Sociology 300
Homework Exercise: Level of measurement

1. The following can be considered either variables or constants. Circle the variables
   a. size of community
   b. sexual permissiveness
   c. Orthodox Jew
   d. political party preference
   e. Denver
   f. computer literacy
   g. college graduate
   h. educational attainment

2. Draw a line under the independent variable and circle the dependent variable in each of the following statements:
   a. The more television a child watches, the lower her or his academic performance.
   b. Southerners have a greater tolerance for interpersonal violence than do residents of other regions.
   c. Earnings are significantly lower among black women than black men.

3. For each of the following, indicate whether the level of measurement is (a) nominal, (b) ordinal, or (c) interval/ratio:
   a. time: measured in minutes
   b. time: measured by the categories slow, moderate or fast
   c. minor in college: accounting, advertising, banking, etc.
   d. grade: measured as the percent correct
   e. eye color: green, brown, blue, hazel, etc.
   f. quality of police protection: rated as “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” or “F”
   g. zip codes
   h. hours spent watching television per week
   i. Seriousness of poverty: no problem, slight, serious
   j. race: white, non-white
   k. the number of chairs in a house
   l. social class: measured as lower, middle and upper

4. Look at the GSS96 data set described in Appendix G of the textbook. Assuming that we ignore categories such as “not applicable,” “DK” and “NA”, what level of measurement (nominal, ordinal or interval/ratio) are the following variables?
   a. abany
   b. age
   c. childs
   d. degree
   e. educ
   f. fefam
   g. grass
   h. income91
   i. marital
   J. paeduc
   k. papres80
   i. polviews
   k. premarsx
   l. relig

5. For what level of measurement(s) would the following statements be true?
   (a) 2 + 2 = 4  (b) 1 ≠ 2  (c) 6 > 5  (d) (2 + 1) > (1 + 1)