

Block 2: Analysing one variable**2.2: Interval and ratio variables**2.2.1.1 [myclass] Frequencies for interval variables

[11 pages]

Exemplar: Pre-course survey of interests and experience.
 Task: What is the age distribution of the sample and what is its average age? What shape does the distribution have? Where are the cutting points to divide the sample into three approximately equal groups?
 Folder: **myclass**
 File: [myclass3.sav](#)
 Variables: age
 SPSS: **FREQUENCIES**

2.2.1.2 [bsa86] Exercise - Reading in data for interval variables

[13 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1986 (facsimile questions)
 Question: What is the distribution of the number of people in a household, including the respondent? What is the average number of persons per household? What is the age distribution of the sample and what is its average age? What shape does the distribution have? Where are the cutting points for the oldest 10% and 25% and the youngest 10% and 25%?
 Tasks: Read in raw data for number of people in a household and age of the respondent. Save contents of data editor in a ***.sav** file and of syntax editor in a ***.sps** file.
 Folder: **mybsa86**
 File: [bsa86.txt](#) (raw data from the 1986 British Social Attitudes survey)
 New files: [mybsa86_3.sps](#)
[mybsa86_3.sav](#)
 SPSS commands¹ used:

TITLE
DATA LIST
EXECUTE
LIST

¹ General formats:

TITLE '<Any text>' .
DATA LIST **FILE =** '<location and name of external data file>'
RECORDS = <number of records per case>
 / <record> <varname(s)> <column(s)> <varname(s)> <column(s)> ~ ~ ~
 / <record> <varname(s)> <column(s)> ~ ~ ~ .
EXECUTE . [Executes all pending operations.]
LIST **/CASES** <n> .

2.2.1.3 [bsa86] Extending your data dictionary

[10 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1986
File: [mybsa86 3.sav](#)
Task: Add missing values, variable labels and value labels for **v1508** (Number of persons in household) and **v1512** (Age of respondent). Save contents of data editor in a ***.sav** file and syntax editor in a ***.sps** file.
New files: [mybsa86 4.sps](#)
[mybsa86 4.sav](#)
Commands²: **TITLE**
MISSING VALUES
VARIABLE LABELS

2.2.1.4 [bsa86] Exercise - Frequencies for interval variables

[3 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1986
Task: 1: What is the distribution of the number of people in a household, including the respondent? What is the average number of persons per household?
2: What is the age distribution of the sample and what is its average age? What shape does the distribution have? Where are the cutting points for the oldest 10% and 25% and the youngest 10% and 25%?
File: [mybsa86 4.sav](#)
Commands: **TITLE**
FREQUENCIES

2.2.1.5 [bsa86] Specimen answer for frequencies exercise

[8 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1986
File: [mybsa86 4.sps](#)
Commands: **TITLE**
FREQUENCIES

² General format:

TITLE '<Any text you like>' .
MISSING VALUES <variable list> (<value list>)
 <variable list> (<value list>)
 ~ ~ ~ ~

where <value list> can be:

- (i) up to three numeric or alphanumeric values enclosed in round brackets and separated by commas or blank spaces
eg:

missing values age (0,98,99)

- (ii) for numeric values only, a **range** of the form:

<value> **THRU** <value>
LOWEST THRU <value>
<value> **THRU HIGHEST**

. . . enclosed in round brackets, eg:

missing values age (0, 98 **thru highest**)

VARIABLE LABELS <varname> ' <label > '
 /<varname> ' <label > '
 / ~ ~ ~ ~

2.2.1.6 [bsa89] Homework exercises

[4 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1989
Questions: 1. What is the distribution of the number of people in a household, including the respondent? What is the average number of persons per household?
2. What is the age distribution of the sample and what is its average age? What shape does the distribution have? Where are the cutting points for the oldest 10% and 25% and the youngest 10% and 25%?
3. How many men are there, and how many women?
Folder: **mybsa89**
File: [bsa89.txt](#)

2.2.1.7 [bsa89] Specimen answer for homework exercises

[10 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1989
Folder: **mybsa89**
Commands: **title**
data list
missing values
var labels
value labels
execute .
New files: [mybsa89_2.sps](#)
[mybsa89_2.sav](#)
freq2.sps

[Brand new: bit more housekeeping]

2.2.1.8 [bsa89] Supplementary exercise - combining your saved files

[6 pages]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes, 1989
Task: Combine previously saved files into a single file: save the combined file as **mybsa89_3.sav**
Files: [mybsa89_1.sav](#)
[mybsa89_2.sav](#)
Command: **MATCH FILES** [not used as GUI is quicker]
GUI menu: **Data > Merge Files > Add Variables:**
New files: [mybsa89_3.sps](#)
[mybsa89_3.sav](#)