Thank you for your interest in using the SASII. There are two sets of instructions on the website. One explains what each question/variable name refers to, and the other one offers the SPSS syntax for scoring the instrument. Here are some explanations that may help you better understand the SPSS syntax:

This form: https://depts.washington.edu/brtc/files/SASII%20Standard%20(Short)%20Form.pdf has the instrument with labeled variables. You can see that next to every question there is a label in parenthesis for that question. For example, the first question starts with: S1____(PHISO2), which means the variable corresponding to the question is called PHISO2. you can identify what each variable is based on this document. So, for example, variable ph47 refers to question 25 (below). In SPSS language, the variable name will be PH47, the variable label will be something on the lines of "category of behavior" and the possible values this variable can take are 1, 2, 3, 4, … etc. The value labels would be "accidental self harm" for value 1, "other" for 9, etc.

25 __ (PH47) Interviewer:  based on definition of SASII on appendix, categorize behavior coding should reflect your best judgment based on all information.

1 = Accidental self-harm, without undue risk taking and without unreasonable expectation of safety

2 = Accidental self-harm, with undue risk taking or with unreasonable expectation of safety

3 = Victim-precipitated self-harm, without intent to be harmed by others but with undue risk taking or unreasonable expectation of safety

4 = "Victim-precipitated" self-harm with intent to be harmed by other 9 = OTHER, including absence of a behavior, which results in harm or illness (e.g., stopped taking impomedicines such as insulin)

5 = Intentional self-injury, but not a suicide attempt

6 = Ambivalent suicide attempt

7 = Suicide attempt with no ambivalence

8 = Suicide attempt that is a "failed suicide", with continued life purely accidental and a near miracle

Using this information, you can parse out of the scoring syntax what variables the syntax refers to. For example, the first block of syntax attempts to compute the number of non-suicidal self injury (NSSI) episodes (variable name=phcnosa). Basically this syntax says that if variable ph47 is coded less than 5 or greater than 5, then the NSSI variable, phcnosa, should be defined as 0; if ph47 is coded as 5, then phcnosa should take the value recorded in the ph04 (# of parasuicidal acts) variable. In this way, the phcnosa variable will represent the number of non-suicidal self injury acts. The same logic goes behind each block of syntax that computes SASII variables.********# of non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) acts********.IF ((ph47< 5) or (ph47 > 5)) phcnosa=0.IF (ph47=5) phcnosa=ph04.

The last important command to understand is the Variable Labels command. This simply tells you and SPSS how to name each variable (or what the variable label should be). for example, ph04 is labeled "number of parasuicide events in cluster", ph11 is labeled "medical risk of death" etc.

Variable Labels:

PH04 'Number of parasuicide events in cluster'

PH11 'Medical risk of death'

PH13b 'Conscious expectation of fatal outcome'

PH14 'Did consider episode a suicide attempt'

PH15 'Now do you consider episode a suicide attempt'PH18 'Communicated suicide ideation'

PH19 'Did subject threaten suicide'


Other commands referenced in the document are:

RECODE (changes the values of a variable). This is like other instruments where you want to inverse the scores, or do other such manipulations before you compute your final score

COMPUTE: creates a new variable

4 (or MEAN.5, or MEAN.x in general) computes the mean of whatever is between the parentheses, as long as at least 4 (5 or x) items are actual data (not missing data)

MISSING VALUES ph32r (LO THRU -1): this says that for variable ph32R everything below -1 should be considered a missing value. for example, if ph32r was coded as -8, that's not an actual value, it is a "not applicable" value which should not be used when computing any score

VALUE LABELS: indicate the labels for each value that each variable can take.