You are employed as a SAS programmer and have been assigned to work on a new project. You will receive the raw data for this project in a variety of file formats such as Excel data sets, comma delimited files, flat (.txt) files, etc. You will be responsible for writing SAS programs to analyze and report these data.

(1) When writing your SAS programs, what would be the advantages and disadvantages to creating permanent SAS data sets from the raw data?

(2) How can you make your program code easier to read, maintain, and update?

In writing your response, here are some things to consider: whether you are the only programmer working on the project or if there are other programmers, whether the data files are static or will change due to new or updated data, the size of the data files, whether your department or company has any precedent or procedures defined for this type of project. If you think of other issues, feel free to address those as well.

Discussion:

(1) When writing your SAS programs, what would be the advantages and disadvantages to creating permanent SAS data sets from the raw data?

**Pros:**

Compiling varieties of file formats and creating permanent SAS data sets from the raw data allows for quicker processing time (raw data from larger data sets do not need to be repeatedly inputted), uniformity in data, and easily sharable SAS data sets between SAS programmers.

**Cons:**

Complementation in data sets for using other statistical tools is not possible as well as after the permanent SAS data sets are created, changes to raw data do not affect the permanent SAS data sets.

(2) How can you make your program code easier to read, maintain, and update?

Always comment function names and variations in code as to allow for better readability and refreshment when focusing on other assignments.

Be sure to separate code accordingly ie. Do not have long lines of code, break them up for better readability.

Name functions and variables appropriately ie. Mean\_of\_age vs. a