

### How to recode an existing variable: Grademaths

Exercise 3 of your statistics exercise requires you to reduce the number of categories in a variable which has too many categories to make it suitable for chi-square. To do this, you recode the values into new values.

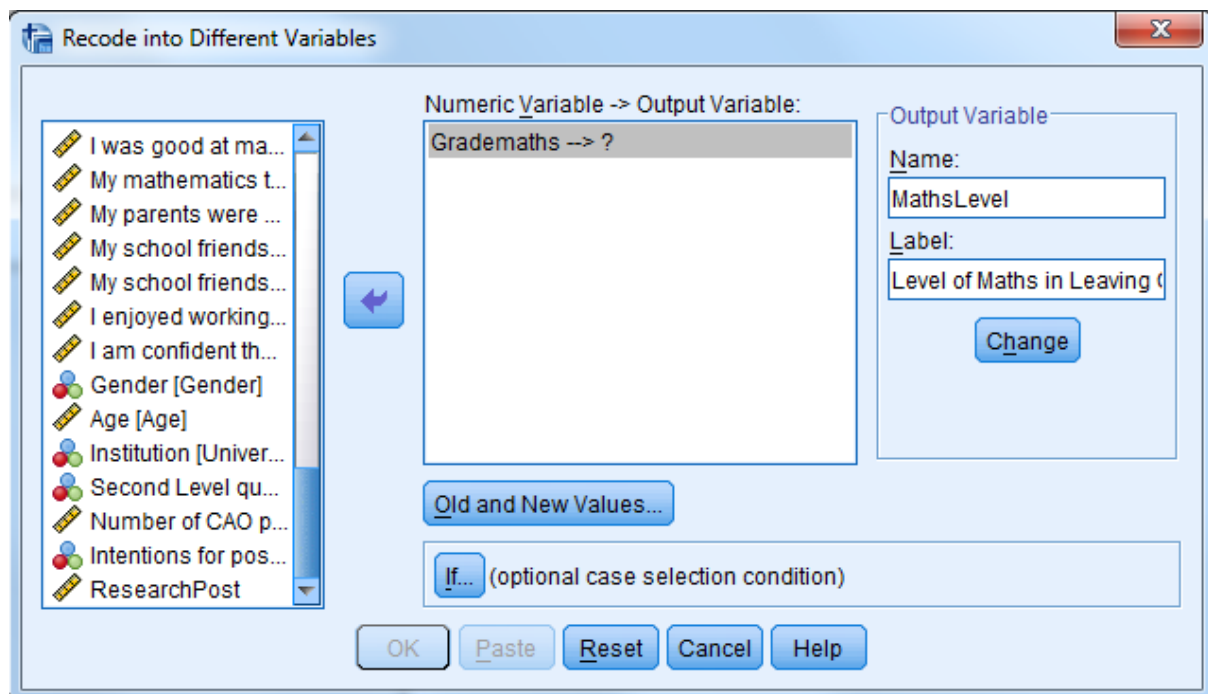
**Always recode into a new variable, leaving the original variable unchanged.** This means that if you make a mistake in your recoding procedure you can always revert to the original.

In this case, we will recode the variable Grademaths into Gradelevel. The existing variable has 9 categories:

- 1 = A Hons
- 2 = B Hons
- 3 = C Hons
- 4 = D Hons
- 5 = A Ord
- 6 = B Ord
- 7 = C Ord
- 8 = D Ord
- 9 = Other

We want to recode the data into three categories: *Honours*, *Ordinary Level* and *Other*. To do this:

1. Click on **Transform**
2. Select **Recode into Different Variables**



3. Select the variable that you want to recode from the list (in this case **Grademaths**) and click on the arrow to move it into the **numeric variable box**.

4. Type the name of the new variable into the **output variable name box** (I have called it **Mathslevel**). Type the label for the new variable underneath this (I have labelled it **Level of Maths in Leaving Cert**).

5. Click on **Old and New Values**.

Recode into Different Variables: Old and New Values

**Old Value**

☐ Value:

☐ System-missing

☐ System- or user-missing

☒ Range:

1

through

4

☐ Range, LOWEST through value:

☐ Range, value through HIGHEST:

☐ All other values

**New Value**

☒ Value: 1

☐ System-missing

☐ Copy old value(s)

Old --> New:

Add

Change

Remove

☐ Output variables are strings Width: 8

☐ Convert numeric strings to numbers ('5' -> 5)

Continue Cancel Help

New categories:

(a) Old values 1 - 4 recode to 1 = Honours

(b) Old values 5 - 8 Recode to 2 = Ordinary

(c) Old value 9 recode to 3 = Other

6. Click on **Range**, and input **1** through **4**.

7. In the **New Value box**, select **value** and Type **1** next to it.

8. Click on **add**, and the new value will appear in **Old...>New** box. This groups all of the values 1-4 together as value 1 (Honours).

9. Follow these steps to recode the old values 5 – 8 into new value 2 = Ordinary level.

10. To recode old value 9 into new value 3 = Other, tick the **value circle** under **Old Value** on the left of the screen. Type 9 in the box. Type 3 in the **Value box** under the **New Value** section on the right of the screen. Click on **Add**.

11. Click on **Continue**

12. Click on **Change** (right side of Recode into Different Variables box),

13. Click **OK**.

14. Go to **Variable View**. Type in Values for the new variable: 1 = Honours Level; 2 = Ordinary Level; 3 = Other.