REVIEW QUESTIONS

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

a. When compared to other countries, people from the former Soviet bloc have very little interest in politics.  
   T F  

b. One of the most reliable polling methods is to establish an 800 phone number where people can register their opinions on a particular issue.  
   T F  

c. Cramer’s V is similar to Pearson’s r in that both are correlation coefficients.  
   T F  

d. The probability (significance) level assesses the strength of the relationship, while V indicates the odds that the results are due to random fluctuations.  
   T F  

e. Older people tend to have greater interest in politics than do younger people.  
   T F  

f. Cramer’s V does not indicate whether a relationship is positive or negative. The kind of relationship must be inferred from the table itself.  
   T F  

g. A relationship between two variables can be statistically significant without being strong enough to be substantively significant.  
   T F  

h. In order for us to decide that a relationship is statistically significant, we want the significance level to be greater than .05.  
   T F  

EXPLICIT QUESTIONS

Let’s look at some other variables that might affect interest in politics. First of all, we might hypothesize that political interest will be higher among those people who disagree with the idea that politics is too complicated.

- Data File: NES  
- Task: Cross-tabulation  
- Row Variable: 20) INTEREST?  
- Column Variable: 95) COMPLICATE  
- View: Table  
- Display: Column %

Open the NES data file and select the CROSS-TABULATION task. Select 20) INTEREST? as the row variable and select 95) COMPLICATE as the column variable. When the table appears, select the [Column %] option.

Exercise 3: "Of the People": An Interested and Informed Public 69
Copy the first row of the percentaged table:

95) COMPPLICATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AGREE</th>
<th>NEITHER</th>
<th>DISAGREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. % VERY MUCH</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. What is the value of Cramer's V for this table?

$$V = .162^{**}$$

Is V statistically significant?

Yes ☐ No ☐

d. Are the results in the predicted direction? That is, was political interest higher among those who disagree with the idea that politics is too complicated?

Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Let's see whether political interest is related to political ideology.

Data File: NES
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variables: 20) INTEREST?
Column Variables: 17) IDEOLOGY
View: Table
Display: Column %

Copy the first row of the percentaged table:

17) IDEOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LIBERAL</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>CONSERVATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. % VERY MUCH</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. What is the value of Cramer's V for this table?

$$V = .090^{*}$$

c. Is V statistically significant?

Yes ☐ No ☐

d. Which of the three groups was the least interested in politics? (Circle the number of the most appropriate answer.)

1. Liberals
2. Moderates
3. Conservatives

e. Give a reason why this particular group might be less interested in politics than the other two groups are.

They do not hold such strong political views as the other two groups, and they might not have as many political views.
3. Turning to the matter of political information, lets use the AUTO-ANALYZER task to look at the distribution of 21) INFORMED?

   Data File: NES
   Task: Auto-Analyzer
   Variable: 21) INFORMED?
   View: Univariate

   With the NES file open, select the AUTO-ANALYZER task, then select 21) INFORMED? as the analyzer variable.

   The first table shows the distribution of this attitude in the entire sample.

   Write the summary of this univariate distribution that appears below the table:

   Among all respondents, 43.1% of the sample had a high level of information about politics and public affairs.

4. Let's now look at the effect of some demographic characteristics on the person's level of information. In addition to looking at whether the results are statistically significant, you must look at the actual percentages to determine which differences are important.

   The AUTO-ANALYZER task has eleven demographic characteristics, each represented by a separate option. By selecting one of these demographic options, you see not only the table showing the relationship between the analyzer variable and the selected demographic variable, but also a brief summary of the relationship.

   Data File: NES
   Task: Auto-Analyzer
   Variable: 21) INFORMED?
   View: Region

   Answer True or False to the following items:

   a. Those in the Midwest are the most informed. T F
   b. The regional difference on this variable is not statistically significant. T F
   c. There is little difference between the East and the West. T F
   
   View: Education
   d. The higher a person's education, the better informed the person. T F
   e. This suggests that education may help create an informed electorate. T F

Exercise 3: "Of the People": An Interested and Informed Public
View: Sex
f. Males and females are equally well informed. T F
g. Females are better informed than males. T F
h. Males are better informed than females, and the difference is statistically significant. F T

View: Income
i. The higher the income, the more likely the individual is to be well informed. F T
j. Those with the highest income are the least informed. T F

View: Age
k. Younger people are less informed about politics. T F
l. Those over 65 are the most informed. F T

5. a. Based on the information in Question 4, describe the characteristics of the person who is most likely to be well informed.

Easterner or Westerner, high education, male, high income, 50 to 64

b. Describe the characteristics of the person who is least likely to be well informed.

Midwesterner or Southerner, low education, female, low income, under 30
6. Notice, however, that this AUTO-ANALYZER option is available only for basic demographic variables. In order to look at the effect of other variables on this attitude, you must use the CROSS-TABULATION task. Let's look at the effect of news orientation on how informed the individual is.

Data File: NES
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: 21) INFORMED?
Column Variable: 24) NEWS TYPE
View: Table
Display: Column %

a. The relationship between political information and type of news orientation is not statistically significant. [T F]

b. Those who use both television and newspaper are the best informed. [T F]

c. Those who use the newspaper are more informed than those who use television. [T F]

d. Those who use both television and newspaper are not much more informed than those who use the newspaper only. [T F]

Not all research is simply descriptive. Frequently, political scientists analyze data to test hypotheses. For example, most of us would hypothesize a link between an individual's interest and level of information. Those who are more interested will be better informed. We can use cross-tabulation to test this hypothesis.

Data File: NES
Task: Cross-tabulation
Row Variable: 21) INFORMED?
Column Variable: 20) INTEREST?
View: Table
Display: Column %

Copy the first row of the percentaged table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20) INTEREST?</th>
<th>VERY MUCH</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT</th>
<th>NOT MUCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%HIGH</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. What is the value of V for this table? \[ V = 30 \] [***]

c. Is V statistically significant? [Yes No]

d. This table supports our hypothesis that those who are more interested will be better informed. [T F]
B Use the AUTO-ANALYZER task to determine what kinds of people are more likely to know the names of candidates for congressional elections. On the basis of this analysis, answer the questions below.

Data File: NES
- Task: Auto-Analyzer
- Variable: 29) KNOW HOUSE

a. What percentage of the respondents said they could name the congressional candidates? 29.2%

b. Females are more likely to know the names of congressional candidates than males are. T F

c. The differences here between Democrats, Independents, and Republicans are not statistically significant. T F

d. Jews are more likely to know the names of the congressional candidates than Catholics are. T F

e. Lower-income people are more likely to know the names of congressional candidates than higher-income people are. T F