

Faculty Post Qualifying Scheme

MA Sociology & Social Policy

Survey Analysis Workshop

SR 501

PNL

The POLYTECHNIC of NORTH LONDON

February 1992

**The Polytechnic of North London
Faculty of Environmental and Social Studies**

Post Qualifying Scheme

Level: Postgraduate (15 points at CNA A Master level)
Module Number: SR501
Module Title: Survey Analysis Workshop
Location: Policy Studies and Social Research
Module Convenor: John Hall (Director, Survey Research Unit)

Study Requirement:

6-9 hours per week of which 3 hours will involve timetabled classes (normally 1 hour instruction followed by 2 hour workshop /discussion). 3-6 hours should be used for private study and/or keyboard experience and follow-up exercises.

Module Objectives: By the end of the module you will:

- a) acquire practical and intellectual skills in data management and statistical analysis of single variables (univariate), two variables (bivariate) and many variables (multivariate)
- b) be familiar with the language and logic of data analysis (with an emphasis on explanation as well as description) and the interface between theory and data
- c) be able critically to assess published reports which include analysis of survey and similar data
- d) become sufficiently confident and proficient to tackle your own research projects in college, on placement and in employment, or as a basis for more advanced methods
- e) understand how to code data from questionnaire surveys to a standard data layout and how to enter them into a file
- f) understand how to define data and associated dictionary information for entry into SPSS-X and save this in a system file for future use
- g) understand how to prepare and use supporting documentation
- h) acquire a working knowledge of the Vax control language, VMS, and the screen editor, EDT
- j) enjoy a distinct advantage in the employment market
- k) discover that survey analysis is fun and you can do it!

Module Assessment:

The course will be assessed by three components:

Component 1: Data Capture and Documentation (20%)

Component 2: Analysis and Report (60%)

Component 3: Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (20%)

The first assignment will be to select from a British Social Attitudes Survey a topic of interest to yourself, to select questions relevant to your topic, and to use SPSS to read the relevant survey data and construct a "system file" with missing value specifications, labelling, and a frequency count, together with appropriate user-documentation. (20%)

The second will be to conduct an analysis of your chosen topic and to write a short report on your findings. (60%)

The third will consist of a set of exercises involving data management and descriptive and inferential statistics, to be designed, conducted and interpreted within a limited time. (20%)

All work for assessment must be submitted (preferably typed) double spaced and single sided on A4 size paper including SPSS output which must be burst before stapling and clearly marked with your correct assessment number.

For components one and two, you should prepare an outline proposal identifying your research topic and listing the variables (and related questions/items) you propose to use and your initial ideas for the line of enquiry you intend to pursue. This should be submitted on the official proposal form not later than 4pm on Friday 13th March 1992.

Assessment date(s):

Component one must be submitted not later than 4pm on Friday 27th March 1992

Components two and three must be submitted not later than 4pm on Friday 19 June 1992

All three components must have been submitted before any marks can be considered by the Examination Board.

There is no provision for extensions. Work submitted late must be accompanied by a statement of the reason(s) for lateness and, if appropriate, copies of supporting evidence.

Study Programme:

This course is heavily skill-based, but with an emphasis throughout on logic and professional standards. Statistics as such are not taught, although the procedures for producing them will be used and their rationale and results explained (in non-mathematical language!)

Teaching programme**Block I From questionnaire to SPSS-X system file**
(Norusis 1990 Ch 1-6)

- 1 Data matrix. CASES, VARIABLES, VALUES. Coding of questionnaire data. Levels of measurement. The use of computers in survey research. Intro to Vax computer. Use of computer terminals and printer. Simple VMS commands. Special keys. Files on the Vax. Demonstration of SPSS-X. Creating and editing files with the screen editor EDT. Entering questionnaire responses into a data file.
- 2 Intro to SPSS-X. Basic structure of SPSS-X language; commands, sub-commands and specifications. Using SPSS-X to read an external data file. Records, fields, formats. Naming variables. Dictionary, active file. Displaying contents of dictionary and active files.
- 3 Extending a dictionary. Labelling variables and values. Missing values. Saving an external system file.

Block II Analysing one variable
(Norusis 1990 Ch 7-8,10)

- 4 Describing data. Univariate distributions. Graphical representations. Retrieving an external system file. Selecting variables for analysis. Frequencies for nominal and ordinal variables. General and integer mode; treatment of missing values; absolute, relative, adjusted frequencies. Barcharts. Utilities for printing
- 5 Frequencies for interval variables. Cumulative percentages. Univariate statistics. Measures of central tendency and dispersion. Histograms, percentiles. Condensed format for variables with many values.
- 6 Data transformations. Changing the coding scheme. Derived variables. Selecting cases for analysis. Conditional frequency distributions.

Block III Two variables (and sometimes three)
(Norusis 1990 Ch 9,11,13)

- 7 Joint frequency distributions for two variables. Contingency tables. Dependent and independent variables. Rules for percentaging. Specifying cell contents. Percentage differences (epsilon).
- 8 Introducing a third variable. Conditional contingency tables. Controlling for test variables. Elaboration.
- 9 Handling multiple response questions. Frequencies and contingency tables using multiple response.
- 10 More transformations. Creating simple scales. Comparing averages across different groups of cases.

Component 2: Analysis and Report (60%)

Write a report of not less than 2,000 and not more than 3,000 words (excluding figures and tables) to cover the following:

Introduction to the topic chosen and variables selected for your first component, including any preliminary hypotheses or ideas you had about what you expected to find or prove (or disprove) and referring to any relevant literature.

What analyses you performed on the data and why.

What your main findings were.

Methodological comments and insights.

Use the SPSS system file you generated for your first component, but amend any errors or omissions you may have made. Feel free to use any additional variables you think you need (e.g. for multiple response questions). Try to keep your final analysis simple by restricting yourself to a few key variables, if necessary by constructing scales or summary types.

There is no need to copy tables by hand into your report: just hand in your final selection as SPSS output, making sure that the tables or figures are clearly numbered and titled. You must also clearly indicate in the text which table or figure you are referring to (e.g. See Table 4 or Table 10 here) Tables do not count towards the 1,500-2,000 words needed in the report. Do not include more than ten tables.

Component three: Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (20%)

For this component you will have to design, execute and interpret statistical analyses using SPSS-X. The format will be that of an examination paper which you will be required to complete within a limited time. The paper will be distributed on 21 May 1992.

SPECIMEN ONLY 1992 Format, but using 1986 data instead**Component three: Descriptive and inferential statistics (20%)**

You may use abbreviated forms of SPSS-X commands and subcommands. All answers to be on A4 paper, including SPSS-X output, burst, with banner pages attached. No answer to be longer than two A4 sides.

File **ASS:NOPROT.SYS** contains the following variables from the 1986 British Social Attitudes Survey:

SEX REGION PARTY EDQUAL V2018 V2019 V2020 V2021 V2023 AGE

File **ASS:XMAS.SYS** contains details of numbers of injury causing accidents in 41 police authorities in Dec 1986 **INJ86** and Dec 1987 **INJ87**.

Answer ALL questions

Section A (Technical)**Question A1**

Using file **ASS:NOPROT.SYS** write a command file in SPSS to perform all of the following analyses.

Construct a score **NOPROT** with a range of 0-20 from items v2018 to v2023 and recode it with four groups (0-3)(4-6)(7-9)(10-20) into **NOPROTP**. Recode **AGE** into **AGEGROUP** (18-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+) and **EDQUAL** into **EDGROUP** (0-level and above, CSE2-5 and none) and leaving out foreign qualifications. Write appropriate variable and value labels and take account of missing values.

Produce the following output:

frequency counts (in general mode)

NOPROT with a histogram overlaid by a normal distribution; the mean, standard deviation and standard error; the lower and upper quartiles and the median.

NOPROTP EDGROUP AGEGROUP

crosstabs (with row percent and chi-square)

Dependent variable:	NOPROTP (column variable)
Independent variable:	SEX (row variable)
First order test variable:	AGEGROUP
Second order test variable:	EDGROUP

means (in crossbreak format)

Dependent variable:	NOPROT
Independent variable:	SEX
First order test variable:	AGEGROUP
Second order test variable:	EDGROUP

