

17.801, Political Science Lab  
Fall 1999  
Problem set # 1: Using STATA

Handed out: September 16, 1999

Due back: September 23, 1999

### Using STATA

1. Using a text editor such as EMACS, type the text from Exhibit 1 in the document “How to Use the *STATA* **infile** and **infix** Commands” into Athena and save it in a file named scores.dat on your home directory. Write a “do” file that will create a STATA data set from this raw data and save it as a file called “scores.dta”. Turn in a “log” file that documents the STATA commands you issued to read in the data and save it.
2. Find two tables that interest you in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* which meet the following criteria: (1) they have between 25 and 52 observations and (2) they have the same units of analysis (e.g., states, years, nations).
  - a. Call these two tables Table A and Table B. Create a STATA data set that contains one variable, plus the identifying variable (like state or year), from Table A. Save it. Create a STATA data set that consists of one variable, plus the identifying variable (like state or year), from Table B. Save it. Merge the two data sets. Save the merged data set.
  - b. Turn in the following:
    - i. The "do file" that shows how you created the data sets and merged them.
    - ii. A printout of the data.
    - iii. A short (one paragraph, 2 or 3 sentence) description of the tables you got your data from.