REVIEW QUESTIONS

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

a. Most democratic nations have at least three major political parties.  
   T  F

b. Three-fourths of Democrats say they are liberals.  
   T  F

c. Nearly one-half of the American electorate considers themselves to be political independents.  
   T  F

d. In the 2000 presidential election, at least three-fourths of partisans supported their own party's presidential candidate.  
   T  F

e. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to have contributed money to a political party.  
   T  F

EXPLICIT QUESTIONS

In the opening section of this exercise, we noted that American political parties are often discussed in terms of three components: the party in government, the party in the electorate, and the party organization. Beginning with the party-in-government component, one can note that two major parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, have dominated the government over the past century. All other parties are referred to as third parties or minor parties. How many third-party candidates have been a part of the government? Let's investigate by looking at the percentage of seats in the U.S. House and Senate controlled by members of a third party or by political independents.

➤ Data File: HISTORY
   ➤ Task: Historical Trends
   ➤ Variables: 65) HSE-OTH
               66) SEN-OTH

Answer True or False to the following items:

a. The percentage of third-party members in the U.S. House often exceeds 20 percent. (Hint: Look at the scale on the left-hand side of the graph. The numbers listed are the percentages of seats held by third parties.)  
   T  F

b. The percentage of third-party members in the U.S. House and Senate has increased substantially in recent years.  
   T  F

Exercise 8: Political Parties
2. Now let's compare the percentage of seats held by the Democratic versus the Republican party in the U.S. House. The party that has the most seats is referred to as the majority party. The majority party leader becomes the Speaker of the House, and the majority party controls the chairs of all of the congressional committees. The majority party has considerable influence over the decisions made by Congress.

   Data File: HISTORY
   Task: Historical Trends
   ▶ Variables: 16) %DEM HOUSE
                70) %REP HOUSE

Answer True or False to the following items:

   a. The Democratic party was the majority party in the U.S. House from the middle of the 1960s to the middle of the 1990s. ▼ F

   b. Throughout the 20th century, the Democratic party was more likely to be the majority party in the House than was the Republican party. ▼ F

3. Now let's look at the party in the electorate. Earlier we saw that partisans were no more likely than independents to contribute money to political candidates. Are partisans more likely than independents to participate in other types of political activities?

   Fill in the table at the end of this question after completing each of the following analyses:

   ▶ Data File: NES
   ▶ Task: Cross-tabulation
   ▶ Row Variable: 26) VOTED
   ▶ Column Variable: 16) PARTY
     ▶ View: Table
     ▶ Display: Column %

   ▶ Row Variable: 20) INTEREST?
   ▶ Column Variable: 16) PARTY
     ▶ View: Table
     ▶ Display: Column %

   ▶ Row Variable: 21) INFORMED?
   ▶ Column Variable: 16) PARTY
     ▶ View: Table
     ▶ Display: Column %

(Note: Y for each of these tables is statistically significant.)
NATIONAL SURVEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>INDEPEND.</th>
<th>REPUBLICAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. 28) VOTED</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% voted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 20) INTEREST?</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% very much</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 21) INFORMED?</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer True or False to the following items:

c. Democrats and Republicans are about equally likely to vote, but independents are considerably less likely to vote.  
F

d. Those who claim a party preference are generally less interested in politics than are independents.  
F

e. Democrats and Independents are about equally as well informed about politics, but Republicans are the most informed.  
F

"Because of their keen interest in following politics, Independents make their decisions on an issue-by-issue basis and refuse to be categorized by party." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not? Use the information you collected in Question 3 to support your position.

Disagree. Independents do not have a keen interest in politics. They are less likely to vote than Democrats or Republicans. Independents are less interested in politics than are partisans, and Independents are less informed about politics than Republicans.

5. In Exercise 8, low voter turnouts in the United States were attributed, at least in part, to the limited choices posed by the two-party system. Let's look at other nations to see if there is any support for this idea.

Data File: NATIONS  
Task: Scatterplot  
Dependent Variable: 38) % VOTED  
Independent Variable: 36) # PARTIES  
View: Reg. Line
WORKSHEET

EXERCISE 9

Answer True or False to the following items:

a. The greater the number of political parties in a nation, the higher the percentage voting. \( \text{\textcircled{F}} \)

b. This scatterplot supports the idea that the limited choice of parties in the United States may be depressing the voter turnout rate. \( \text{\textcircled{T}} \)

6. Let's use the AUTO-ANALYZER task to see who's most likely to be a Democrat and who's most likely to be a Republican.

   ➤ Data File: NES
   ➤ Task: Auto-Analyzer
   ➤ Variable: 169 DEM/REP
   ➤ View: Univariate

For each demographic variable listed below, indicate whether there is any significant effect. If so, indicate which category is most likely and which is least likely to identify with the Democratic party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IS THE EFFECT SIGNIFICANT?</th>
<th>CATEGORY MOST LIKELY TO BE DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>CATEGORY LEAST LIKELY TO BE DEMOCRAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. View: Sex ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. View: Race ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View: Religion ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>Protestants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. View: Region ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. View: Education ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td>Not HS grad</td>
<td>College grad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. View: Income ( \text{\textcircled{Yes}} ) No</td>
<td>( \leq 25,000 )</td>
<td>( \geq 65,000 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. a. Based on the results in Question 8, describe the characteristics of those who are most likely to be Democrats.

Those most likely to be Democrats are women, African Americans, and Jews. Also likely to be Democrats are those who have not finished high school and those who make \( \leq 25,000 \) or less.

Part III: Government and the Individual
b. Based on the results in Question 6, describe the characteristics of those who are least likely to be Democrats.

Those least likely to be Democrats are men, whites, and Protestants. Also unlikely to be Democrats are college graduates and those making $65,000 or more.

8. Finally, let's examine the financial standing of the two major parties. An important component of the party organization is the ability to raise money. Money is needed to fund the national headquarters, to pay staff, to conduct polling, and to assist the party's candidates. Are the two political parties on an equal financial footing? Let's examine the money raised (in millions of dollars) by the Democratic and Republican parties over recent decades.

- Data File: HISTORY
- Task: Historical Trends
- Variables: 71) DEM$ 72) REP$

Answer True or False to the following item:

The Republican party raises more funds than the Democratic party