REVIEW QUESTIONS

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

a. More presidents are from California than from any other state.  T F
b. Most democracies have cooled the American institution of the presidency.  T F
c. The 22nd Amendment limits presidents to two terms.  T F
d. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican to be elected president.  T F
e. Most presidents can expect that over 10 percent of their vetoes will be overridden by Congress.  T F

Every president has been able to appoint at least one Supreme Court justice.  T F

EXPLORATION QUESTIONS

1. Everyone knows that there has never been an African American, Asian, or female president. However, what is really surprising is how few minorities have been represented among the presidents. In the table on the following page, the second column shows the approximate percentages of the 1990 U.S. population with each racial and ethnic descent. These percentages are only approximate since many people don't know the ethnicity of their ancestors.

   Let's look at the race and ethnicity of presidents.

   Data File: USPRES
   Task: Cross-tabulation
   Row Variable: 20) ETHNICITY
   Column Variable: 27) CENTURY
   View: Table
   Display: Column %

   Use these results to complete the following table including the total column at the far right.

   (Note: If a category listed in the table does not appear on the screen, that means no president has been of that race or ethnicity. Hence, many of the percentages in these columns will be zero.)
### Worksheet

**Race/Ethnicity**  | % U.S. Population, 1990 | 18th, 19th | 20th, 21st | Total
---|---|---|---|---
Black | 12% | | | |
Asian | 3% | | | |
Hispanic | 9% | | | |
German | 23% | 0% | 16.7% | 7.1%
Irish | 15% | 0% | 5.6% | 2.4%
Italian | 6% | | | |
Dutch | 2% | 4.2% | 11.1% | 7.1%
British | 16% | 95.8% | 46.7% | 83.3%
Eastern European | 8% | | | |

Answer True or False to the following items:

1. **b.** There has never been a president of Italian or Eastern European descent.  
   - **F**

2. **c.** Over 80 percent of the presidents have been of British ancestry.  
   - **F**

3. **d.** In this table, African-Americans stand out from other racial/ethnic groups because of their underrepresentation in the presidency.  
   - **T**

4. **e.** The ancestry of American presidents closely matches the ancestry of the population as a whole.  
   - **T**

5. **f.** The ancestry of American presidents has been more varied in the 20th and 21st centuries than in the 18th and 19th centuries.  
   - **T**

2. In 2000, Joseph Lieberman became the first Jewish American to be nominated by a major party for the office of vice president. No Jewish American has been president, and John Kennedy has been the only Catholic president.

Let's now look at the distribution of religion across presidents and compare this to the distribution in the population today. Again the column of percentages of each religious denomination in the general population has already been provided.

- **Data File:** USPRES
  - **Task:** Univariate
  - **Primary Variable:** 15; RELIGION
  - **View:** Statistics (Summary)
a. Use the percentages to complete the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>% U.S. PRESIDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-denom</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcop</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congreg.</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presby</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Ref.</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unitar.</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rom. Cath.</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciples</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer True or False to the following items:

b. No religious denomination is overrepresented among American presidents.

c. The Jewish faith is the only religious category underrepresented among U.S. presidents.

d. More than 80 percent of the U.S. presidents have been Protestant.

3. The experience and background of a candidate becomes an issue in every presidential election. Vice presidents, such as Al Gore, benefit, or suffer, based on the public's view of the current administration. Governors, such as George W. Bush, and others with no experience in Washington D.C., may benefit from being outsiders, but may also be accused of lacking experience in national and international affairs. Candidates from appointed positions or nongovernment positions, such as Elizabeth Dole, may be attacked for not having served in an elective office, but may benefit from having broad experience in cabinet, diplomatic, or other nongovernment positions.
Let's see if past presidents shared common backgrounds.

Data File: USPRES
Task: Univariate
▶ Primary Variable: 21) GOV?
▶ View: Pie

a. What percentage of past presidents had been governors?

Data File: USPRES
Task: Univariate
▶ Primary Variable: 22) SEN?
▶ View: Pie

b. What percentage of past presidents had been senators?

Data File: USPRES
Task: Univariate
▶ Primary Variable: 23) VEEP?
▶ View: Pie

c. What percentage of past presidents had been vice presidents?

33.3 %

33.3 %

28.6 %

4. In Exercise 10, the term "minority" president was introduced. Rather than referring to the ethnic or racial background of a president, this term referred to presidents who were elected by less than 50 percent of the popular vote. President George W. Bush is a minority president, since he lost the popular vote to Democratic candidate Al Gore, but won the presidency with a majority of the electoral college vote. President Bill Clinton also was a minority president, because the strong showing of third-party candidate Ross Perot split the popular vote three ways, leaving Clinton to win the presidency with 43 percent (1992) and 49 percent (1996) of the popular vote. How many U.S. presidents have been minority presidents, elected with less than 50 percent of the popular vote? (The ten missing cases in the pie chart occur because no popular vote was recorded for the first five presidents and five presidents succeeded to the office from the vice presidency and never won the presidency on their own.)

Data File: USPRES
Task: Univariate
▶ Primary Variable: 34) MINOR
▶ View: Pie

Nearly half of the U.S. presidents have been minority presidents, receiving less than half of the popular vote.

5. In the opening section of this exercise, we saw that the rate at which presidents veto legislation varied. Early presidents rarely vetoed legislation. Since the Civil War, some presidents have cast many vetoes, while others have vetoed very little legislation. Let's see if we can uncover any patterns in the use of the veto power by presidents.
Since the veto power was not used frequently by presidents prior to the Civil War, we will use the subsetting facility of MicroCase to look only at post–Civil War presidents. Once you select 35) ERA as the subset variable, a menu will appear with categories to select. Use your mouse to check off the category for post–Civil War presidents. Make sure that the option of “Include Selected Categories” has a black dot in the circle. If this option is not selected, click on it with your mouse. The remainder of the questions in this exercise will use only post–Civil War presidents. Once you have selected this subset of cases, it will remain in force as long as you use the arrow key (rather than the menu key) to return to the cross-tabulation menu.

Another factor to keep in mind when looking at post–Civil War presidents is that there are only 28 people who have been the nation’s chief executive during this time period. With so few cases, patterns in the data have to be very strong before we can assume that these patterns have not occurred by random chance. Thus, differences in percentages across categories will need to be very large to reach statistical significance. However, if we find patterns which are statistically significant, they also will be substantively important. Let’s first examine whether Democratic or Republican presidents have cast more vetoes.

Data File: USPRES
   Task: Cross-tabulation
   Row Variable: 18) VETOES
   Column Variable: 6) PARTY
   Subset Variable: 35) ERA
   Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
   View: Table
   Display: Column %

a. What is the value of V for this table?  
   \[ V = 406 \]

b. Is V statistically significant?  
   Yes [x]
   No [ ]

c. The pattern in this table is strong enough to exceed random chance, and thus we can conclude that Republican presidents cast more vetoes than Democratic presidents.

Presidential success with Congress may depend on the strength of the presidential party in Congress. A Republican president will have more natural allies, who would vote to sustain the president’s vetoes, if the Republican party was the majority party in Congress. Variable 28) PTY-Cong measures the strength of the president’s party in Congress by the number of years the president’s party is the majority party in one or both houses of Congress. Does the strength of the president’s party in Congress influence the rate at which presidents veto legislation?

Data File: USPRES
   Task: Cross-tabulation
   Row Variable: 18) VETOES
   Column Variable: 28) PTY-CONG
   Subset Variable: 35) ERA
   Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
   View: Table
   Display: Column %
d. What is the value of V for this table?

\[ V = 0.297 \]

\[ \text{Yes} \quad \text{No} \]

e. Is V statistically significant?

f. We can be certain, beyond a reasonable doubt, that when the president's party is stronger in Congress the president will cast fewer vetoes.

\[ \text{T} \quad \text{F} \]

Do "minority" presidents, elected by less than 50 percent of the popular vote, have less influence over Congress and thus need to resort to casting more presidential vetoes?

Data Files: USPRESS
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: 18) VETOES
- Column Variable: 34) MINOR
- Subset Variable: 35) ERA
- Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
  - View: Table
  - Display: Column %

\[ V = 0.421 \]

\[ \text{Yes} \quad \text{No} \]

g. What is the value of V for this table?

h. Is V statistically significant?

i. We can be certain, beyond a reasonable doubt, that presidents elected by less than a majority of the popular vote will cast more vetoes.

\[ \text{T} \quad \text{F} \]

We might expect that presidents who served as senators may better understand Congress and thus have to resort to a veto less often, whereas presidents who served as governors may be less acquainted with the ways of Washington D.C. and have to cast more vetoes.

Data Files: USPRESS
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: 18) VETOES
- Column Variable: 22) SEN?
- Subset Variable: 35) ERA
- Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
  - View: Table
  - Display: Column %

\[ V = 0.391 \]

\[ \text{Yes} \quad \text{No} \]

\[ \text{T} \quad \text{F} \]

What is the value of V for this table?

k. Is V statistically significant?

l. We can be certain, beyond a reasonable doubt, that presidents who previously served in the Senate will cast fewer vetoes.
Data File: USPRES
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: (b) VETOES
Column Variable: (a) GOV?
Subset Variable: (a) ERA
Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
View: Table
Display: Column %

m. What is the value of V for this table? 
   \[ V = 0.25 \]

n. Is V statistically significant? 
   Yes \[ \checkmark \]

o. We can be certain, beyond a reasonable doubt, that presidents who previously served as governors will cast more vetoes.
   \[ \text{T} \checkmark \text{F} \]

6. George W. Bush is a Republican president elected by less than a majority of the popular vote. He served as the governor of Texas but was never a senator. Also, consider the strength of the Republican party in Congress. Given these background characteristics, what can we predict about Bush’s use of the presidential veto? (Circle one.)
   a. Bush will cast many vetoes.
   b. Bush will cast few vetoes.
   c. We cannot predict how many vetoes Bush will cast.

7. In the beginning of this exercise, we also saw that presidents vary in their success in sustaining their vetoes. While few vetoes are overridden by Congress, some presidents had none of their vetoes overturned; other presidents have more than 10 percent overridden by Congress. Once again, we will confine our analysis to post-Civil War presidents, who have been more likely to issue vetoes and thus have presented Congress with more opportunities to overturn these vetoes. Do Democratic or Republican presidents have more of their vetoes overridden by Congress?

Data File: USPRES
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: (b) OVERRIDE
Column Variable: (a) PARTY
Subset Variable: (a) ERA
Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW
View: Table
Display: Column %

a. What is the value of V for this table? 
   \[ V = 0.025 \]

b. Is V statistically significant? 
   Yes \[ \checkmark \]

c. The pattern in this table exceeds random chance; thus we can conclude that Republican presidents have more of their vetoes overridden by Congress.
   \[ \text{T} \checkmark \text{F} \]

Exercise 13: The Presidency
Next let's test whether the strength of the president's party in Congress influences the rate at which presidential vetoes are overridden.

- **Data File:** USPRES
- **Task:** Cross-tabulation
- **Row Variable:** 29) OVERRIDE
- **Column Variable:** 20) PTY-CONG
- **Subset Variable:** 25) ERA
- **Subset Categories:** Include: 1) Post CW
- **View:** Table
- **Display:** Column %

**d.** What is the value of \( V \) for this table? 
\[ V = 6.15 \]

**e.** Is \( V \) statistically significant? 
- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

**f.** The pattern in this table exceeds random chance; thus we can conclude that when the presidential party is stronger in Congress, presidential vetoes are overturned less often.

Next let's once again examine the effect of winning the presidency with less than a majority of the popular vote.

- **Data File:** USPRES
- **Task:** Cross-tabulation
- **Row Variable:** 29) OVERRIDE
- **Column Variable:** 34) MINOR
- **Subset Variable:** 25) ERA
- **Subset Categories:** Include: 1) Post CW
- **View:** Table
- **Display:** Column %

**g.** What is the value of \( V \) for this table? 
\[ V = 1.81 \]

**h.** Is \( V \) statistically significant? 
- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

**i.** The pattern in this table exceeds random chance; thus we can conclude that presidents elected with less than a majority of the popular vote will see more of their vetoes overturned by Congress.
Let's return to prior service as senators versus governors to see if either is more successful in sustaining their vetoes.

Data File: USPRES  
Task: Cross-tabulation  
Row Variable: 29) OVERRIDE  
Column Variable: 22) SEN?  
Subset Variable: 35) ERA  
Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW  
View: Table  
Display: Column %

What is the value of V for this table?

k. Is V statistically significant? 

l. The pattern in this table exceeds random chance; thus we can conclude that presidents with prior service in the Senate have their vetoes overridden less often by Congress.

Data File: USPRES  
Task: Cross-tabulation  
Row Variable: 29) OVERRIDE  
Column Variable: 21) GOV?  
Subset Variable: 35) ERA  
Subset Categories: Include: 1) Post CW  
View: Table  
Display: Column %

m. What is the value of V for this table?

n. Is V statistically significant?

o. The pattern in this table exceeds random chance; thus we can conclude that presidents with prior service as governors have their vetoes overridden more often by Congress.

8. Answer True or False to the following items:

a. Because George W. Bush was not a U.S. Senator, we might expect him to have more of his vetoes overridden by Congress. 

b. If the Republican party greatly outnumbers the Democratic party in Congress, we might expect fewer of President Bush's vetoes to be overridden.  

c. Because President Bush is a minority president, we might expect more of his vetoes to be overridden by Congress. 

d. Because President Bush is a Republican, we might expect more of his vetoes to be overridden by Congress.