

Answers

1. There are 5 stages – Control, Data, Tables, Manip, Print. The print stage is rarely used.
2. There are 4 possible steps that can be invoked – Compile, Execute, Print, eXport.
3. a) You might use Compile and Print to rerun a set of tables where you didn't need to re-read the data or change any of the variable or table definitions. For example:
 - When you want to correct a spelling error
 - When you want to add a text (e.g. a base title)
 - When you want to change formats
 - When you want to change any of the special texts

None of these actions mean that the variable or table definitions are wrong, need additions or deletions.

b) You would execute only when there are no errors to your compiled code and just wanted to either read data and/or run tables. However, you would usually have a print step as well if you were running tables unless you using the ITF to feed another run or to list figures or some other similar task which did not involve producing formatted cross tabulations

4. You can control which records are written to the IDF by using writing commands to choose which records are written to the IDF or you can reject records using the edit, elist or el commands.
5. No, it is too late. Variables that need to read raw data must be in the data stage. You can define variables in the tables but they must be derived from variables that are in the data stage or from other variables you have defined in the tables stage.
6. The important is the internal MRDCL file that passes data to the table stage for processing. It is also the file that contains the data that is exported if you choose any of the data export options.