Suggested teaching exercise using the CLOSER training data set

How much intergenerational social mobility was there for people born in 1958? Do people tend to end up in the same social class as their parents, or higher/lower? What drives any intergenerational class mobility – is it intelligence, or education, or other factors?

1. **Frequencies and basic statistics**

First run some frequency counts of Father's social class at (cohort member) age 11, and the cohort member's own social class at ages 33, 42 and 50. Describe the results.

2. **How does someone's social background as a child predict the type of job they will be in when they are an adult?**

Try cross-tabulating Father's social class against cohort member's own social class at age 42, separately for men and women.

3. **How do social background, cognitive ability and education affect social mobility?**

What drives intergenerational class mobility – is it intelligence (measured by cognitive ability), or education, or other factors? To assess this try recoding each of the two social class variables considered earlier (father's at age 11, own at age 42) into a continuous 'score' variable so that a higher social class had a higher score: 1= social class V; 2=social class IV, 3=class 3.2; 4=class 3.2; 5=class II, 6=social class I.

The do a regression to see the effect size:

- firstly with just father's social class 'score' as a predictor of age 42 social class score;
- then adding three additional predictors