Answers to Exercises

Exercise Sheet 1

Exercise 5: Descriptives
1. Mean = 254.81, standard deviation 156.470.
3. Mean = 230.46, standard deviation = 80.994. The difference is due to the removal of the missing values. As the missing value number is 999, this reduces the mean.

Exercise 6: Frequencies
1. The main port of embarkation is, in this case, blank at 43.3%.
3. The reanalysis with blank removed indicates that the Bight of Biafra and Gulf of Guinea Islands was the major area of embarkation, with 46.4% of voyages.

Exercise 7: Crosstabs
1. The major embarkation and disembarkation nexus was Gold Coast and Jamaica, with 212 voyages.

Exercise Sheet 2

Exercise 1: Aggregates
5. The year of most voyages from Bristol was 1737, with 53.

Exercise 2: Charts
2. N_Break is the number of voyages per year, so you have plotted that against year.
3. The graphs should correlate, but not exactly match because variable numbers of slaves were carried on different voyages.
4. In the 1740's Europe was engaged in the War of Austrian Succession (1740-8), which included the War of Jenkin's Ear (1739 – 48). This latter led to much privateer action in the Caribbean after 1742, when major operations ended. In the 1780's trade was affected by the American Revolutionary War (1775-83).

Exercise 3: Compute Variable
4. The mean number of men is 116.5134, the standard deviation is 64.572.

Exercise 4: Conditional Recode
5. The mean, once missing values are removed, is 1.8795. As equal numbers of large and small voyages would yield a mean of 1.5, we can say that most voyages had over 150 slaves transported.

Exercise 5: Data Selection
4. The mean is 241.14, the standard deviation is 78.865.