

Block 2: Analysing one variable

2.3.1.3 Conditional frequencies exercise

[28 Oct 2011: updated 21 June 2013]

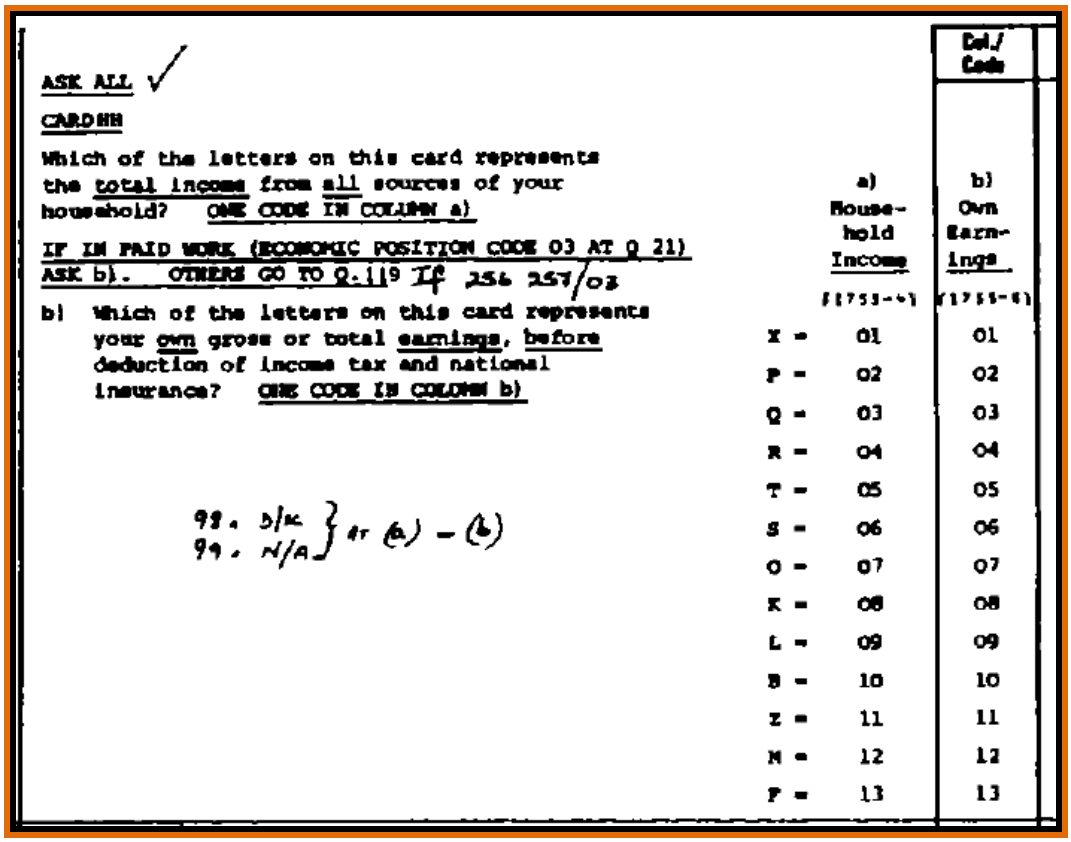
Previous sessions: 2.3.1.1 Data transformations (Tutorial introduction)

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes 1986

Research question:

> What is the distribution of personal gross earnings? What shape does the distribution have? What is the distribution for women only? What is the distribution for men only?

Here are facsimiles of the total household income and own gross earnings question and the household grid:



ASK ALL ✓

CARD HH

Which of the letters on this card represents the total income from all sources of your household? ONE CODE IN COLUMN a)

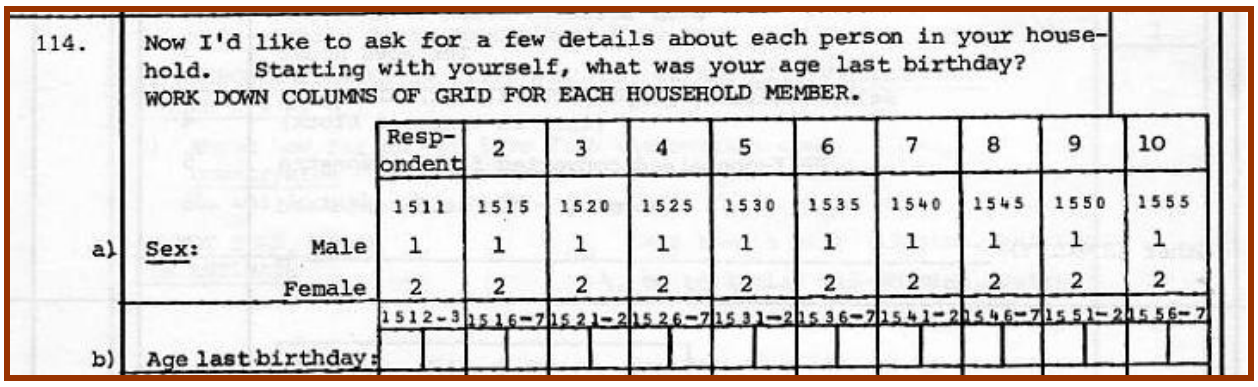
IF IN PAID WORK (ECONOMIC POSITION CODE 03 AT Q 21) ASK b). OTHERS GO TO Q.119 If 256 257/03

b) Which of the letters on this card represents your own gross or total earnings, before deduction of income tax and national insurance? ONE CODE IN COLUMN b)

98. D/K
99. N/A
} or (a) – (b)

	a) Household Income (1753-4)	b) Own Earnings (1755-6)
X =	01	01
P =	02	02
Q =	03	03
R =	04	04
T =	05	05
S =	06	06
O =	07	07
K =	08	08
L =	09	09
B =	10	10
Z =	11	11
M =	12	12
F =	13	13

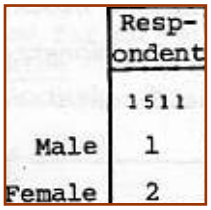
Col./Code



114. Now I'd like to ask for a few details about each person in your household. Starting with yourself, what was your age last birthday?
WORK DOWN COLUMNS OF GRID FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.

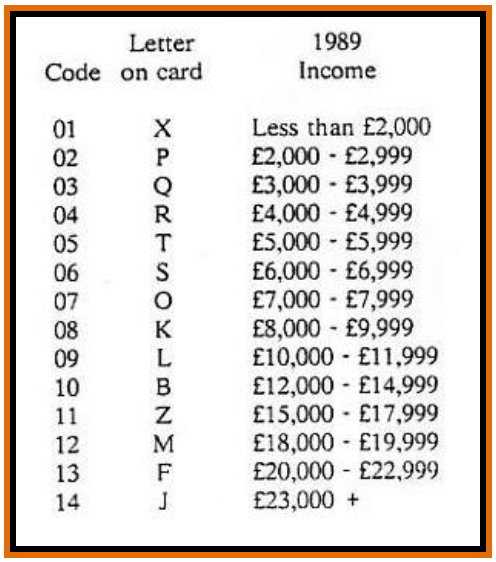
		Respondent	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		1511	1515	1520	1525	1530	1535	1540	1545	1550	1555
a)	Sex: Male	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Female	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		1512-3	1516-7	1521-2	1526-7	1531-2	1536-7	1541-2	1546-7	1551-2	1556-7
b)	Age last birthday:										

Gross earnings groups are precoded and the interviewer will circle the appropriate code for the letters on the showcard under **(1755-6)**: sex of respondent is also precoded and again the interviewer will circle the appropriate code (**1** for Male, **2** for Female) underneath **1511**.



	Resp-ondent
	1511
Male	1
Female	2

[NB: The showcard with gross earnings groups does not appear to be in the 1986 user manual, but it's the same as the one for 1989 up to code 13 (£23,000 or more). Code 14 was not used. That's inflation for you!]



Code	Letter on card	1989 Income
01	X	Less than £2,000
02	P	£2,000 - £2,999
03	Q	£3,000 - £3,999
04	R	£4,000 - £4,999
05	T	£5,000 - £5,999
06	S	£6,000 - £6,999
07	O	£7,000 - £7,999
08	K	£8,000 - £9,999
09	L	£10,000 - £11,999
10	B	£12,000 - £14,999
11	Z	£15,000 - £17,999
12	M	£18,000 - £19,999
13	F	£20,000 - £22,999
14	J	£23,000 +

There are no missing values for sex, but gross earnings has codes 98 for "Don't know" and 99 for "Not answered".

Task 1: Using **positional** variable names, read in the raw data for sex and gross earnings of respondent from external file **bsa86.txt**. Specify missing values, variable labels and value labels using mixed case text and the **<** and **£** signs.

A reminder table often helps:

Variable name	Label	Record	Column(s)
V1511	Sex of respondent	15	11
V1755	Gross earnings of respondent	17	55-56

It's a good idea to write out your syntax on a separate sheet before you start.

Save the syntax file as **mybsa86_5.sps** and the data editor as **mybsa86_5.sav**

If you don't have file **bsa86.txt**, download bsa86.txt from this site and save it to your **mybsa86** folder or to a CD: SPSS can't open files direct from this website. (It can now).

Task 2: Produce a frequency count for each variable.

Task 3: Produce separate frequency counts (with barcharts) of gross earnings, first for women only, then for men only. [**Tip:** Use SPSS commands **TEMPORARY** and **SELECT IF**.]

Try to do this yourself, without looking at the specimen answer in:

2.3.1.4 Specimen answers for exercise 2.3.1.3 [Back to Block 2 menu]