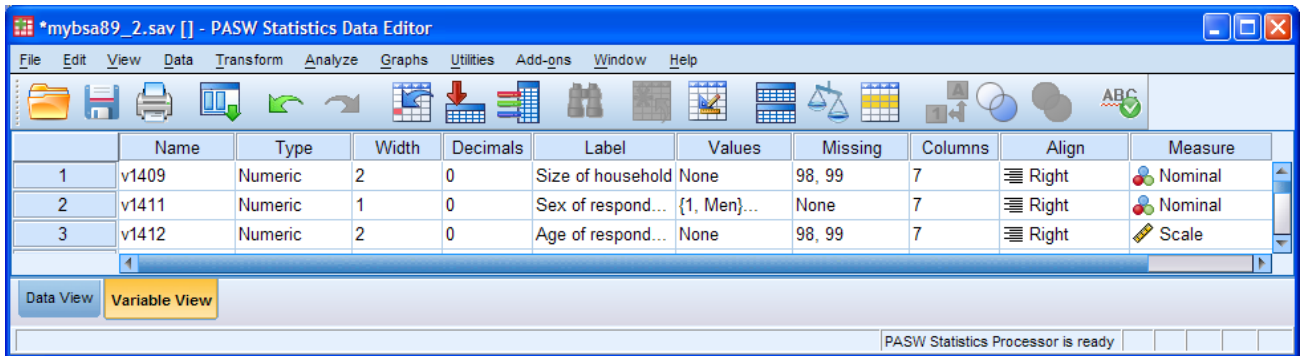   **v1412 12-13 .**

missing values
            /V1409 v1412 (98,99) .

var labels
            v1409 'Size of household'
            /v1411 'Sex of respondent'
            /v1412 'Age of respondent last birthday' .

value labels   **v1411 1 'Men'**
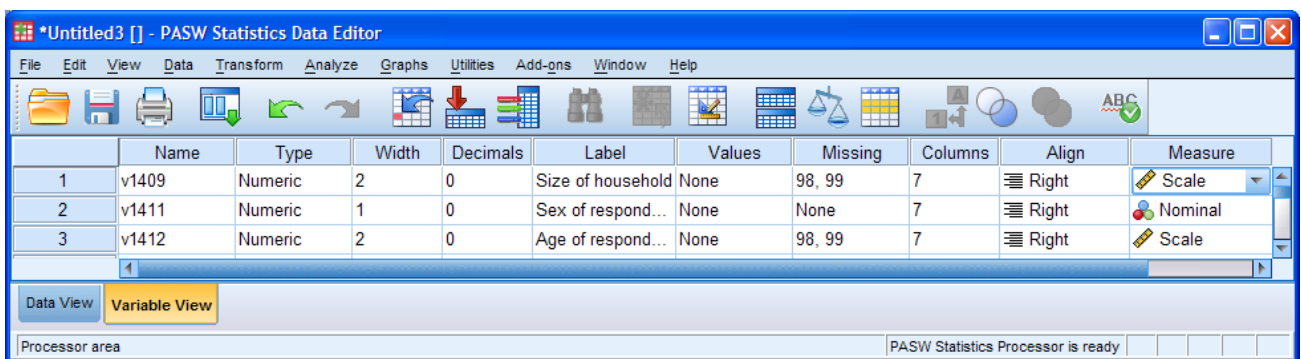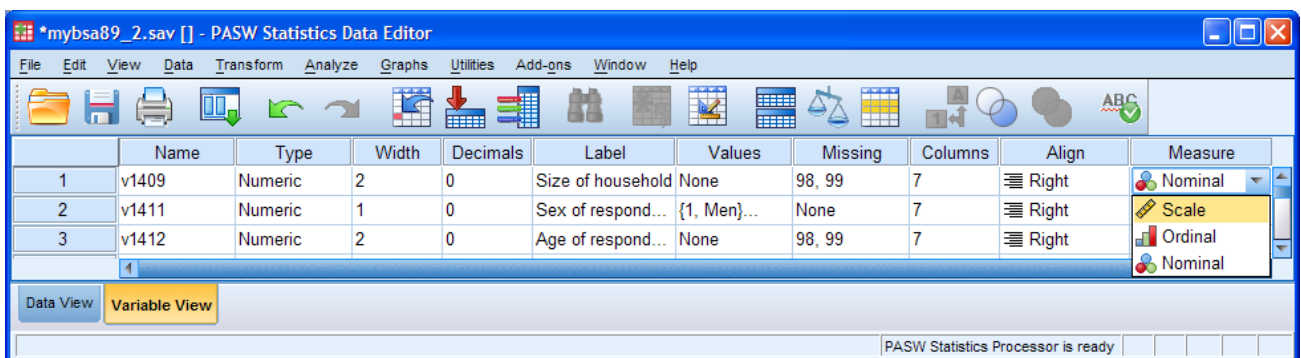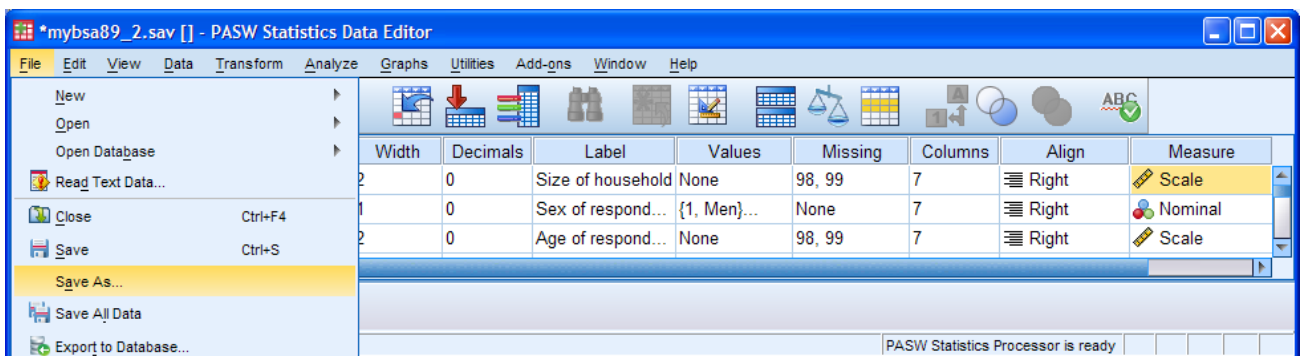   **2 'Women' .**
execute .

Run > All

Size of household **v1409** is shown as 🔵 Nominal (because there are fewer values than the SPSS default) but it is actually Scale. To change it, click on the cell, and then click on 📏 Scale .
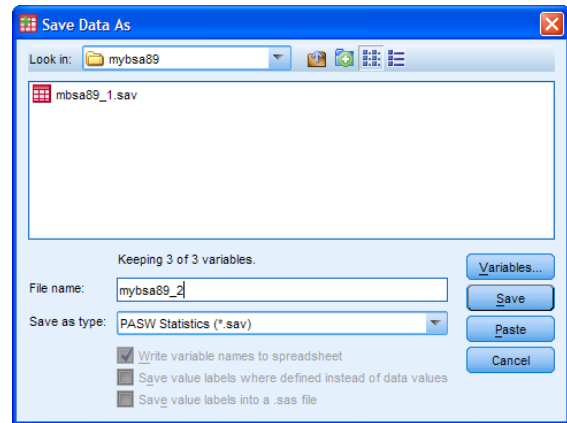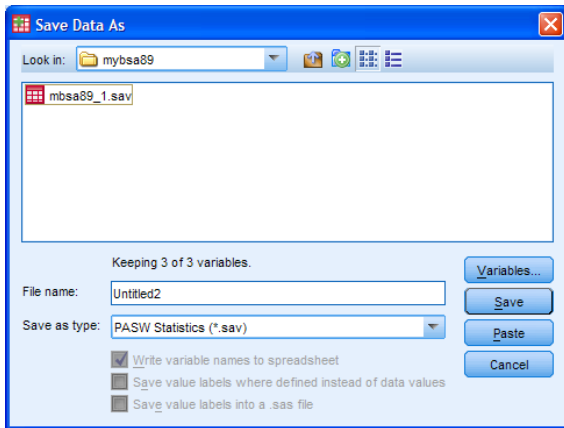

Save the data editor before proceeding to the analysis.

Click on the or the save icon 💾 or on File > Save As . . .
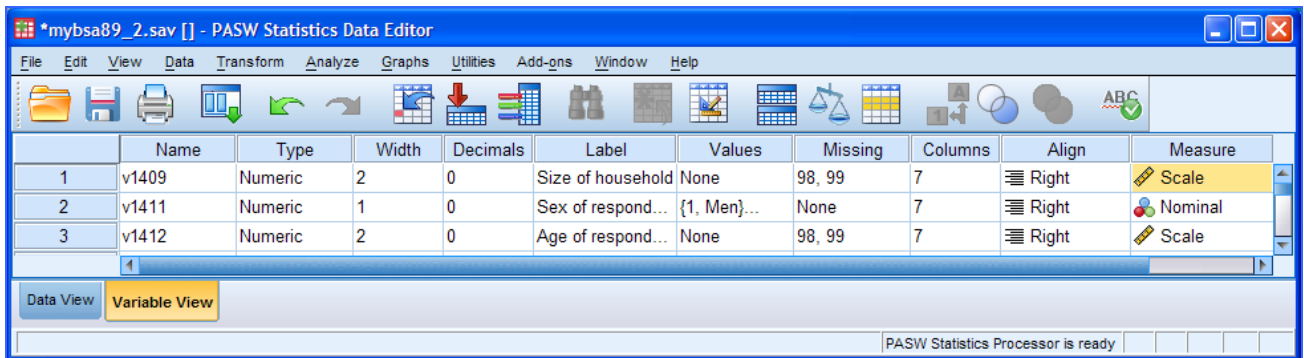

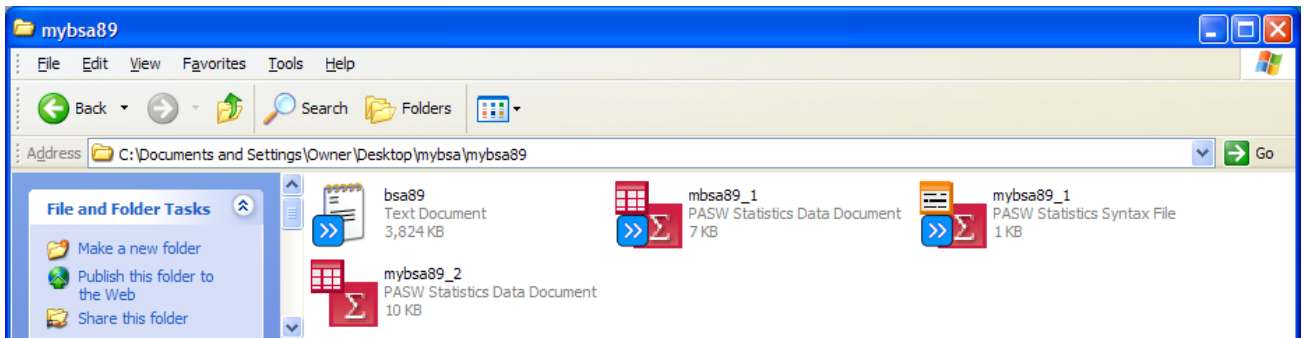Navigate to folder **mybsa89**: . . write **mybsa89_2** in the File name box:

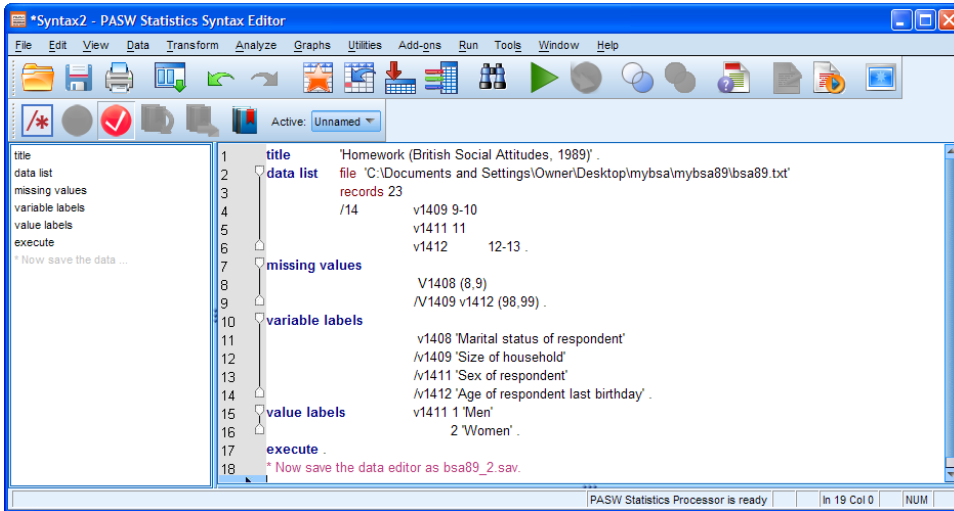Make sure PASW Statistics (*.sav) is displayed in the Save as type: box and click on Save

The data editor name will change from *Untitled2 to mybsa89_2.sav

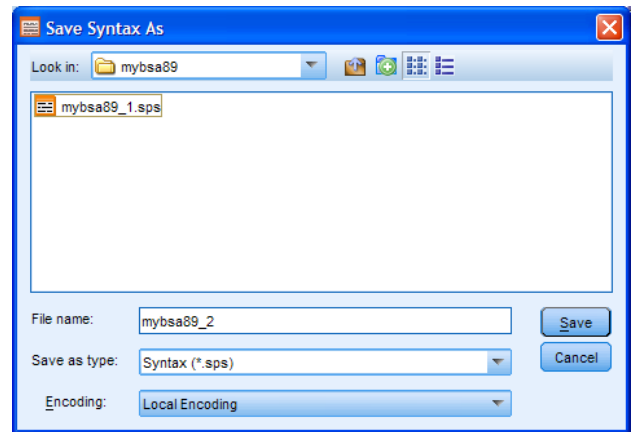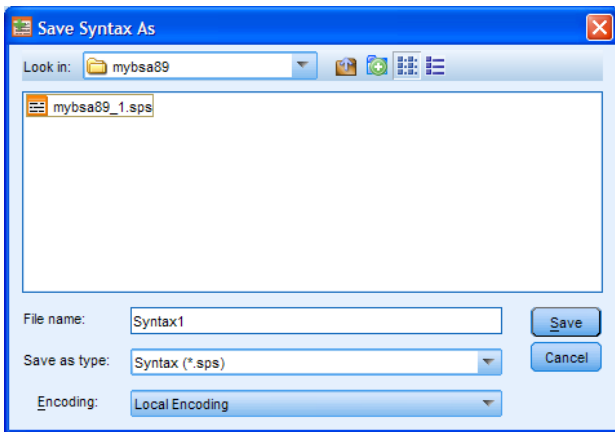. . . and the saved file will apear in folder **mybsa89**

Now save your syntax file: go back to your syntax file:

Click on **File** > **Save As . .** or on the save icon :
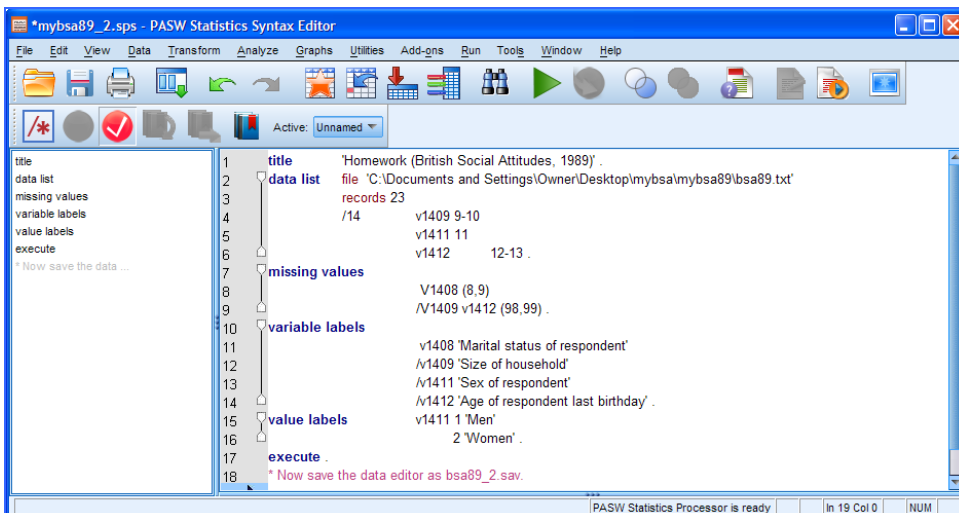
Navigate to folder **mybsa89**:   . . write **mybsa89_2** in the File name box:

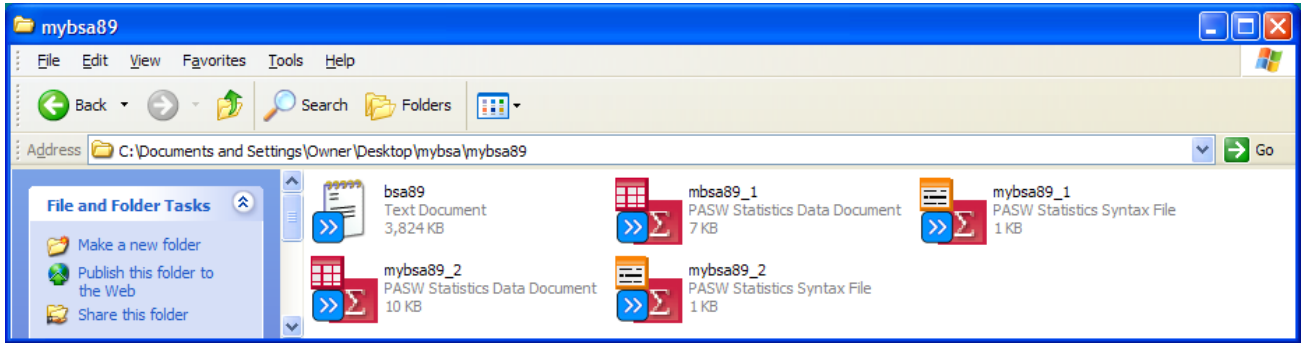

Make sure Syntax (*.sps) is displayed in the Save as type: box and click on Save
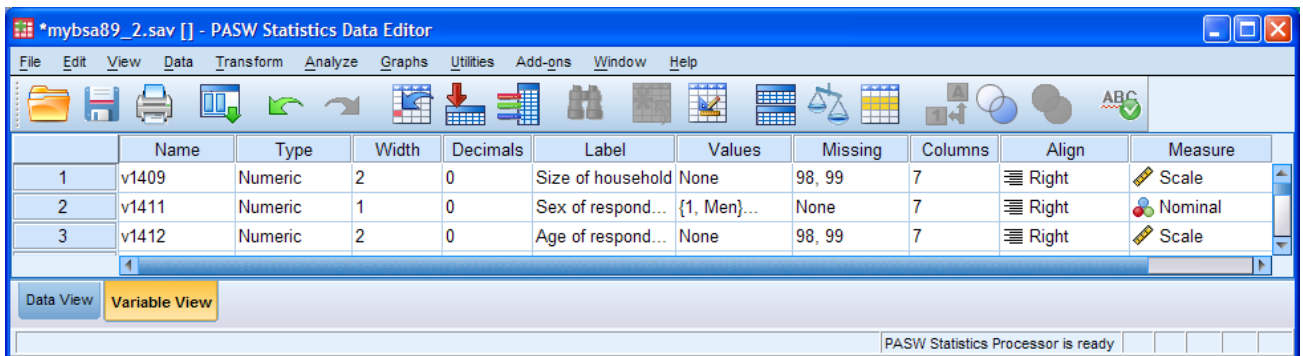
The syntax editor header will change to mybsa86_2.sps
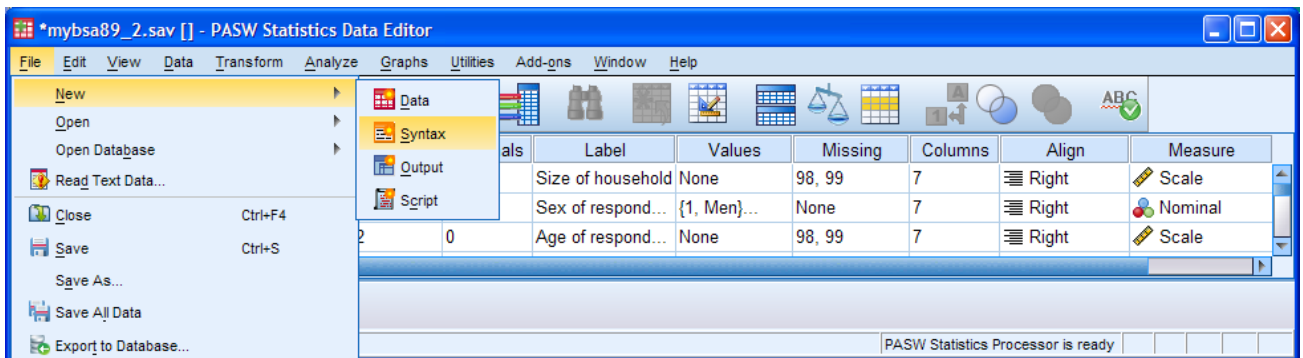
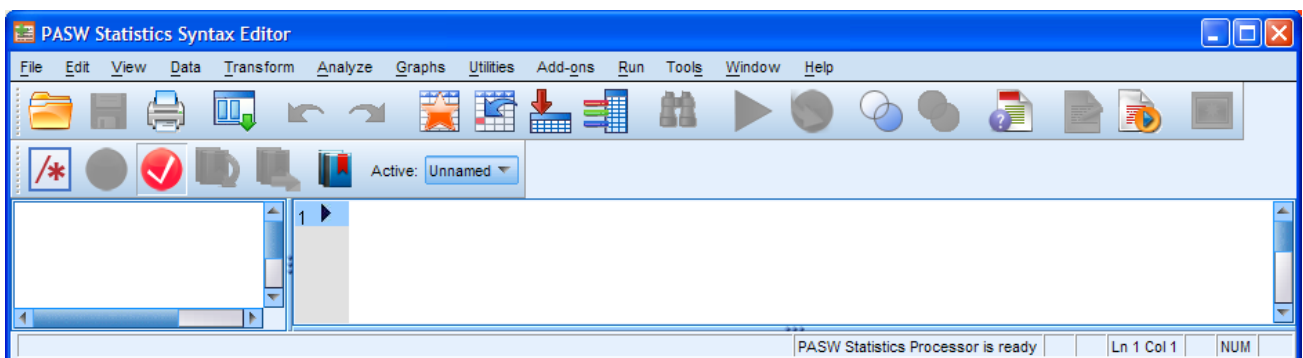. . . and file **mybsa89_2.sps** will appear in folder **mybsa89** :
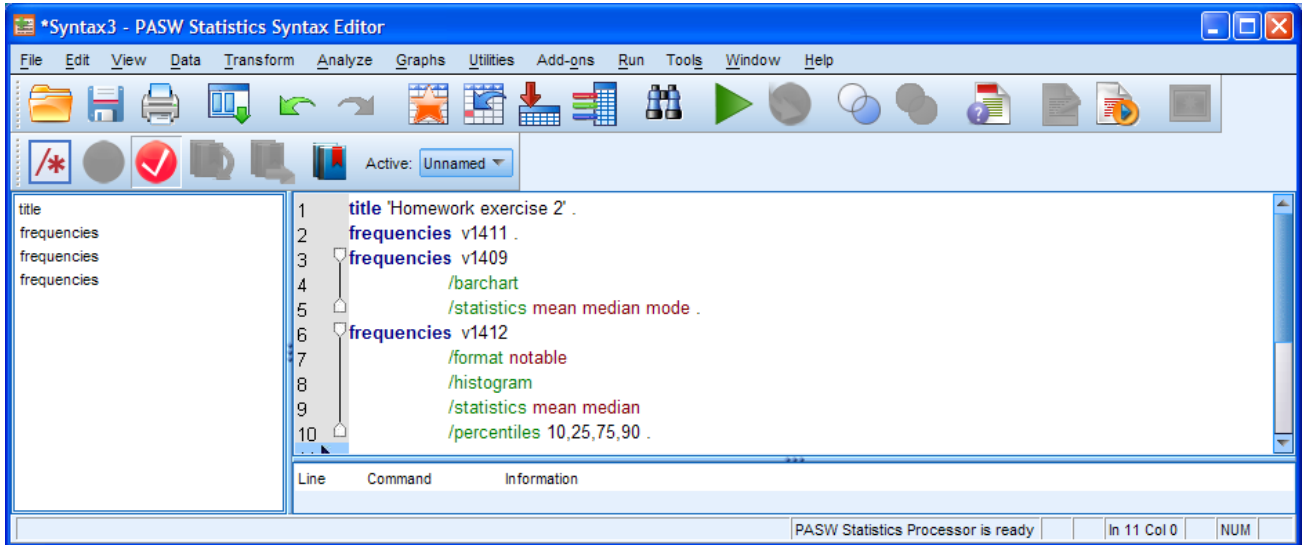

Exercise 2:

Click on File > New > Syntax

.. . to open a new syntax file:

. . . and type in the following:

title 'Homework exercise 2' .
frequencies v1411 .
frequencies v1409
      /barchart
      /statistics mean median mode .
frequencies v1412
      /format notable
      /histogram
      /statistics mean median
      /percentiles 10,25,75,90 .

Click on Run > All

The output will be:

frequencies v1411 .

Statistics

Sex of respondent

N	Valid	3025
	Missing	0

Sex of respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Men	1393	46.0	46.0	46.0
	Women	1632	54.0	54.0	100.0
	Total	3025	100.0	100.0	

frequencies v1409
        /barchart
        /statistics mean median mode .

Statistics

Size of household

N	Valid	3025
	Missing	0
Mean		2.88
Median		3.00
Mode		2

Size of household

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	406	13.4	13.4	13.4
	2	989	32.7	32.7	46.1
	3	669	22.1	22.1	68.2
	4	621	20.5	20.5	88.8
	5	250	8.3	8.3	97.0
	6	63	2.1	2.1	99.1
	7	18	.6	.6	99.7
	8	6	.2	.2	99.9
	10	1	.0	.0	99.9
	11	1	.0	.0	100.0
	12	1	.0	.0	100.0
	Total	3025	100.0	100.0	

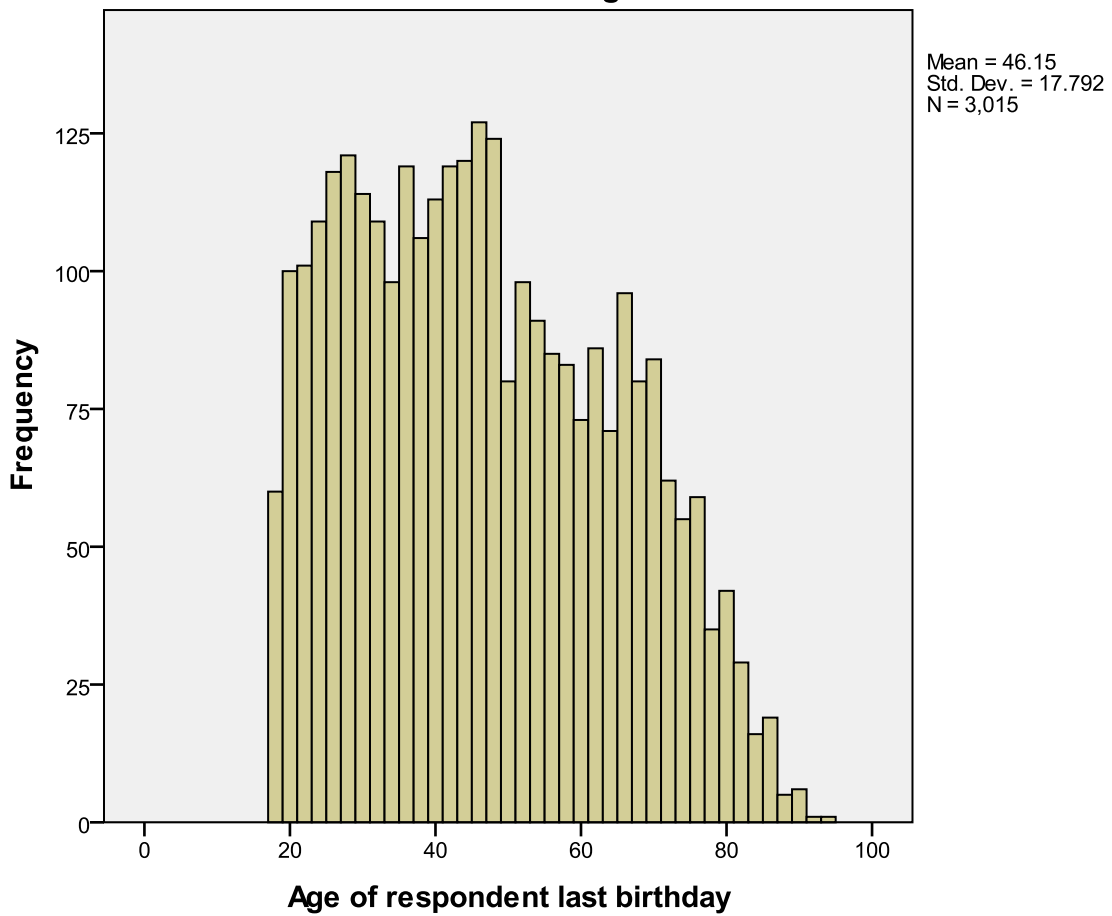**Size of household**
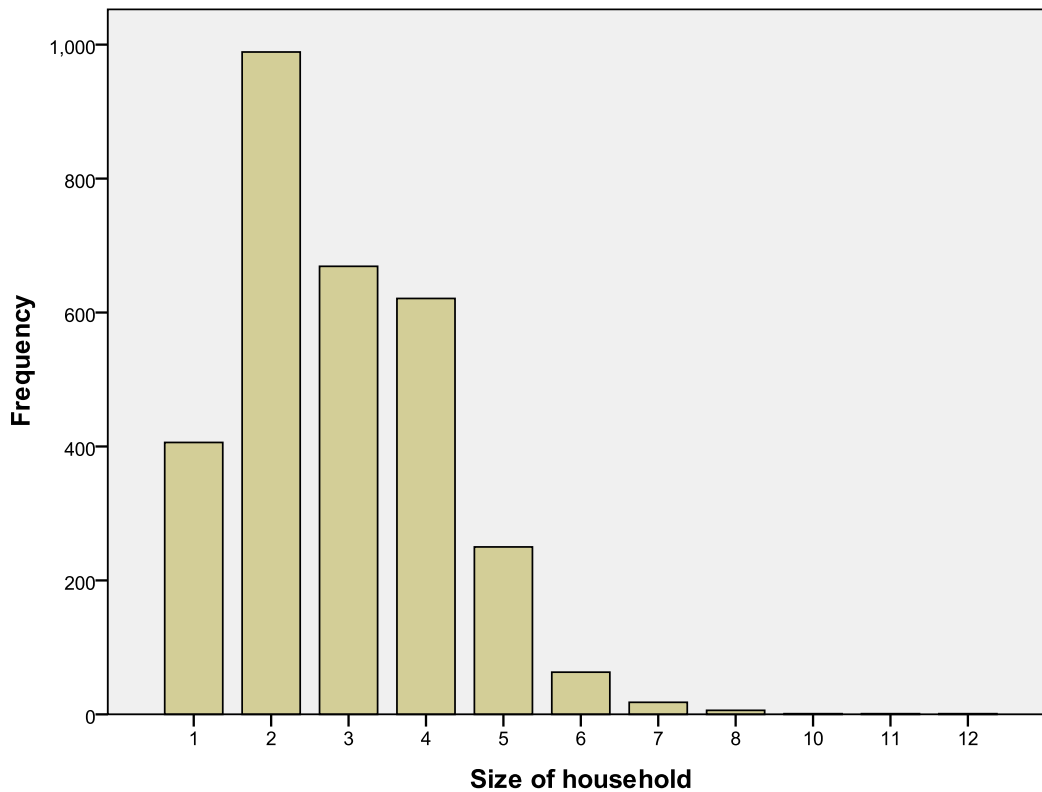
frequencies v1412
        /format notable
        /histogram
        /statistics mean median
        /percentiles 10,25,75,90 .

Statistics

Age of respondent last birthday

N	Valid	3015
	Missing	10
Mean		46.15
Median		45.00
Percentiles	10	23.00
	25	31.00
	75	60.00
	90	71.40

Histogram

Mean = 46.15
Std. Dev. = 17.792
N = 3,015

Age of respondent last birthday
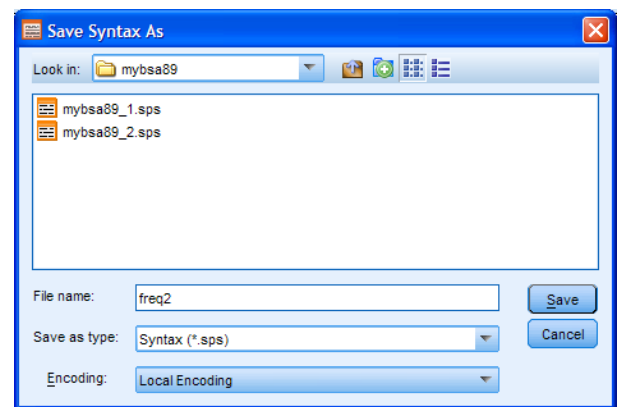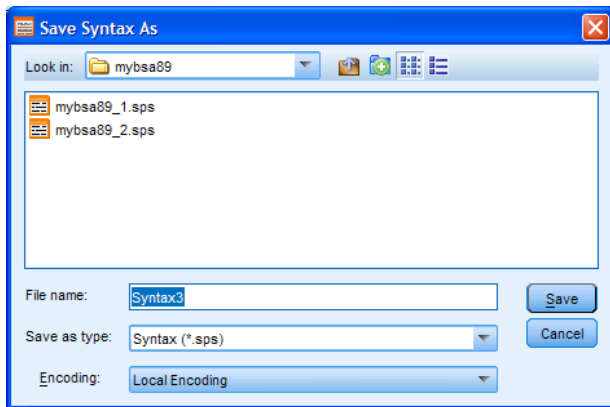
Now save the syntax file. Click on the save icon 🖫 or on File > Save As . . .
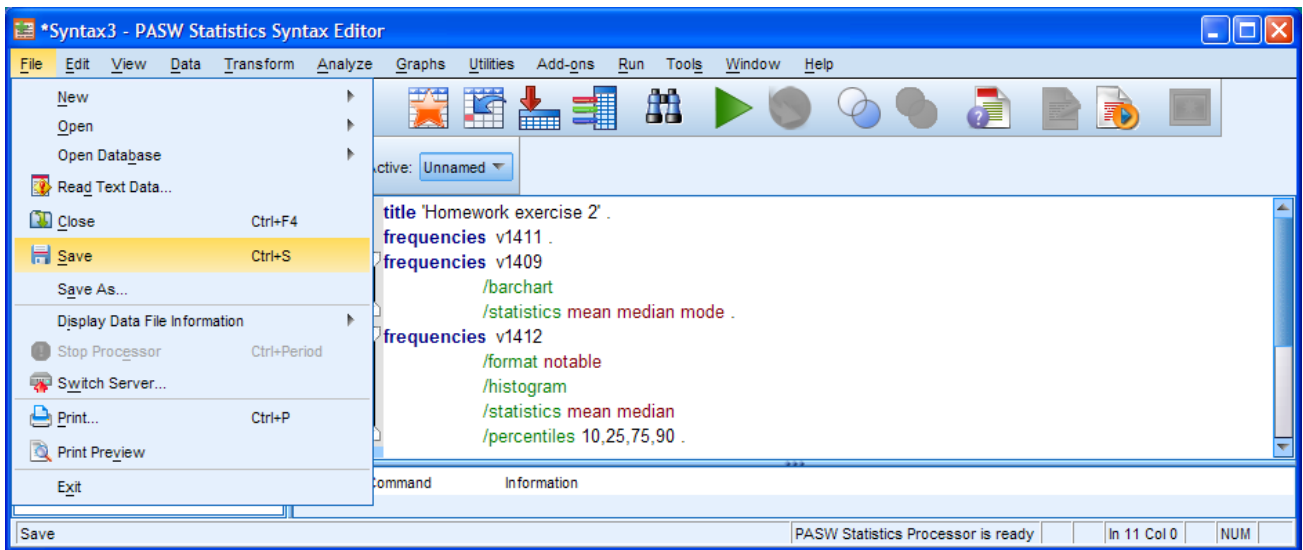
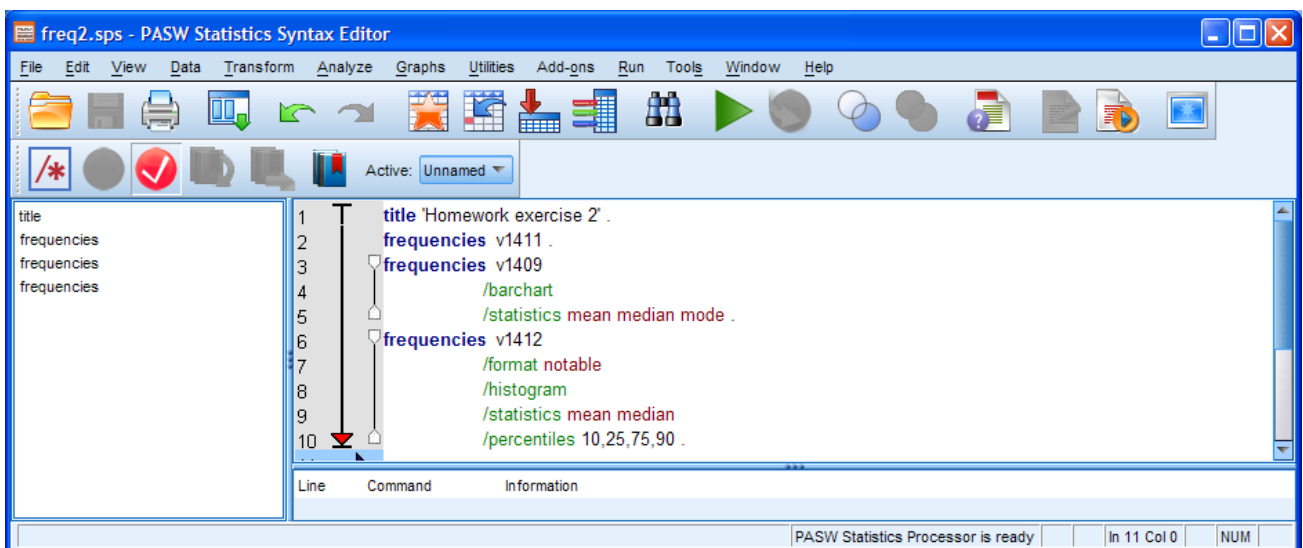

Navigate to folder **mybsa89**:   . . write **freq2** in the File name box:
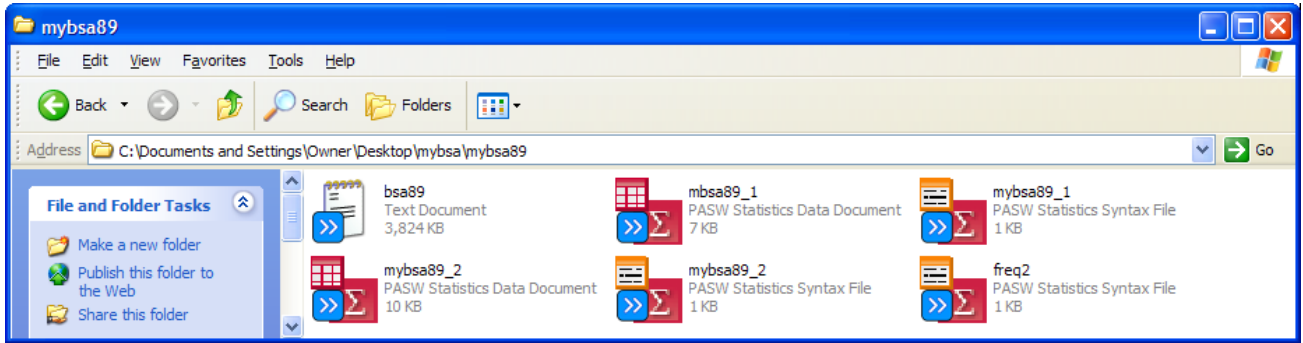

Make sure ☐ Syntax (*.sps) is displayed in the Save as type: box and click on Save

The syntax editor header will change to freq2.sps

. . . and file **freq2.sps** will be saved to folder **mybsa89**:

If you want to save the output file, save it as **freq2.spo**

This way, all files relating to the same run will have the same file name, but be differentiated by their extensions.

If you struggled to do the above exercises, go back and do them again, and again.

Practice makes perfect and you need to be able to open, write, execute and save files almost as second nature, otherwise you will always have problems with the mechanics and never get to grips with the logic and theory underpinning the analyses you will be doing later.

End of session:

Next session: **2.2.1.8 [bsa89] Supplementary exercise - combining your saved files.**

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