British Social Attitudes 2009 to 2014: Variable and value labels

(**Draft only**: John F Hall 5 April 2016)

Variable labels are another problem.

	N	Min	Max
WelfHelp The welfare state encourages people to stop helping each other?**B2.42a**	14666	1	**9**
MoreWelf Govt should spend more money on welfare benfits for the poor? **B2.42b**	14666	1	**9**
UnempJob Most unemployed could find a job if they really wanted one? **B2.42c**	14666	1	**9**
SocHelp Many people who get social security don't really deserve any help? **B2.42d**	14666	1	**9**
DoleFidl Most people on the dole are fiddling in one way or another? **B2.42e**	14666	1	**9**
WelfFeet If welfare benefits weren't so generous, people would learn to stand on own feet? **B2.42f**	14666	1	**9**
DamLives Cutting welfare benefits would damage too many people's lives? **B2.42g**	14666	1	**9**
ProudWlf The creation of the welfare state is one of GB's proudest achievements? **B2.42h**	14666	1	**9**
Redistrb Government should redistribute income? **A2.65aB2.43aC2.35a**	16641	1	**9**
BigBusnN Big business benefits owners at workers' expense? **A2.65bB2.43bC2.35b**	16641	1	**9**
Wealth 'Working people not get fair share nation''s wealth? **A2.65cB2.43cC2.35c**	16641	1	**9**
RichLaw One law for rich and one for poor? **A2.65dB2.43dC2.35d**	16641	1	**9**
Indust4 Boss get better of employees if gets the chance? **A2.65eB2.43eC2.35e**	16641	1	**9**
PubOwnSt Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership? **C2.35f**	1017	1	**9**
TradVals Young people not enough respect for GB values? **A2.66aB2.44aC2.36a**	16641	1	**9**
StifSent Criminals given stiffer sentences? **A2.66bB2.44bC2.36b**	16641	1	**9**
DeathApp Some death penalty is the most approriate sentence? **A2.66cB2.44cC2.36c**	16641	1	**9**
Obey Schools should teach children to obey authority? **A2.66dB2.44dC2.36d**	16641	1	**9**
WrongLaw Always obey law, even if particular law is wrong? **A2.66eB2.44eC2.36e**	16641	1	**9**
Censor Censorship films+mag is necessary to uphold morals **A2.66fB2.44fC2.36f**	16641	1	**9**
Valid N (listwise)	0		

The example above (from file **bsa2009-2014.sav**) has question numbers **at the end** (derived from the 2009 wave) but these will be different for every year and some years do not include question numbers in the labels.
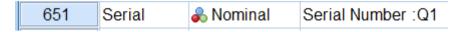
One way round this would be to take a file without question numbers (**bsa2014.sav**) and then add data from other waves in reverse year order. The resultant SPSS file will then only take labels and other metadata from the first file specified. By reversing the order in which the files are merged the question numbers are lost and the file can then be saved with a different name (**bsa2009-14.sav**). However, the questionnaire source still appears in the variable labels for the **self-completion questionnaire** items, but this doesn't matter as they are the same for all three versions.

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Min	Max
welfhelp The welfare state encourages people to stop helping each other: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
morewelf The government should spend more money on welfare benefits for the poor, even if it leads to higher taxes: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
unempjob Around here, most unemployed people could find a job if they really wanted one: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
sochelp Many people who get social security don't really deserve any help: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
dolefidl Most people on the dole are fiddling in one way or another**: [S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
welffeet If welfare benefits weren't so generous, people would learn to stand on their own two feet: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
damlives Cutting welfare benefits would damage too many people's lives**: [S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
proudwlf The creation of the welfare state is one of Britain's proudest achievements: **[S-C]ABC**	14666	1	9
redistrb Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
bigbusnn Big business benefits owners at the expense of the workers: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
wealth Ordinary working people do not get their fair share of the nation's wealth: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
richlaw There is one law for the rich and one for the poor: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
indust4 Management will always try to get the better of employees if it gets the chance: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
tradvals Young people today don't have enough respect for traditional British values: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
stifsent People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
deathapp For some crimes, the death penalty is the most appropriate sentence: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
obey Schools should teach children to obey authority: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
wrongic The law should always be obeyed, even if a particular law is wrong**: [S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
censor Censorship of films and magazines is necessary to uphold moral standards: **[S-C]ABC**	16641	1	9
Valid N (listwise)	14666		

It is easy enough to get rid of these by highlighting the **Labels** column and using CTRL+H to replace [**S-C]ABC**, but there is no need to do this. By generating a cumulative file in reverse year order, question numbers no longer appear in most of the variable labels for the main questionnaires.

[**NB:** As well as **[sserial]** there is another variable **[serial]** in position 651 which still has the question number **Q1** at the end.]

651	Serial	Nominal	Serial Number :Q1

When combinig files, SPSS will pick up metadata from first file specified: need to check whether **value labels** are different for same variable in different waves.