London School of Economics — Department of Geography & Environment

GY140: Introduction to Geographical Research — Applied Quantitative Methods Module

Instructions and guidance for Class Exercises

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Winter 2025

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
7 (03.03 – 07.03)	No Class	No Class	No Class	No Class
8 (10.03 – 14.03)	**Tuesday, 11.03** 10am–12pm (FAW 4.02)	**Tuesday, 11.03** 2pm-4pm (STC.S08)	**Wednesday, 12.03** 9am–11am (FAW 4.03)	**Tuesday, 11.03** 4pm-6pm (SAL.B.13)
9 (17.03 – 21.03)	**Tuesday, 18.03** 10am–12pm (FAW 4.02)	**Tuesday, 18.03** 2pm-4pm (STC.S08)	**Wednesday, 19.03** 9am–11am (FAW 4.03)	**Tuesday, 18.03** 4pm-6pm (SAL.B.13)
10 (24.03 – 28.03)	**Tuesday, 25.03** 10am–12pm (FAW 4.02)	**Tuesday, 25.03** 2pm-4pm (STC.S08)	**Wednesday, 26.03** 9am–11am (FAW 4.03)	**Tuesday, 25.03** 4pm-6pm (SAL.B.13)
11 (31.03 – 04.04)	**Monday, 31.03** 09am-11am (FAW 4.03) **Tuesday, 01.04** 10am–12pm (FAW 4.02)	**Monday, 31.03** 11am-1pm (FAW 4.03) **Tuesday, 01.04** 2pm-4pm (STC.S08)	**Wednesday, 02.04** 9am–11am (FAW 4.03) **Thursday, 03.04** 2pm-4pm (FAW 4.01)	**Tuesday, 01.04** 4pm-6pm (SAL.B.13) **Friday, 04.04** 1pm-3pm (FAW 4.03)

Note that in **Week 11 (week commencing March 31st, 2025), we will hold two sessions** in each class. This will also include a recap session which will allow you to ask questions.

WHO AND WHEN TO CONTACT ABOUT THE CLASSWORK OF THE COURSE?

This document should contain everything you need to know about the classwork. If you have any questions, then please ask during classes or make use of the office hours. Note that:

- I do not usually provide individual feedback or guidance via email (since that is the purpose of the office hours). However, email me if you have any pressing issues.
- I do not email you or read your emails outside of working hours (Mon-Fri 9 AM – 6 PM). Thus, for any pressing emails that need immediate attention, please flag them in the email title.

WHAT IS THE CLASSWORK OF THE COURSE?

The content of this course is linked to the computer lab seminars. Five lab classes provide you with a specific set of exercises to work through during each session. In attempting these exercises, it is expected that you will carry out analysis using statistical software (StataSE-18, R and Excel), and apply the methods and concepts that are taught in the lectures.

SOFTWARE

You will gain knowledge of three different statistical software packages (STATA SE-18, R and Excel). While the software packages are installed on LSE computers, you should install them on your own computers to be able to use them whenever you do not have access to LSE computers.

STATA: STATA is proprietary software, but all LSE students can request a free STATA license from LSE Tech Support by sending an e-mail to It.Servicedesk@lse.ac.uk. I will send you an e-mail with instructions guiding you through the process.

R & R Studio: R and R Studio are open-source software and can be downloaded and used free of charge. Use the following tutorial to install both R and RStudio on your computer if you're using Windows or Mac.

Excel: I am assuming most of you have Excel installed on your computers as part of your Microsoft Office license. If not, the following guidance instructs you how to make use of your free Microsoft Office license offered by LSE.

WORKING TOGETHER

Students are encouraged to work together on these exercises during the lab seminars. Our experience suggests that you will gain a deeper understanding of quantitative analysis and the use of software if you discuss your work with peers.

WHAT IS A GOOD PERFORMANCE

Among other things, this course is designed to improve your ability to interpret and carry out applied research. The formal assessment therefore tests a range of skills, like those you will need to carry out high-quality research using inferential statistics methodologies (e.g. for your Independent Research Project). The classwork prepares you for the assessments and use of these methods in your own research.

Therefore, good performance on the **formative and summative assignments** includes:

- demonstrating a sound understanding of the class content by analysing, interpreting and discussing the results using English sentences in a straightforward fashion;
- and answering the specific questions of each exercise (which are designed to test your understanding).

Good performance in the **lab classes** includes being enthusiastic and taking an active role in learning (e.g. helping and discussing with peers). You are also encouraged to ask questions in classes and make use of office hours.

FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

Reports are to be submitted in groups to be allocated randomly. Both the group assignment and the formative instruction will be released in Week 9. Please submit only **ONE report per group** and indicate at the top all names of the group members. Reports should be formatted legibly and follow the length restrictions specified in the instructions. These pages should include ONLY the relevant graphs, tables or software output. The report should focus mainly on discussing and answering the questions posed.

If submitted on time, your report will be marked, and you will be given some written feedback within two weeks. I will try to highlight any errors or anything that seems unclear (or contentious). I will also provide some guidance on how you might improve your analysis and reporting. This will usually take the form of general comments and comments on specific parts of the exercise. Feedback is designed to show where you can improve (e.g. parts of your report that might lose marks in the assessed project).

You are responsible for your own learning. The summative assessment of this course is on an individual basis. Nonetheless, good performance in the assessed coursework is greatly improved by group discussions in the formative.

SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

Project 1 is the final assessment of the Applied Quantitative Methods module. The report is subdivided into two sections: (1) inferential tests and (2) independent research project. It carries 50% of the final GY140 mark. Please note that this assessment is on an individual basis. More details of this project will be discussed in class in Week 9.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays 09am-10am & 12pm – 1pm (CKK3.04). Book via LSE Student Hub.

DEADLINES

All submissions should be made via Moodle.
Formative assignment: Thursday, March 27th, 2025
Summative assignments (both Problem Set & research project): Friday, May 2nd, 2025

Enoy this course!