REVIEW QUESTIONS

Based on the first part of this exercise, answer True or False to the following items:

- a. Reapportionment is the process of adjusting seats in the House based on population shifts in the United States.  
  - T F
- b. In case of a tie in electoral votes, the Senate selects the president.  
  - T F
- c. No state may have fewer than three electoral votes.  
  - T F
- d. "Minority president" refers to presidents who won because of their overwhelming support by racial and ethnic minority voters.  
  - T F
- e. George W. Bush won the electoral college vote while losing the popular vote.  
  - T F

EXPLORE QUESTIONS

1. It takes 270 electoral college votes to win an election. Although each state has at least three electoral college votes, the number of electoral college votes varies across the states.

   - Data File: STATES
   - Task: Mapping
   - Variable 1: 84) ELECTOR90
   - View: List; Rank

   a. How many states have 20 or more electoral college votes?  
   - 7

   b. How many states have 5 or fewer electoral college votes?  
   - 17

2. Suppose you are the campaign manager for a presidential candidate. One of your tasks is to determine which voters you want to reach in the campaign. Remember, it is a majority vote in the electoral college, rather than a plurality victory in the popular vote, that ultimately determines the winner of the presidency. Thus, a winning campaign strategy requires a plan to garner 270 electoral college votes. One way to investigate candidate strategy is to see which states candidates visit during the fall campaign. No candidate can visit all 50 states in the crucial campaign months of September and October. Rather, candidates select states which they view as essential to an electoral college victory.

Exercise 10: Elections
Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
► Variable 1: BS-Visits
► Variable 2: ELECTOR96
► View: MAP

a. What is the Pearson's r between number of Bush visits to a state and number of electoral college votes in a state?

\[ r = 0.527^* \]

Some states consistently vote for one party's candidate in presidential elections. For example, Minnesota has voted for the Democratic presidential candidate in every presidential election since 1980. In contrast, Alabama, Alaska, and 14 other states consistently voted for the Republican party's candidate in the 1980-1996 presidential elections. Let's see if the competitiveness of a state influences presidential candidates' strategies. Variable COMPETITIV ranks the competitiveness of states based on their votes in the 1980-1996 presidential elections. States which always voted for the same party are listed as uncompetitive. States which supported one party's presidential candidate in all but one of the five elections are listed as somewhat competitive, and states which split their votes between the two parties are listed as very competitive.

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
► Variable 1: BS-Visits
► Variable 2: COMPETITIV
► View: MAP

b. What is the Pearson’s r between number of Bush visits to a state and the competitiveness of a state?

\[ r = 0.413^* \]

c. Based solely on these results, in what types of states would you advise your presidential candidate to spend a great deal of time and money campaigning? (circle one)

1. States with a large number of electoral college votes that have consistently supported your party's candidates in recent elections.
2. States with a large number of electoral college votes that have consistently supported the opposition party's candidates in recent elections.
3. States with a large number of electoral college votes that have split their support between the two parties in recent elections.

3. In 1992, Ross Perot ran as a third-party candidate for president and won almost 20 percent of the popular vote, yet he received no electoral college votes. Let's see how this happened.

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
► Variable 1: PEROT 92
► View: List: Rank

Part III: Government and the Individual
a. List Perot's top six states and the percentage he received in each state. (Ignore the third column for now.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGHEST</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND HIGHEST</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>29 %</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRD HIGHEST</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>28 %</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOURTH HIGHEST</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>27 %</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFTH HIGHEST</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>27 %</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIXTH HIGHEST</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>27 %</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To win a state, a candidate must win more votes than any other candidate. In a three-candidate race, the minimum total that could win a state would be 34 percent. This assumes that the two other candidates each received 33 percent of the vote. Of course, even though one candidate wins 34 percent of the vote, that candidate would still lose the state if a second candidate won more than 34 percent, for example 40 percent, while the third candidate won a smaller proportion of the vote, say 26 percent. Still, 34 percent is the minimum vote total that could win a state, so let's investigate that.

b. In how many states did Perot win at least 34 percent of the vote? 0

c. In how many states did Perot get less than 10 percent of the vote? 1

d. Which of the following statements better describes Perot's support in this election?
   1. Perot's vote was concentrated in a particular region.
   2. Perot's vote was relatively evenly spread across regions and states.

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
» Variable 1: 84) ELECTOR90
» View: List: Alpha

Use this information to complete the third column of the preceding table (i.e., determine the number of electoral college votes for each of the states listed). Then answer the following two questions.
4. In 1968, George Wallace ran as a third-party candidate for president and won 14 percent of the popular vote. He won 46 electoral college votes. Let's see how Wallace could win so many electoral college votes when Perot, with a higher percentage of the popular vote, won none.

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
▶ Variable 1: 54% WALLACE
▶ View: List: Rank

a. List Wallace's top six states and the percentage he received in each state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. In how many states did Wallace win at least 34 percent of the vote? 6

c. In how many states did Wallace get less than 10 percent of the vote? 24

d. Which of the following statements better describes Wallace's support in this election?

1. Wallace's vote was concentrated in a particular region.
2. Wallace's vote was relatively evenly spread across regions and states.
Wallace won the electoral votes in his five highest states. In addition, he received one electoral college vote from North Carolina. (Remember that each electoral college vote is actually cast by an individual who was elected a member of a state committed to a particular candidate. However, the individual is legally free to cast a vote for anyone.)

5. A third-party candidate, receiving 20 percent of the popular vote nationwide, can win electoral college votes
   a. by receiving an equal percentage of the popular vote in each state.
   b. by having support concentrated in a smaller number of states.
   c. under no circumstances.

6. Another time that a third-party vote can affect the outcome of an election is in a very close election. A third-party candidate may draw support away from one of the major party candidates to the extent that the major party candidate fails to garner enough votes in certain states to win those states' electoral college votes. In 2000, Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate, may have played such a spoiler role against Al Gore. Of course, we cannot completely predict how Nader voters would have cast their ballots for anyone other than the Green Party. Some of Nader's voters may have simply stayed home and not voted in the presidential election. Others may have switched to another minor party candidate, and some may have preferred George W. Bush to Al Gore. Still, many commentators felt that Nader voters tended to prefer Gore to Bush. Let's first see how many states had extremely close margins of victories for one of the two major presidential candidates in 2000. The MARGINP variable gives the difference between the vote for Gore and Bush as a percent of all votes cast in a state. A low number indicates a very small margin of victory.

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
Variable 1: 184 MARGINP
View: List: Rank

Florida had the closest margin of victory, with a listing of 0 percentage points in the data set. The official figure was 537 votes, or .009 percent of the votes cast in Florida. List the four other states where the difference in the vote margin was less than 1 percent of the votes cast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOWEST</td>
<td>FLORIDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND LOWEST</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRD LOWEST</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOURTH LOWEST</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFTH LOWEST</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 10: Elections
7. Now let's consider a scenario where all voters who cast their ballots for Ralph Nader instead voted for Al Gore. Would this have changed the outcome of the 2000 presidential election? By adding together the votes cast for Gore and Nader in each state, we can recalculate whether Gore or Bush won the plurality of the vote.

**Data File: STATES**
**Task: Mapping**
- **Variable 1:** 185) STATES '00
- **Variable 2:** 189) GORENADER
- **View:** Map

a. Two states that Bush won in 2000 would have gone to Gore if all of Nader's voters had switched to supporting Gore. Compare the light and dark states in the top map to the bottom map to see which two states could have been won by Gore.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRST STATE</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND STATE</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To see whether the switch of these two states to Gore would have changed the 2000 election outcome, find out the number of electoral college votes in the two states listed above.

**Data File: STATES**
**Task: Mapping**
- **Variable 1:** 84) ELECTOR60
- **View:** List: Alpha

Add the total of the electoral college votes from these two states to the 266 electoral college votes Gore won based on his vote alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. TOTAL FROM TWO STATES LISTED ABOVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL GORE TOTAL</th>
<th>266</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c. SLM FOR <em>HYPOTHETICAL GORE TOTAL</em></td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part III: Government and the Individual
d. Would Gore have won the presidency with this hypothetical electoral college vote total? 
   Yes  No

e. How likely do you think it would have been for many of Nader’s voters to have switched their support to Gore?

   **ANSWER VARY**

   While some of Nader’s voters may have switched to Gore, most were aware on election day that the race was close and they still chose to vote for Nader.