## British Social Attitudes 2009 - 2014: Multiple response questions

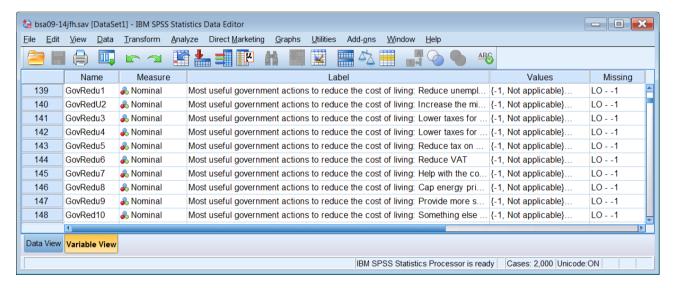
Some questions allow for more than one choice of answer from a list: the data for these have been entered as 0 *Not mentioned* and 1 *Mentioned* for each item in the list, even if respondents only picked out one item. For example:

If the government were going to take action to reduce the cost of living, which of the following do you think would be the most useful actions to take? Please choose up to three actions.

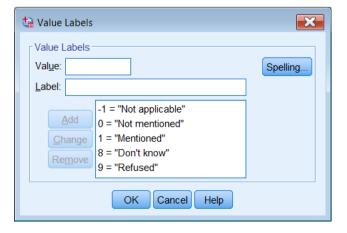
[CARD B11 INTERVIEWER: CODE UP TO 3] Multicoded (Maximum of 3 codes)

# [Variable name in SPSS file]

1 Reduce unemployment [GovRedu1] 2 Increase the minimum wage [GovRedu2] 3 Lower taxes for everyone [GovRedu3] 4 Lower taxes for people on low incomes [GovRedu4] 5 Reduce tax on petrol [GovRedu5] 6 Reduce VAT [GovRedu6] 7 Help with the cost of childcare [GovRedu7] 8 Cap energy prices [GovRedu8] [GovRedu9] 9 Provide more social housing 10 Something else (PLEASE SAY WHAT) [GovRed10]



The variable labels are **far too long**, but I will leave them alone for now. The value labels for each variable in the set are:



Variables such as [GovRedu1] to [GovRedu10] will rarely be analysed individually: they can be analysed together using SPSS command MULT RESPONSE (see my Multiple response tutorials).

In many surveys, the items in such questions would be coded from 1 to 10 (and only take up three variable names) but in this case they are effectively dichotomous (and take up ten names). Although they have values 0 "Not mentioned" 8 "Don't know" and 9 "Refused" the only value of interest is 1 "Mentioned". Rather than tabulating each item individually, they can be analysed with MULT RESPONSE in dichotomous mode or by defining them as a multiple response set with MRSET. (from the GUI: Data > Define Multiple Response Set)

For example **MULT RESPONSE** in dichotomous mode:

mult resp groups
govred 'Most useful actions to reduce cost of living'
(govredu1 to govred10 (1))
/freq govred.

		Resp	Responses	
		N	Percent	of Cases
govred Most useful actions to reduce cost of living <sup>a</sup>	GovRedu1 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Reduce unemployment	1149	14.2%	40.2%
	GovRedU2 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Increase the minimum wage	1278	15.8%	44.7%
	GovRedu3 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Lower taxes for everyone	551	6.8%	19.3%
	GovRedu4 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Lower taxes for people on low incomes	961	11.9%	33.6%
	GovRedu5 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Reduce tax on petrol	870	10.8%	30.4%
	GovRedu6 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Reduce VAT	747	9.2%	26.1%
	GovRedu7 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Help with the cost of childcare	750	9.3%	26.2%
	GovRedu8 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Cap energy prices	1163	14.4%	40.7%
	GovRedu9 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Provide more social housing	530	6.6%	18.5%
	GovRed10 Most useful government actions to reduce the cost of living: Something else (PLEASE SAY WHAT)	91	1.1%	3.2%
Total		8090	100.0%	282.8%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

See what I mean about the labels? All the key information is at the end (*my highlights in red*). The table would be much clearer and easier to read if the repeated text was deleted altogether.

Another question asked about priorities for extra government spending, but in this case the priorities were ranked as first and second choice.

Here are some items of government spending. Which of them, if any, would be your highest priority for **extra** spending? Please read through the whole list before deciding.

- 1 Education
- 2 Defence
- 3 Health
- 4 Housing
- 5 Public transport
- 6 Roads
- 7 Police and prisons
- 8 Social security benefits
- 9 Help for industry
- 10 Overseas aid
- 11 (None of these)

And which next?

#### The data look like this:

640	spendb1	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Education	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
641	spendb2	🚜 Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Defence	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
642	spendb3	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Health	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
643	spendb4	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Housing	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
644	spendb5	🚜 Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Public transport	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
645	spendb6	🚜 Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Roads	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
646	spendb7	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Police and prisons	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
647	spendb8	🚜 Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Social security benefits	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
648	spendb9	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Help for industry	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
649	spendb10	Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: Overseas aid	{0, not mentioned}	LO1
650	spendb11	🚜 Nominal	DV priority for extra Govt spending: (None of these)	{0, not mentioned}	LO1

Variables such as [spendb1] to [spendb11] will rarely be analysed individually: they can be analysed together using SPSS command MULT RESPONSE in dichotomous mode or by defining them as a multiple response set with MRSET. Although they have values 0 "Not mentioned" 8 "Don't know" and 9 "Refusal" the only value of interest is 1 "Mentioned".

I also find the labels far too long, but will leave them alone for now.

For example **MULT RESPONSE** in dichotomous mode:

mult resp groups
priorities 'Priorities for extra Govt spending'
(spendb1 to spendb11 (1))
/freq priorities.

### priorities Frequencies

		Resp		
			Perce	Percent
		N	nt	of Cases
priorities	spendb1 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Education	5537	29.7%	59.2%
Priorities for extra Govt spending <sup>a</sup>	spendb2 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Defence	835	4.5%	8.9%
	spendb3 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Health	6829	36.6%	73.0%
	spendb4 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Housing	1590	8.5%	17.0%
	spendb5 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Public transport	558	3.0%	6.0%
	spendb6 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Roads	694	3.7%	7.4%
	spendb7 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Police and prisons	827	4.4%	8.8%
	spendb8 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Social security benefits	515	2.8%	5.5%
	spendb9 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Help for industry	1113	6.0%	11.9%
	spendb10 DV priority for extra Govt spending: Overseas aid	59	0.3%	0.6%
	spendb11 DV priority for extra Govt spending: (None of these)	88	0.5%	0.9%
Total		18645	100.0 %	199.4%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

## Nominal (Binary): Multiple response sets

I have identified the following sets of variables as multiple response: numbers refer to the row position in the combined file.

(Draft only: John F Hall 5 April 2016)